The following matters and events have occurred since the report of October 20, 2011:

**Redistricting Taskforce**
The Redistricting Taskforce has completed the redrawing of trustee areas. I want to thank the members of the taskforce for their dedication to this process and for their timely completion of the redistricting. I also want to thank Bill Barr and his team for their leadership and knowledge to make this a straightforward process.

**Support to Districts**
In our continuing effort to support districts, we have the following projects that we are funding:
- **Happy Valley** - Overdue maintenance for buildings and septic systems;
- **Soquel Union Elementary** - A demonstration site for a new software for English Language Learners;
- **Mountain Elementary** – upgrading of technology infrastructure.

**American Teacher**
The County Office of Education is partnering with the New Teacher Center to present the movie, American Teacher, this Saturday at the Nickelodeon Theatre. The movie looks at teacher compensation. A brochure is at your seat and registration is online.

**County Office of Education Survey**
A survey was sent out to employees with an overwhelming response. We have some areas to look at that came up in the comments but the overall responses were very good. The following eight questions were asked:

1. I would describe my department as positive and productive.
2. I am encouraged to continue to learn by the manner in which my department functions as a learning environment.
3. I feel supported to do my work successfully in my department.
4. I feel that I personally, make a contribution to the success of my department.
5. I would describe the county office of education as positive and productive.
6. I am encouraged to continue to learn by the manner in which county office of education functions as a learning environment.
7. I feel supported to do my work successfully in the county office of education.
8. I feel that I personally, make a contribution to the success of the county office of education.

Answers to the questions were Agree, Somewhat Agree, Somewhat Disagree and Disagree with an average of 3.60 being the lowest cumulative score of any question.

**SECA, Special Education Coordinating Agency**
We have had two meetings of the North County SECA. Highlights include the signing of the Mental Health MOU with the County of Santa Cruz and the formation of a new ED classroom for fifth graders at Vine Hill Elementary.
Green Valley Community School
We have reached an important step in the building of our new permanent Alternative Education facility in Watsonville. The Department of the State Architect has approved our plans. As soon as construction funds are available from the state, we will be able to begin the construction.

Meeting with Noted Author Geoff Dunn
I met with Geoff Dunn to explore ways to integrate Santa Cruz County history into the fourth grade classrooms. Geoff was born, raised and educated in Santa Cruz and has a wealth of information and artifacts that he would like to share with students and teacher.

Professional Learning Community for Superintendents
Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz County are partnering to provide a regional executive leadership program called “The Resilient and Courageous Superintendent: Building the Culture for the 21st Century School District.” The program consists of four sessions and is just one more way in which we are collaborating to stretch our education dollars. All of our superintendents will be participating.

Together for Youth
I attended a meeting sponsored by Together For Youth Board where I spoke on the program CURB, Community United to Reduce Binge Drinking. The program was launched in 2005 to spread awareness of the negative results of teenagers and binge drinking and reducing it by changing community policies and practices.

Aptos Chamber Monthly Meeting
Brian King, president, Cabrillo College was the keynote speaker at the November meeting of the Aptos Chamber. President King spoke about the College Commitment Program to encourage youngsters to pursue a college education. He also reported on the results of the Student Success Task Force of the California Community Colleges. Suggestions included increasing college and career readiness, strengthening support for entering students, align course offerings to student needs, revitalizing and re-envisioning professional development, enabling efficient statewide leadership and increasing coordination among colleges. The report can be found on the Community Colleges web site: http://www.cccco.edu/.

Williams Reports
This past Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, I gave presentations before the Pajaro Valley Unified Board, the Live Oak Board and the Santa Cruz City Schools Board on the findings of our Williams reviews of their affected schools.

Positive Discipline Workshops
The County Office partnered with the Positive Discipline Resource Center to present a workshop for staff and parents on discipline for special needs students. They will also be presenting workshops for parents of at risk students at a later date.

Commission on Teacher Credentialing
The New Teacher Project was just accredited to support Special Education Teachers in clearing their credentials for mild/moderate and moderate/severe. In preparing for the mentoring of these Special Education educators, the Project collaborated with the New Teacher Center to develop formative assessment tools and resources to support not only our educators but will be used statewide and nationally.
**Smart on Crime**
Community members came together on November 7th to continue to share information with the public about the challenges faced by the overcrowding of prisons and jails and to invest in safe communities, and ensure the public safety.

**Community Corrections Partnership**
On November 14th, I attended the Community Corrections Partnership meeting. At this meeting, the committee received a presentation on the use of data to develop meaningful outcome measures and then reviewed findings from the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, the Alternatives Initiative and local staff data analysis. Data Work groups were organized, development of tasks were identified and timelines were set.

**Inside Education**
The Inside Education met on November 16th to take a look at Small Schools. Bonny Doon Elementary students used this visit to produce a video on a video entitled “Day in the Life” to share with participants when they visited the school. We hope to have the video posted on our website. (See attached article from the Santa Cruz Sentinel)

**American Association of University Woman**
On November 15th, I spoke to the American Association of University Woman. They were interested in bullying and what is done to control it; the effects of gang activity on the classroom; social pressures affecting programs, policies and staff; availability of alternative programs; programs for students not attending colleges; availability of counseling and scholarships; and how the state and federal budget cuts are affecting local students.

**CCSESA Quarterly Meeting**
Superintendent Watkins attended the Quarterly Meeting of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association. Topics covered included: Transitional Kindergarten Planning Guide, E-Learning Framework, current state of the budget, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, among other topics. Mick Founts (San Joaquin) joined me in leading a discussion on leveraging resources for successful student programs focusing on community day programs.

**Monthly Meetings**
- Tannery Board of Directors
- CCSESA Finance Committee
- CCSESA Executive Committee
- Board Agenda Committee
- TAC 6 Ed. Committee (Phone Conf.)
- CCSEA Board of Directors
- CCSESA Legislative Committee
- Superintendents Council
- Managers Meeting