Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board
October 18, 2012

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of September 20, 2012:

**Countywide Board Dinner**
We had an excellent turnout at the first Countywide Board Dinner for 2012-13 with Congressman Sam Farr as the guest keynote speaker. Outgoing trustees were acknowledged for their service to the students, parents, and schools throughout the county.

**Cultural Council**
On September 20th, I spoke at the Arts Education Breakfast, a special networking breakfast for school, community and business leaders to help raise awareness and strengthen support for arts education in Santa Cruz County.

**Alternative Education Programs – Williams Review**
Just today we received correspondence from San Benito County Office of Education on the three Alternative Education programs they monitor for Williams Review. The three programs, Ponderosa High, Highland Park, and Star Academy showed no deficiencies in educational materials in core subject areas, and no unsafe or emergency conditions in facilities.

**Women’s Crisis Support – Defensa de Mujeres**
Women’s Crisis Support held a reception on September 20th to inform the public about the important work they do in the community in an attempt to end domestic violence and sexual assault by providing intervention and prevention services.

**State of the Campus 2012**
At the invitation of Chancellor George Blumenthal, I attended his presentation on the State of the Campus 2012 where he presented on the progress, challenges, and achievements at the University of California, Santa Cruz this past year.

**Betty Jones**
I met with a former employee of our Alternative Education Department who now lives out of state. She provided me with resource materials to assist with our Transitional Kindergarten workshops. The books will be distributed by our Child Development Programs.

**Be the Difference Awards**
Over the past month, I served on the nomination committee for the Volunteer Center’s Be the Difference Awards. Eight employees will be attending the luncheon next week representing our office.

**ETR Associates**
I met with the new director for ETR Associates, Dan McCormick, to discuss his vision for the organization.
Back to School Celebration
At the invitation of Leon Beauchman, trustee, Santa Clara County Office of Education, I attended the Back to School Celebration presented by the Santa Clara County Alliance of Black Educators. The presentation was entitled **Beyond the Achievement Gap: Raising Expectations for Students, Parents and Schools.** I was also able to meet the new county superintendent for Santa Clara, Dr. Xavier De La Torre.

Association of California School Administrators (ACSA)
I met with Sylvia Mendez, ACSA President and principal of Ann Soldo Elementary School to discuss how the County Office of Education can collaborate with the organization to better serve the needs of administrators throughout the ACSA region.

Watsonville Community Advisory Board
As the Watsonville Community Advisory Board for Cabrillo College has reconvened, and as the County Superintendent of Schools, I have been asked to rejoin as a Board member. They held their first meeting on September 27th.

CCREC (Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California) Advisory Committee
As a board member for CCREC, I attended their First Annual Advisory Board meeting and Fall Governance Council meeting. This program initiative links university researchers, community-based organizations, and policy-makers in collaborative projects to achieve creative solutions to the state’s interconnected crises in the economy, education, employment, environment, health, housing, and nutrition. It is also part of CCREC’s mission to prepare a new generation of engaged scholars and community leaders.

Autism Trainings
The first of the autism trainings have begun with a great group of Pajaro teachers that are attentive and excited to learn. Another group for Santa Cruz City Schools will be starting the program. We are very grateful to Dorothy Raab, Senior Director, Special Education who has taken on these added responsibilities.

Santa Cruz County College Commitment (S4C)
With the hiring of Ray Kaupp to serve as the director for S4C, the organization is moving along with Mary Anne James, Assistant Superintendent and Jim Howes, Assistant Director for Regional Occupational Programs representing our office.

Representatives from ConnectEd, The California Center For College and Career met with the steering committee of the S4C to discuss the research they have performed in learning and the resources available to promote student learning, success and the desire to continue their education beyond high school.

Everybody Eats Event
The County Office of Education is co-sponsoring the Everybody Eats Event to be held on October 25th on the campus of Santa Cruz High and features a conversation with bestselling author Michael Pollan and a panel of local food champions, moderated by John Robbins. The event will address healthy eating and sustainability and has already sold out.

Migrant Headstart Programs in Pajaro Valley Unified
I met with Farris Sabah, director, Migrant Headstart Programs to discuss challenges being faced by the program and how to collaborate with our office and how to address challenges in communicating with departments overseeing the program.
Your Future is Our Business (YFIOB)
The annual luncheon for Your Future is Our Business was held to thank the businesses that participate in educating high school students about Career Technical Education. Business representatives serve on panels, act as mentors, and invite interns into their places of business.

School District Boundaries
A study has been completed by Bill Barr, consultant and former County Superintendent in Monterey to delineate the boundaries of the 11 school districts in Santa Cruz County. In the future we will have maps available that can be used to find exact boundaries.

SARB – School Attendance Review Board
The School Attendance Review Board is partnering with BASTA and the Criminal Justice Council to tighten the process for dealing with truants in the County. JoAnn Allen and Mary Ann Moya, Student Support Services have been working diligently in developing the process including a pre-SARB referral and meeting to give students a chance to change their behavior. Bob Lee, District Attorney and his office as well as several judges are supporting all aspects of the new process which includes prosecution of parents who are not cooperating in keeping their children in school. Currently there are three families that may be facing filing by the District Attorney’s office if cooperation is not offered by the families.

Coordinated Calendar Meeting
Bryan Wall organized the first meeting of representatives of districts to discuss a coordinated calendar for the 2013-2014 school year. Various items from start dates to seasonal holidays were discussed and questions were formulated to receive the input from everyone to come to decisions for corresponding times that schools are closed. This will allow families who may have children in two different districts coordinate their vacation times with their children and those who may teach in one district but have children in another.

Superintendent for the Day
Superintendent Diane Morgenstern brought two of her students by to visit the County Office as part of their day shadowing her in her administrative role. The girls met with Michael Watkins, Mary Anne James to get an overview of our role in education and then were taken on a tour of the office to visit various programs for a first hand view. The were given COE T-shirts along with pencils, pens, a couple of the extra backpacks from the Write Start Backpack Project. They were very attentive and asked great questions.

Weighted Student Funding Videoconference
In preparation for the next Quarterly meeting for California County Superintendents Educational Services Agency (CCSESA), I participated with other county superintendents representing the different regions of the state and Peter Birdshall, Executive Director, CCSESA to discuss the proposed change in funding schools. The Business and Administrative Steering Committee and the Legislative Committee have been working on proposals to be made to the Governor and legislators to make the funding more equitable across the state.

Workforce Investment Board (WIB)
Longtime director for the Workforce Investment Board, David Lundberg has retired and been replaced my David Mirrione. I met with Director Mirrione to introduce myself and to discuss me replacement on the WIB Board. Senior Director Mark Hodges, Regional Occupational Programs will be the new representative for the County Office of Education. His director, Jim Howes will serve on the Youth Council.
Ponderosa High School Open House
I stopped by the open house held by Ponderosa High School and Green Career Center in the San Lorenzo Valley. Students make snacks and gave presentations on school courses and activities.

FosterEd Initiative
The FosterEd Initiative has received a $500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and families to support their work with foster youth and efforts at statewide replication and sharing of best practices. The grant will be distributed over two years.

Sticks and Stones
Richard and Sheri Watson-Riley met with me to discuss a program used in Monterey County schools called Sticks and Stones. The program was created in 1997 to serve the needs of child victims of domestic violence. It is a counseling program teaching children to express their feelings in healthy ways and how to be safe in their homes. The goal is to break dysfunctional family patterns thereby promoting healthier families now and in the future.

Metro Ed Presentation
I was invited to give a presentation to the Metro Education class. Metro Ed is the course granting credentials required of teachers hired to teach in the Regional Occupational Programs. I gave them an overview of education in Santa Cruz County.

Diversity Center Reception
The Diversity Center held a reception at the Darling House on National Coming Out Day to give an update on the work being done to support LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) youth throughout Santa Cruz County. Guests included students, their family and friends.

Rising International
A luncheon was held at the new Paradox Hotel for Rising International, an organization committed to an exciting, optimistic, hardworking, global movement that has pledged to end poverty in our lifetime. Rising's contribution is to open markets, through the very successful home party model of sales, in the United States and, eventually other counties, for individual and collective women producers of art products and crafts living in high risk areas of developing nations.

Early Childhood Education Conference
I did the welcome remarks at the Central Coast Early Care and Education Conference to a Saturday crowd of 271 early educators. He thanked them for their commitment to improving the quality of early education and the importance of their work in preparing young children to be ready for success in school socially, emotionally and academically.

The Great California Shakeout
The County Office of Education participated in the Great California Shakeout by holding an earthquake drill.

Doug Fischer
Doug Fischer presented the first of three presentations to school teams of administrators and teachers on the Purposeful Classroom. This session focused on an overview of high quality instruction and differentiation with specific attention to modeling and establishing purpose and relevance for students. The next sessions will focus on collaborative learning and the third on guided instruction. Approximately 120 school personnel attended.
SELPA’s (Special Education Local Plan Area) Ad Hoc Charter Committee
The Ad Hoc Charter Committee for SELPA met to review and revise the policy governing services to charter schools.

Inside Education
This month’s Inside Education meeting focused on Career Technical Education with visits to Regional Occupational Classes and participation in the Your Future is Our Business Luncheon honoring businesses who work with the schools to provide job shadowing, mentoring, career panels, internships, and providing guest speakers to highs schools.

Escuela Popular
Christina Cuevas, Program Director, Community Foundation along with representatives of Escuela Popular, a dual language program/school, met with me to discuss the school’s mission that builds on the student’s social, linguistic, and cultural strengths with the intent to develop bilingual, bi-cultural students fully prepared to continue on to higher education and empowered to pursue their stated goals. I will be joining them for a visit to the school in a couple weeks.

National Laboratory for Education Transformation (NLET)
My technology staff and I met with Gordon Freeman, president of NLET, the National Laboratory for Education Transformation. He’s partnering with us, Resilient Networks and several other players in a pilot grant program funded by the NSTIC program (National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace) of NIST (the National Institute of Standards and Technology) to create a network of trust that allows secure data sharing between multiple entities, in order to facilitate quantitative analysis and research in support of educational reform. They are looking at working with Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz County schools and universities for this pilot project.

A Conversation with Ken Kay
The first of a three-part series of Breakfast Roundtable discussions for administrators was held on October 18th featuring Ken Kay who discussed the “7 Steps to Becoming a 21st Century District/School.” He is the chief executive officer of EdLeader 21, a professional learning community for educational leaders committed to 21st century learning.

Chinese Bridge Educational Delegation
I have been invited to participate in a Chinese Bridge Educational Delegation that will be visiting schools and related agencies throughout China. The delegation is leaving on November 7th and returning on November 15th. Due to the schedule for this trip, I will be unavailable for the November Board meeting but Bryan Wall, Deputy Superintendent will fill in for me.

Honoring Arnie Levine
With the conclusion of his last term of service to the County Office of Education, Arnie Levine has served the students, parents, and schools of Santa Cruz County for the last 18 years. Before that time, he served as teacher and administrator in Santa Cruz County schools. We honor his service today and thank him for his many years of caring and concern for students and education.

Monthly Meetings
First 5 Commission
Tannery Executive Board
Inside Education Planning Committee
Superintendents Council
Agenda Committee
SECA – Special Education Coordinating Agency
CCSESA Executive Committee
CCSESA Finance Committee
Migrant Headstart Videoconference