Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board  
October 21, 2010

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of September 16, 2010:

**California Legislative Staff Education Institute**
Approximately 20 legislative staffers who concentrate on education issues, came to Santa Cruz County to learn more about our school system and how the Assembly and Senate can best meet the needs of education in California. They met with managers from different departments throughout the office. We took them on site visits to Harbor High to view Regional Occupational classes and Special Education classes. They also made a visit to Pacific Collegiate Charter School and spent a day and a half visiting Pajaro Valley Unified School District. I want to thank our managers and teachers who did an exemplary job of informing these staffers of how they can positively influence what we do.

**Waiting for Superman**
We co-sponsored a showing of the movie, Waiting for Superman along with the Santa Cruz Education Foundation. I introduced the discussion panel moderated by John Laird.

**Special Education Employer Recognition Event**
Assemblyman Bill Monning was in attendance at the Special Education Employer Recognition event to hand out certificates of appreciation to ten local businesses that make it a priority to hire developmentally challenged young people. Santa Cruz Mayor Michael Rotkin also acknowledged these businesses and the young people whose dreams for employment came true when given the chance to prove themselves. Mayor Antonio Rivas accepted one of the awards for the City of Watsonville which participates in the program.

**Children’s Network Nominating Committee**
Members of the Children’s Network met to nominate new officers for the upcoming year. This group is a collaborative of agencies from throughout Santa Cruz County that serve the needs of children.

**TAC6: Education, Arts & Community Phone Conference (Technical Advisory Committee)**
I participated in the monthly meeting by phone for the Star Community Index of the ICLEI group. ICLEI brings together governmental leaders across the country to look at sustainable development of communities, and climate protection. The subcommittee I work with is dedicated to arts and education.

**Superintendents Council**
Superintendents from the Santa Cruz school districts held their monthly meeting. Some of the topics discussed this month include truancy strategies, virtual learning, API/AYP, and update on BASTA.
**Inside Education/Your Future is Our Business Luncheon**
This month’s Inside Education Program focused on Regional Occupational Programs and Career Technical Education. After receiving background information on the programs, participants visited school sites and attended the Your Future is Our Business Luncheon at the Coconut Grove. At this luncheon honoring the current and future students of the program, I gave the welcoming address.

**YRB Cabaret**
Once again I am participating in the planning of the annual Cabaret fundraiser for the Youth Resource Bank. I will be assisting with the auction and raffle.

**Migrant Headstart Program**
Maria Castro, Migrant Headstart Programs and I visited both Migrant Headstart Childcare Centers and Childcare Homes. We are fortunate to have such quality programs available for our most needy population of youngsters. The staff people are amazing and do a great job of preparing these youngsters for their Kindergarten experience.

**Leadership Santa Cruz 25th Anniversary**
I attended the 25th Anniversary dinner for Leadership Santa Cruz. I was able to go through the program a number of years ago and wholeheartedly endorse the program as a way to get to know all the various aspects of our county, its businesses, government and educational institutions.

**SECA, Special Education Coordinating Agency**
On October 5th, the SECA Board met to discuss next steps in the implementation of the results of the FCMAT study done earlier in the year. Earlier today I attended the regularly scheduled meeting for SECA. Budget was one of the main topics discussed including the line item veto by Governor Schwarzenegger of the AB3632 funding for mental health services.

**AB3632**
One of Governor Schwarzenegger’s line item vetoes was AB3632. This bill funded the mental health services for children with disabilities. The services are required by children’s Individualized Education Plans and will have to be provided by districts regardless of this funding cut. It is just one more way that Special Education impacts General Education Funding. I met with Dane Cervine and Kathy Citron, County Mental Health; Salli Welsh, North County SELPA; Roy Houser, Pajaro Valley Unified SELPA to discuss strategies for addressing the impact of the governor’s veto.

**Visit to Gault Elementary**
I visited Gault Elementary School to observe the services of Dientes. Dientes is an organization committed to providing oral health services to the underserved children and adults of Santa Cruz County. They go directly into the schools to provide these services.

**What’s Happening in Education**
I took part in the October 4th taping of What’s Happening in Education program on Community Television hosted by Jon Silver. The main topic of the broadcast was budget cuts and the impact on education. (The program is available on their website.)

**Rudy Marez**
I met with Rudy Marez who, working through Harbor Light Church and the Probation Department, has a program to address youth and gang violence.
Bob Fitch
I was fortunate to be able to attend a reception for Bob Fitch, renowned photographer from the Civil Rights period. He was honored with a proclamation from the state legislature which was presented by Assemblymember Monning. The photos are on display at the Santa Cruz Government Center.

Assemblymember Sam Blakeslee
Several district superintendents convened to meet with Assemblymember Sam Blakeslee to discuss education concerns and the effects of budget cuts on local school districts. I want to thank Trustee Vic Marani for his assistants in organizing this meeting.

Bike to School
I attended the Bike to School event hosted by Gault Elementary. The program encourages children to get more exercise and be more Green by walking and/or biking to school.

BASTA Steering Committee
Approximately 45 leaders of community and law enforcement met at the County Office of Education to discuss next steps in the implementation of BASTA – Broadbased Apprehension, Suspension, Treatment and Alternatives. The subcommittees for north county and south county continue to meet monthly.

Day of Action
Members of the community, including many educators, held a rally opposing cuts to education at the Town Clock on September 29th. I attended the event and addressed the participants.

Early Childhood Conference
On October 9th, I provided the opening remarks for the local Early Childhood Conference held at Cabrillo College. I also received an award for my support of quality preschool education.

Response to Intervention
The Santa Cruz County Office of Education provided a workshop on Response to Intervention – a program focused on prevention through assessment and intervention to maximize student achievement and minimize behavior problems. Over 250 teachers and educators attended the event at Soquel Union Elementary’s multipurpose room. Anita Archer was the presenter.

Clean Ocean Business Award
Santa Cruz City presented Barry Kirschen, Regional Occupational Programs instructor the Clean Ocean Business Award for the tenth year in a row. He teaches Engine Repair, Engine Performance, and Smog Certification classes at Santa Cruz High. We congratulate Mr. Kirschen and recognize that we are very fortunate to have teachers of his caliber on our staff.

City Schools Superintendents Conference
I attended the City Schools Superintendents Conference in San Francisco focusing on accountability, leadership, the achievement gap, and Race to the Top.
**Positive Discipline**

I met with Jane Weed to discuss the ways in which the Santa Cruz County Office of Education can support parents through education and outreach. Although this has not been a focus of the County Office recently, we are looking forward to exploring ways in which to increase efforts to provide workshops and other ways in which to address support for parents.

**Monthly and Regularly Scheduled Periodic Meetings**

- Children’s Network
- Agenda Committee
- Policy Committee
- Migrant Headstart Videoconference
- Special Education Coordinating Agency
- First 5