Date: October 16, 2008

Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board
October 16, 2008

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of September 18, 2008.

**2008-2009 State and SCCOE Budgets Update**
Although both the 2007-08 unaudited, closing financial statement as well as a budget report are agenda items later in the meeting, I am pleased to report to the Board the positive news that the COE closed the 2007-08 budget year with a positive cash balance as opposed to deficit spending. The Board showed wisdom in not slashing and closing programs based on the preliminary, interim reports. As a result, TICAL, DAIT and other programs have been funded, staffed and maintained.

**Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board Meeting**
Associate Superintendent Barney Finlay and I attended the October 8 meeting of the PVUSD Board to assist in the Board’s discussion of the District’s First Interim Financial Report. We informed the Board that there is still the possibility of mid-year cuts imposed by the governor and that the 2009-10 and 2010-11 fiscal years will be lean.

**Pacific Collegiate School**
President Dilles and I have met on a number of occasions with community members, Pacific Collegiate leadership representatives and the Superintendent and board president of Santa Cruz City Schools in an effort to better understand the facility issues between the two entities and to offer assistance in an effort to mediate a resolution that will mitigate any adverse impact on either entity.

**Pacific Elementary School District**
I met with Sharon Smith, Administrator, Pacific Elementary School, to learn more about the discovery of Chromium 6 in the Davenport area and the effect of the discovery on students, the school and community, and to offer our support.

**Emergency and Crisis Services**
In the wake of the tragic accident at Natural Bridges State Park which resulted in the death of a Mountain Elementary School student, we coordinated resources and provided counseling support to students and staff at the school on Monday. The COE stepped in as first responder in providing mental health counseling as County Mental Health was closed due to Columbus Day.
Regional Occupational Program
Cabrillo College and the Santa Cruz County ROP were recognized and commended in a WestEd report as a model community collaborative. The collaborative has been awarded seven SB 70 Chancellor Grants. The ROP portion over two years has exceeded $300,000. ROP Director Bryan Wall, and Cabrillo Career Tech Consultant Laura Grinder spoke at a statewide conference in Orange County recently addressing successful models of collaboration.

Second Harvest Food Bank Forum
On Monday, October 13, I addressed those attending a Second Harvest Food Bank Nutrition Summit. As part of the event, Watsonville Coast Produce was honored as Second Harvest’s Donor of the Year.

No Child Left Out Non-profit Organization
Theresa Rouse, Director, Educational Services, and I met with representatives of No Child Left Out and Community Bridges, organizations that are working together to serve the children of Santa Cruz County, particularly under-privileged and at-risk children. No Child Left Out has focused on providing local Santa Cruz County kids with sports equipment and programs.

UCSC Extension, Educational Services Program
I met with Susan Miller, Director, English Language and International Programs, UCSC Extension. The COE has hosted Humphrey Fellows through the Extension’s international program for the past two years. We discussed ways the UCSC Extension might assist the COE in teacher training and certification efforts.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)
A regional program under the lead of the Santa Clara COE, the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Program prepares under-achieving, under-served students for eligibility and success in four-year colleges and universities. Through AVID, high school and middle school students have equal access to college preparatory curriculum. Assistant Superintendent Rowland Baker and I met with the Regional Coordinator to discuss ways to expand services in Santa Cruz County. A report on the AVID program is scheduled for the November Board meeting.

Intergovernmental Relations Forum
I was invited to join with other agencies countywide regarding intergovernmental relations at the Watsonville Civic Plaza earlier this month. The focus was on strategizing ways that other agencies and organizations can work together to support the Pajaro Valley Unified School District’s goals and student achievement.

County Office of Education Customer Service Week
The week of October 6 through 10th was designated as Customer Service Week at the COE. HR Director Traci Hart-Outtrim scheduled a full week of activities that brought
focus to COE employees’ awareness of the importance of providing quality customer service. In addition to scheduled activities, daily reminders of how to deliver quality service to our customers were emailed to all employees. The week culminated in an all-staff meeting during which individual employees were recognized by the votes of their peers in a number of customer service categories such as phone etiquette, follow-through on tasks and assignments, and personality attributes.

**InSide Education**
The first of the nine-sessions to be presented to the first cohort of business and agency leaders is October 23rd. The group will be introduced to the ROP Career Tech Education programs at Aptos High and Watsonville High. Following the classroom visits, they will attend a Workforce Investment Board, Your Future is Our Business awards luncheon at Seascape.

**NextSpace - Innovation and Creativity in Government and Business**
I attended an evening event hosted by Santa Cruz Mayor Ryan Coonerty to introduce NextSpace an inventive process designed to encourage innovation and creativity in the workplace.

**Employee Recognitions**
**Jo Ann Allen**, Manager, Student Support Services, has been appointed to the Judicial Council of California Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee. The committee makes recommendations for improving the processing of cases in drug courts, domestic violence courts, peer courts and other community-based treatment courts. The committee proposes rules and standards, reviews and recommends legislation, and acts on assignments referred to it by the Judicial Council.

We continue to receive notes of gratitude from teachers who participated in and intend to continue in the Project IMPACT intern credentialing program. Attached is a letter from one of those participants who is now fulfilling a personal goal in a teaching position in PVUSD. Acknowledgement again is paid to **Nancy Serigstad and Traci Hart-Outtrim**, Project Directors.

**Nancy Serigstad**, Science Programs Director, was also acknowledged by Bonny Doon Union Elementary District Superintendent Gail Levine, in the superintendent’s message to the Bonny Doon community. Mrs. Serigstad’s expertise was called upon by Ms. Levine to assist the school in creating a Science Lab and classroom.

**Harbor High School STAR Test Growth**
Harbor High ROP marketing students issued a press release reflecting the school’s outstanding STAR test results. Harbor High’s targeted growth in 2008 test results was an increase of 5 points over last year’s score. The school, however, increased their score by an exceptional 35 points.

**California County Superintendents Education Services Association (CCSESA)**
Beginning Sunday, October 19, all 58 county superintendents of schools from throughout California will convene at Seascape for the three-day CCSESA quarterly meeting. Bruce McPherson will deliver the welcome address.

**Monthly/Quarterly Meetings Attended**

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