The following matters and events have occurred since the report of September 17, 2009

**Mexican American Educators New Teacher Reception**
I attended the welcome to teachers new this year to the Pajaro Valley Unified School District hosted by the Mexican American Educators Association. The event was a thoughtful community recognition of their teachers.

**Leadership Santa Cruz**
I met with Dave Vincent of Leadership Santa Cruz to formulate an agenda for that organization’s Education Day, an annual event in their leadership series.

**Education at the Rountree Correctional Facility**
We are in discussion with Len Lofano of the Sheriff’s Office to determine ways to maintain and expand educational services to incarcerated adults at the Rountree facility. ROP currently provides Auto Body and Computer Skills classes, but, due to budget cutbacks other agencies are forced to cut their educational services.

The Sheriff’s Office is conducting an open house at the facility at 10:00 a.m. on October 30 to showcase the ROP classes.

**Meetings with New District Superintendents**
I continue to meet individually with the new district superintendents to assess their needs and how the County Office of Education can provide services to assist them. I recently had discussions with Gary Bloom, Superintendent, Santa Cruz City Schools District.

**Community Indicators Conference**
I was invited to join with other representatives from member agencies of the Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project (CAP) to present at the 2009 Community Indicator Consortium Conference in Seattle earlier this month. The conference showcased community indicator best practices that provide innovative leadership and new approaches to governance and ways to measure progress in addressing community needs and change. The Santa Cruz team consisted of Susan Brutschy, president of Applied Survey Research who spearheaded the CAP, Tracy Keenan, Applied Survey Research who focuses on youth and school based projects, Hedy Chang, an independent consultant for the Annie E. Casey Foundation who is managing a project on chronic absenteeism in early elementary school grades, and myself. The CAP is a crucial assessment tool in the research and preparation of grant-funded opportunities. The COE will be working the Casey Foundation to establish partnerships to address absenteeism issues.
Intergovernmental Relations Committee
The Committee addressed the City of Watsonville and PVUSD coordinated preparation and response to the H1N1 virus. The Committee also proposed a community Dropout Prevention Summit in a community-wide effort to address the dropout problem in general and in PVUSD schools in particular. A date has not yet been set for the Summit.

National Read for the Record Day
The National Reading Association sponsors an annual Reading Day. This year, the goal was to enlist the largest number of participants throughout the country. All participants, including schools, libraries, community organizations and individuals read the same book, The Very Hungry Caterpillar. I was honored to join with third, fourth and fifth grade students and staff at San Lorenzo Valley Elementary in the reading.

Pajaro Valley Unified School District Receives Governor’s Award
I am pleased to announce that the Pajaro Valley Unified School District’s Fitness 4 Life student program was recognized as the Central Coast School District of the Year by Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports as a result of my recommendation. Joe Trautwein, Director of Student Services and Director of the Fitness 4 Life program informed the Board more about the program and the award.

KSBW Golden Apple Award
I attended a recognition event honoring Kris Kennedy who recently received KSBW’s Crystal Apple Award an honor bestowed on teachers at the recommendation of their students.

Central Coast Early Care and Education Conference
The Santa Cruz County Child Care Planning Council and collaborators, of which the County Office of Education is one, hosted a Central Coast Early Care and Education Conference last Saturday at Cabrillo College. I was privileged to deliver the welcome address. Approximately 275 registrants were presented with their choice of thirty workshops to attend. Assistant Superintendent Theresa Rouse and I were in attendance.

Aptos Host Lions Club
The Aptos Host Lions Club invited me to speak at their October meeting. The audience appreciated hearing the positive aspects of education in Santa Cruz County.

Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission
I addressed the Commission to discuss partnerships with the Commission, Children’s Network and local judges to ensure at-risk students receive necessary services.
Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate
I participated on the committee to review submitted nominee applications for Santa Cruz County’s first poet laureate. Ten individuals have been nominated for the recognition. The committee will continue to meet through December to review the applications and make a selection of the county poet laureate.

Community TV – Teacher, Speak Out
I recently taped a segment of Community TV’s new weekly series, Teacher, Speak Out. The segment focused on efficiency of operations and consolidation. The taped show will be first shown at 7:30 p.m., Monday, October 19.

Chrysalis Open House
Thank you to trustees who were available to attend the ceremonious opening of the new Special Education Chrysalis Center last Friday. The Center, located near the Green Acres Elementary School campus serves students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. We’re proud of the new facility and the programs and services we are capable of providing there. Hal Ledbetter, Senior Director of the COE’s Special Education Programs is scheduled to present a report to the Board on our efforts to address autism.

Oasis Open House
The Alternative Education OASIS program will host an open house and showcase of student work next Wednesday, October 21, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. at their 831 Bay Avenue facility. OASIS is designed to meet the needs of students in grades 9 - 12 who are self directed and can benefit from an independent studies format. Independent studies implements an instructional strategy that responds to the needs and unique styles of students. The OASIS independent studies model allows students to learn at their own pace while challenging them to excel in their areas of special interest and ability.

Inside Education
The 2009 Inside Education cohort will meet next Wednesday, October 21st. This month’s focus is Career Technical Education. Participants will meet at the COE for an overview from ROP administrators and then travel to take part in ROP’s Digital Media and Marketing class, Bike Shop at School, Photograph IA, and Medical Occupation Programs at Harbor High. The Cabinetry/Wood Shop class, Computer Graphics Class and Environmental Horticulture Class at Soquel High are next on the agenda. Participants will complete the day at the Your Future is Our Business annual recognitions luncheon.

Management Accountability Meetings
Deputy Superintendent Mike James and I continue to meet both collectively and individually with County Office of Education management staff as part of the process to ensure we have goals that are aligned with our vision and priorities.
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<tr>
<th>Regularly Scheduled Meetings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Migrant Head Start Board</td>
<td>Tannery Arts Board</td>
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<td>Special Education Council</td>
<td>Steinbeck Center Board</td>
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<td>Children’s Network</td>
<td>Superintendents Council</td>
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<td>Workforce Investment Board</td>
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