Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board – October 15, 2015

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of September 17, 2015

**NOVEMBER 2016 TRANSPORTATION BALLOT MEASURE**

I met with George Dondero, Executive Director, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission on September 18, 2015 to discuss the November 2016 Transportation Ballot Measure. If regular rail transit service is developed in Santa Cruz County, it would provide a new, safe, convenient, predictable travel-time option to get around locally; not only for commuters and visitors, but for children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

**YOUNG WRITERS PROGRAM WORKSHOP**

I attended the Young Writers Program Workshop on September 19, 2015 here at the COE Board Room. Over 90 high school seniors and juniors took advantage of the Young Writers Program's first annual Personal Statement Workshop. Local writers Peggy Townsend and Maria Gaura, along with Santa Cruz Mayor Don Lane were in attendance. The Personal Statement Workshop was conceived with the help of Associated Press journalist and Pulitzer Prize winning writer Martha Mendoza. Ms. Mendoza has provided informal help to high school seniors as they prepared to submit their college applications, specifically the personal statement essay which plays a crucial part in the application. The Young Writers Program is dedicated to Santa Cruz County students (grades 4-12) and their teachers in building students’ writing skills and confidence.

**NATIONAL LABORATORY FOR EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION (NLET)**

I, along with many members of the COE staff met with Gordon Freedman, of the National Laboratory for Education Transformation (NLET) on September 21, 2015. We discussed very positive meetings around LCAP organization, data flows to assist districts and the role of COEs and the challenges being faced as we put together our data lab project.

**BRUCE MCFADDEN MEET AND GREET**

The Educational Services Department held a Meet and Greet event on September 23, 2015 for Dr. Bruce Macfadden. Dr. Macfadden is a visiting scientist from the University of Florida and is the lead on the INS grants that have allowed many of our county science faculty to visit the Panama archeological site as part of the expansion of the Panama Canal. Dr. Macfadden will visit classrooms in our county approximately 10 days per month during the 2015-16 school year to share and teach lessons in the area of the evolution of the horse. Dr. Macfadden is also very interested in the 3D printing of fossils and having our county students do real-world science.
I attended the first Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project (SC/VNTP) Steering Committee Meeting for the 2015-2016 school year on September 24, 2015. The Steering Committee has a critical role in the partnership between the SC/SVNTP and local districts. At the state level, significant changes are being made in teacher induction that may impact districts directly. During the meeting, we discussed changes to the SC/SVNTP program model and the impact on participating teachers.

On September 24, 2015 I attended the CCSESA Accountability Task Force meeting via conference call. During the meeting we discussed SBAC/CAASPP Implementation, including a number of issues concerning assessment and accountability which included the County Superintendent’s role and how to ensure consistency across the state.

I met with Nga Trinh-Halperin, Executive Director, and Jane Weed Pomerantz from Positive Discipline Community Resources (PDCR) on September 25, 2015. The vision of PDCR is for our future generation of children to learn to embody the principles of relationships based on mutual respect and dignity and for our families, schools and our community at large to learn to implement and model these relationships.

I attended the CAAASA Annual Round-up of California Educational Organizations on September 26, 2015 in Granada Hills, California. The Round-up was held to discuss additional strategies to address education, equity and excellence for African American, Latino and other underserved students with topics including: early childhood development, access to STEM courses, parental engagement, retention and recruitment of African American teachers as well as many more.

The SIP Steering Committee met on September 28, 2015. We discussed AB 403, Continuum of Care Reform with Assemblyman Mark Stone; received an update on mental health services for foster youth from Dane Cervine, Chief of Children’s Mental Health and also an update from Bill Manov, Chief of Alcohol and Drug Programs concerning substance abuse services for parents.

I met with Nicole Garzino, Executive Director, Santa Cruz Children’s Museum of Discovery, on September 29, 2015 to develop a partnership to ensure that the children’s museum will be accessible to all students regardless of their financial situation. The museum’s mission is to delight, inspire and challenge children and adults to explore the wonders of Santa Cruz County.
CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (CCEE)

On October 1, 2015, I attended the latest meeting of the CCEE in Sacramento. During the meeting we discussed: Conflict of Interest Policy Process; a presentation by the Executive Director on Proposed Organizational Structure and Activities To-Date; Revision 1 to the 2015-2016 CCEE Budget; the Smarter Balanced Assessment System Results; and a Peer-to-Peer Partnerships presentation. The next CCEE meeting will be held in San Diego on December 3, 2015 (during the CSBA Conference) at the San Diego County Office of Education in which you are cordially invited to attend.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION BOARD

I attended a meeting on October 2, 2015 with Dr. Lisa Hernandez, Health Officer and Medical Services Director, Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency concerning Public Health Accreditation. Public Health Accreditation measures the Health Department’s performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidence-based standards. The Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency is seeking accreditation in order to improve infrastructure to ensure that the delivery of programs and services are optimal in maintaining and improving the health of Santa Cruz County residents and visitors.

CALIFORNIA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

CCSESA held its General Membership Meetings in Napa from October 4 – 6, 2015. We covered many topics during these meetings, including: School Funding and Budget Stability; Teacher Credentialing; Education Finance; Pupil Instruction, Suspension of the High School Exit Exam; Best Practices of the Teacher Evaluation System; School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities; Teacher Evaluations; School Administrator Evaluations; Annual Budgets and Reserve Balances for School Districts; LCAP along with many other State and Federal issues. During the conference, I was surprised and honored to receive the Annual CCSESA Champion’s Award for 2015. The award is given to the outstanding county superintendent of the year for being a Champion for Public Education and the students of California as determined by past CCSESA Presidents.

PLANTRONICS SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK SPECIAL LEADERSHIP MEETING

I was asked to give a presentation at Plantronics on October 7, 2015 in support of the Second Harvest Food Bank Leadership Meeting. Nearly 40 community leaders attended this event where I spoke of the many children in our schools who are struggling with hunger and the resources needed to help feed these children. The upcoming Holiday Food Drive will help these children but will also be a call to action for other children and their families to come to the help of these children in need.

SUPERINTENDENT’S COUNCIL

Superintendent’s Council was held on October 8, 2015. The following items were discussed during the meeting: accountability and assessment; Digital Schools; S4C/Gates Grant; LCAP; Illuminate; District Site Visits; Coaching Network; BTSA; and ACSA Administrator of the Year.
INSIDE EDUCATION

I greeted the participants from Inside Education before their third session on “It’s No Longer Vocational Ed – It’s Career Tech” here at the COE on October 9, 2015. There are 18 participants in this year’s class. This is the 8th year of this very successful program.

YOUR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS

I attended and spoke at the annual Business and Education Luncheon for Your Future is Our Business on October 9, 2015 at Twin Lakes Baptist Church. This luncheon celebrates business and education partnerships while also showcasing the skills of high school students in multiple career technical classes.

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AND KANYE WEST

I was invited to attend a Democratic National Committee fundraiser at the Warfield in San Francisco on October 10, 2015. The headliner for the fundraiser was President Barack Obama followed by Kanye West.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE

I was asked to give the opening remarks at the Early Care and Education Conference held at Cabrillo College on October 10, 2015. The conference was spearheaded by the Child Development Resource Center and the Santa Cruz Child Care Planning Council. Julie Olsen Edwards, Director, Cabrillo College Children’s Center was the keynote Speaker.

SANTA CRUZ SPEAKS

I was asked to give a talk at “Santa Cruz Speaks”, a lecture series at The Jewel Theatre on October 10, 2015. My presentation was to take place during the State of Santa Cruz portion of the lecture series on education and pressing schools issues here in Santa Cruz.

SILICON VALLEY REGIONAL DATA TRUST (SVRDT)

I, along with Dave Barnett, Director, Technology and Infrastructure, met with Rod Ogawa, Bill Erlendson and Patricia Ponzini from the Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust on October 12, 2015. The purpose was to discuss linking Santa Cruz County to SVRDT through the data center at the Santa Clara County Office of Education. A clear advantage will be a cost-savings to Santa Cruz County and its school districts as we won't have the cost of setting up the data warehouse system only to set-up the connections.

S4C STEERING COMMITTEE

I attended the S4C Steering Committee meeting at Cabrillo College on October 12, 2015. During the meeting we discussed: Teacher Advisory, Operations & Articulation Committees; an update on the Cal Pass agreement; a review on the survey results; MOUs for 7th grade visits; Community Forums on Success in Mathematics; a Community Leaders Meeting on S4C Efforts and Goals; Collaborative Visits and Gates Collaborative Meetings.
**BRANCIFORTE CELEBRATION**

On October 13, 2015, I attended the Branciforte Small Schools Celebration as they celebrated the 100th Anniversary of their main building on campus. The event kicked off with a BBQ/picnic followed by a special ceremony and a Mayor’s Proclamation and Building Dedication.

**COE ALL**

We held a COE All meeting on October 13, 2015. During the meeting we discussed the recent employee survey which was very positive and also addressed some of the ways things can be improved here at the COE. We ended the meeting with a presentation from the Alternative Education Department and with employee recognition.

**MANAGER’S MEETING**

We held our latest Managers Meeting on October 14, 2015. During our meeting the topics we discussed were: Communication/Newsletter; Morale Boosters; COE All Meetings; Leadership Training (Giving Constructive Feedback and Coaching tips for Adults); XQ Super School; Safety Planning and ACSA Membership Drive.

**Regular Monthly Meetings**

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