Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board
November 18, 2010

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of October 21, 2010:

**CCSESA – Quarterly Meeting**
The California County Superintendents Educational Services Agency met October 24-26th. We received information on the State Budget, legislative priorities, and student academic achievement. Discussion items covered many topics, including CCSESA leadership opportunities, and fiscal planning challenges brought on by federal stimulus, categorical flexibility, and Federal Jobs fund, with the goal being to ensure the funds are used to effectively support student academic achievement.

**Oasis Open House**
I attended the Oasis open house. Oasis is an Alternative Education program for students in grades 9-12. The Oasis independent studies model allows students to learn at their own pace while challenging them to excel in their areas of special interest and ability. The Oasis program offers students personalized instruction, a supportive learning environment, flexible scheduling, individualized or small group tutoring, and UC/CSU A-G approved courses.

**Governor’s Veto of AB 3632** On October 8th Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed a state program known as the AB 3632. AB 3632 mandates county mental health departments to provide mental health services to students with individualized education programs (“IEP”). Suspension of AB 3632 means this responsibility would fall back onto local educational agencies. I have been communicating with the local mental health services to strategize on meeting the mental health needs of our students.

**Rose Filicetti** I met with Rose Filicetti, former Executive Director of the Santa Clara School Boards Association, at her request. Ms. Filicetti is relocating to the Santa Cruz area and is interested in opportunities to be more involved in education in this county. She has joined the Inside Education cohort to become more familiar with our programs.

**Criminal Justice Counsel/ BASTA**
I continue to work with Judge Denine Guy and District Attorney Bob Lee on BASTA (Broad-based Apprehension Suppression Treatment and Alternatives) and in reviving the Santa Cruz Criminal Justice Council to create a policy driven approach for the prevention of street crime and associated gang violence, including truancy and youth gangs. This approach will include city and county government officials.
Your Future Is Our Business/Inside Education
I gave the opening address at the Your Future Is Our Business (YFIOB) luncheon, which was also attended by participants from Inside Education. Approximately 200 educators, students and business leaders gathered to celebrate education and business partnerships, which are helping to guide students to their career paths. YFIOB partners with the Regional Occupational Programs (ROP), providing career panels, job shadowing, and internships.

On November 16th more than 25 participants of Inside Education participants visited Bonny Doon Union Elementary and Pacific Elementary, both single school districts. The highlight of the afternoon was a wonderful lunch prepared by students at Pacific Elementary.

All COE Staff Meeting
On November 2nd we held an internal staff meeting to acknowledge employees for their outstanding work. We congratulated Jody Akimoto who was chosen as Woman of the Year by the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce for her tireless dedication and volunteerism in our community. Congratulations, Jody! We also awarded Robin Beall with the “Hit a Homerun” award for navigating us all through the changeover in benefits; Eric Hess, Keith Meader, and Eric Sanders, our technology staff, were presented with the “Above and Beyond” award for their amazing support and creative solutions; The FAC Committee, which includes Jody Akimoto, Cathy Carr, Tina Dinsmore, Yoli Gallardo, Melissa Gomez, Ellen Hickey, Yvette Rivera, and Brenda Ruiz received the “Deserves A Parade” award for continually organizing fun, fantastic events that bring the staff together; Alternative Education staff, Melissa Gomez, Amy Hill, and Rosa Rosas were recipients of the “Save the Day” award for their exceptional support when Alternative Education offered summer school programs to local school district students who would not have had access to credit recovery otherwise; and Ellen Hickey received the “A-Okay” award for managing to hover right on the line in the football pool.

Children’s Network
I was once again nominated to continue my role as Executive Director of the Santa Cruz County Children’s Network. The purpose of the Children's Network is to reduce the fragmentation of programs for at-risk children and families in the County. The Network serves as a vehicle for planning, coordination, collaboration, information sharing and networking. Over the past several years, the Network has been integral in the planning of service delivery for children and families in the county.

Workforce Investment Board
The Workforce Investment Board met at COE on November 3rd. Topics discussed included the Summer Youth Employment Program, in which WIB contracted with COE to operate the program funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (AARA) stimulus funds. The program employed 690 youth ranging from ages 14 to 24 at 61 private businesses, 51 public agencies and 49 non-profits.
**United Way Campaign**
The United Way Campaign is underway. Annually a number of COE employees contribute to the United Way and are able to designate where their donations are directed, including to some of our own valuable programs.

**Chinese Delegation**
I was invited by Watsonville City Council to meet with members of the Chinese Delegation visiting from Pinghu City, China. I met with their educational representatives where we discussed and compared our educational systems. The meeting was both interesting and informative.

**UCSC Rainbow Theater**
As a supporter of local student art, I attended “The New Orleans Monologues” written by C. Rosalind Bell, at the UCSC Rainbow Theater. These monologues are the imagined voices of people who suffered the ravages of Hurricane Katrina in vastly different ways and is intended to show the audience what the media never reported and bring a more accurate sense of reality to the rest of the world.

**Truancy Assessment Center Proposal**
In order to address truancy and escalating school dropout rates, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education is proposing the implementation of four Truancy Assessment Centers that will provide necessary prevention, identification, and interventions that our youth need to keep them actively engaged and successful in school. We are requesting a grant in the amount of $250,000 for annual implementation that will curb truancy among our 38,000 students countywide.

**Tannery Board of Directors**
Last night I attended a sunset reception for the Tannery Board of Directors, an Honorary Committee, hosted by Carolyn Hyatt. The reception was to honor Harvey Nichols, and welcome Jess Brown, who will take over as Chair.

**TAC6: Education, Arts & Community Teleconference (Technical Advisory Committee)**
I participated in the monthly meeting by phone for 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.

**Monthly and Regularly Scheduled Periodic Meetings**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Network</td>
<td>Migrant Headstart Videoconference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agenda Committee</td>
<td>Special Education Coordinating Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Committee</td>
<td>First 5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>