The following matters and events have occurred since the report of September 19, 2013:

**New Teacher Project**
Like so many other of the programs that we have offered in the past to our districts, the New Teacher Project (BTSA) is no longer being funded by the State of California with the implementation of LCFF. I met with Ellen Moir, Executive Director, New Teacher Center, the parent organization of the New Teacher Project to strategize on how to maintain this important program for new teachers including the possibility of collaboration with the private sector.

**State Superintendent Tom Torlakson & Gooru**
I met with Superintendent Tom Torlakson at Gooru to introduce the program to him and talk about how their programs can be introduced to other educational institutions. We also discussed a pending National Science Foundation grant that we are applying for with NLET – National Laboratory for Education Transformation.

**Superintendents Retreat**
In lieu of the monthly Superintendents Council meeting, we held a gathering of superintendents and CBO’s to discuss the effects of the Local Control Funding Formula on the programs of the County Office of Education. It was an opportunity to convey the implications for the county office and the services that have been offered to districts in the past. This was the first of planned meetings to determine how programs will be maintained and funded. Thanks to Superintendent Dorma Baker, Pajaro Valley Unified and Superintendent Penny Weaver, Scotts Valley Unified for facilitating the meeting.

**Child Development Programs Conference**
I welcomed the 300+ participants of the annual Central Coast Early Care and Education Conference hosted by Cabrillo College but coordinated through the Childcare Planning Council coordinated through our office. In addition to our sponsorship, the following organizations also contribute their support: Central Coast Association for the Education of Young Children, Child and Family Development Program: Head Start, First 6 Santa Cruz County, Go Kids, Inc., and The Professional Association for Childhood Education. Workshops were offered on art, safe environments for children, supporting father involvement, communication, and STEM among other topics.

**Foster Youth**
We are working with the National Law Center and local districts to come up with a Memorandum of Understanding that will form the basis for collaboration between the Foster Youth Services program at the County Office of Education and school districts.
**Be the Difference Awards**
Our office nominated Jody Lust, teacher, Gault Elementary School for a Be The Difference Award for her outstanding work in incorporating Young Writers Program into her classroom and her school. Her students are writing more, publishing their writings, and making presentations to their fellow students and parents. She has transformed her students’ awareness of the written and spoken word and we are proud to have nominated her and see her honored for her work.

**Negotiations**
The superintendent has reached tentative agreements with both the certificated unit and the classified unit for the both the current and next school year. Meetings are scheduled with managers and confidential employees to bring everyone up to date.

**Criminal Justice Council**
As a member of the executive board, I am participating in the paper screening and interview process to replace our executive director. We hope to have it wrapped up by the end of October.

**California Democratic Committee**
I spoke to the local branch of the California Democratic Committee on the subjects of Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), Common Core, Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), Smarter Balanced Assessment System, truancy and testing.

**CCREC – Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California**
As a member of the advisory board for CCREC, I attended the Fall 2013 meeting of the advisory board at UC Berkeley. The meeting focused on sustainability and strategic planning. They described two of their signature programs: Growing Equity from the Ground Up and Central California Young Adult Civic Engagement. The advisory board is comprised of state and national leaders from research universities, community organizations, and policy makers including Julie Ellison, Ph.D., University of Michigan; Dr. George J. McKenna, III, Educational Consultant; Timothy Eatman, Ph.D., Syracuse University among others.

**UClass Web Site**
I met with Zak Ringelsted of the new online resource for teachers called UClass. It is a global lesson exchange that saves teachers countless hours finding and creating high-quality Common Core aligned lessons. When teachers use an UClass lesson, their students can collaborate with students around the world on the same lesson. If a teacher creates a lesson, that teacher gets paid for each time it gets downloaded. There is a system for students to receive feedback from students around the world, a collaboration that can develop a powerful sense of global citizenship.

**Statewide Leadership – Integrated Summer Learning Institute**
The planning process is continuing for an Integrated Summer Learning Institute for the summer of 2014. I am continuing to participate in the planning process with Alameda County Office of Education and personnel from other school districts. It is a three day institute featuring dynamic speakers, workshops and leading edge practices and covers diverse learning needs, arts integration tools, analytical thinking and interactive workshops aligned to the new Common Core.

**Pajaro Valley Prevention & Student Assistance Fundraiser (PVPSA)**
PVPSA is holding a fundraiser at Appleton’s Grill this evening that I will be attending.
EdLeader 21
Along with Jason Borgen, TICAL, I attended the 3rd Annual EdLeader21 Conference. The conference focused on becoming a 21st Century school or district. Sessions focused on tools, programs, and projects to turn schools and districts around and bring their education up to the 21st century standards. There were also opportunities to network and form collaborations.

Food What Benefit Dinner
Food What held its 4th annual benefit dinner, “Branching Out for Food Justice.” It was a huge success with young people serving 200 community members a dinner prepared by local chefs from the youth-grown produce. The young people shared their experiences with learning to grow their own food. The event raised $37,000 to continue the effort to empower youth through sustainable agriculture and health. This is another of our community collaborations to ensure that students receive a well-rounded education focusing on both their academic and physical wellbeing.

Santa Cruz County Youth Council
Verenise Valentin representing the Santa Cruz and Watsonville Youth Council met with me to discuss support for a Youth Day. It will be an event where students can gather to network, exchange ideas, and have access to important resources.

Santa Cruz County College Commitment (S4C)
The steering committee for S4C met to discuss plans for the year and sustainability for the future of the program. Also discussed were the Middle School Summit, a progress report of 2012-13, college and career night, and English and math collaborative work groups.

Inside Education
The October meeting of Inside Education focused on Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Programs (ROP). After an overview at the County Office of Education, the cadre visited the Criminal Justice class, construction technology, graphic design, and animal science programs at Soquel High School. The visit was followed up by attending the Your Future is Our Business Luncheon held at Twin Lakes Church where the food was prepared and served by students from the ROP culinary classes. Three of the four classes visited are UC/CSU approved for A-G credit on transcripts in applying to colleges.

Santa Cruz County Counseling Center
The Santa Cruz Counseling Center celebrated its 40th Anniversary this past month. They are one of our essential partners in the Alternative Education classes offering emotional and mental support services to our students. They have recently changed their name to Encompass to better reflect the vision and spirit of their organization which provides community recovery services, child and family development programs, community support services and youth services.

Children’s Art Show Reception
There is a Children’s Art Show from the Sunshine Day Care in our Tech Center. They held a reception on October 16th for the preschoolers and their families.

Pacific Collegiate Charter School
Pete Rodes, Board President, along with Principal Simon Fletcher and others have met with me and others to discuss facilities concerns as the school prepares to vacate their current site which will be turned back into an elementary school campus by Santa Cruz City Schools.
Monthly Meetings
Special Education Coordinating Agency  CCSESA Agenda Committee
CCSESA Executive Board  CCSESA Champions Award Conference Call

Upcoming Events:
Annual CSBA Conference: December 5-7, San Diego Marriott, San Diego (early registration by August 6th – contact Cindy)
CSBA LCFF Workshop, October 29th, Tech Center, Santa Cruz County Office of Education