The following matters and events have occurred since the report of October 17, 2013:

**Statewide Special Education Task Force**
The State Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing are forming a Statewide Special Education Task Force to transform education in order to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. I have been asked to participate in this important committee and look forward to the challenge. The work will be done through five subcommittees who will be looking at:

1. Teacher Preparation/Credentialing/Professional Development
2. Evidence-Based Practices/Successful Service Delivery Models
3. Assessment and Accountability
4. Early Education/Learning
5. Fiscal Issues, Coordinated with the LCFF

**CCSESA Legal Dispute with CalPERS**
As of October 31st, 2013, CCSESA and CalPERS reached a settlement agreement to resolve the litigation concerning CalPERS eligibility for CCSESA staff. County superintendents will honor the commitment that was made in the past to provide CalPERS “equivalent” benefits to employees who worked with that assurance from 1998 to 2012. In the meantime, CCSESA has become a non-profit and current staff participates in a defined contribution retirement plan in place of the former situation with CalPERS.

**Community Assessment Project**
I attended the 19th Annual Press Conference for the Community Assessment Project findings and the announcement of the 2013 Santa Cruz County community heroes. This project takes an extensive look at data in the areas of education, health, public safety, economy, and demographics among others. The report has proven to be a great tool when applying for grants.

**AB 86**
I participated along with Laurel Jones, president, Cabrillo College; Rock Photenhauer, Cabrillo College; Dorma Baker, superintendent, Pajaro Valley Unified; and Gary Bloom, superintendent, Santa Cruz City Schools in meetings regarding AB86 which provides for planning grants for re-inventing Adult Education programs.

**Regional Occupational Programs Staff Development (ROP)**
I stopped by ROP’s professional development day at Watsonville High. The meetings focused on many aspects of technology from Free Web Resources to Multi-Media Presentations and Designing Tutorials with Screen Capture.
New Teacher Project Administrators’ Breakfast
New Teacher Project held their annual Administrators’ Breakfast where they gave a special presentation on calibration of observation process, observed Common Core lessons and how to craft meaningful feedback to support teacher growth.

Barrios Unidos
I met with Nane Alejandrez and Sarah Emmert to discuss the role of Barrios Unidos in collaboration with the Criminal Justice Council.

Juvenile Hall
I discussed with Sarah Ryan and Johnny Rice to the possible inclusion of Chicana/o Studies in the curriculum of the Juvenile Hall. We have a proposal from Michael Eccleston who has been teaching the students at Hartman High about identity, emotion, history, and social justice. It is the feeling of the teacher that this program has the potential to reduce violence and promote educational engagement through improvement of self-image, self-awareness, and self-esteem.

Watsonville Cabrillo College Advisory Committee
As the County Superintendent of Schools, I am a member of the advisory committee for the Watsonville campus of Cabrillo College. The advisory committee meets once or twice a year to receive updates on the campus, to review the strategic plan and to look at program outreach for the Solari Green Technology Center.

Santa Cruz County Arts Education Alliance
I spoke of the importance of arts in education at the annual breakfast meeting of the S.C. County Arts Alliance. The Alliance reviewed its successes for the past year, introduced its new mission and vision statements, and refinements to its action plan.

Criminal Justice Council
Interviews have been completed for the new Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Council (CJC). The person selected to support the CJC is JoAnn Allen of the County Office of Education. In her current position, JoAnn already is involved with many of the groups that collaborate with the Council and is very knowledgeable on students at risk. This position will blend in well with her current responsibilities.

Lockdown Drill
On November 19th, the County Office of Education held its first Intruder Lockdown Drill. Our phones have been programmed with an alert that warns employees to take cover. This first drill gave everyone the opportunity to see how things worked. A debriefing was held by managers directly after the drill and a comparison was made of how things worked in each department and where we might improve.

California Professional Development Summit
I am participating on the planning committee for the California Professional Development Summit to be held on March 12-14, 2014 in Sacramento. This year’s conference is entitled “Strategies to Address Education, Equity, and Excellence for African-American, Latino and Other Underserved Students” and will also commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. It will include strategies for implementation of Common Core State Standards while addressing the Local Control Funding Formula’s accountability plan.
Santa Cruz County Children’s Museum
I have met with a contingent of community members that are working to create a Children’s Museum in Santa Cruz County. They are currently exploring funding sources and possible locations.

Watsonville Wetlands Watch Tour
A number of County Office employees accompanied me on a tour of the Watsonville Wetlands. They gave us an overview of the project, talked of its link to the community, Pajaro Valley High school, and our Regional Occupational Programs. We walked the grounds and were trained in restoration work.

Jumpstart to College
A meeting was held of administrators from high school districts, Cabrillo College administrators and counselors to discuss offerings at Cabrillo College for high school students who are attending high school and taking college courses at the same time.

Capitola-Aptos Rotary
Doug Deaver, president, Capitola-Aptos Rotary asked me to speak with his members recently in regards to the state of education, the Common Core State Standards, and Local Control Funding Formula. Approximately 40 members attended and were very attentive to my presentation.

Region 5 Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents Meeting
Superintendents and Assistant or Associate Superintendents from Santa Clara, San Benito, Monterey and Santa Cruz County met at the Monterey County Office of Education to discuss updates to current collaborations and how we can cooperate in the future for the benefit of the entire region.

Positive Discipline Community Resource
As I was unable to attend, Mary Anne James, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services attended for me and welcomed the participants of the Board meeting for the Positive Discipline Community Resources program. This nonprofit organization holds seminars for parents and educators on how to better relate to children and how to teach them to make good choices and avoid gang involvement.

Superintendents Council
At the latest Superintendents Council meeting, the Regional Occupational Programs gave a presentation on their programs – the first in a series of presentations to educate the district superintendents on the programs that will no longer be directly funded due to Local Control Funding Formula. Other programs of the County Office will be presenting at future meetings. A retreat was held last month that included Chief Business Officers where everyone participated in a brainstorming session.

Inside Education - October
The October session of Inside Education focused on Career Technical Education and the Regional Occupational Programs. The participants toured several classes at Soquel High including Construction Technology, Criminal Justice, Graphic Design, and Animal Science. They then attended the Seed-to-Table Luncheon where the food served was grown, prepared and served by ROP students.
**BrightBytes**
I spoke with Rob Mancabelli, co-founder and CEO of BrightBytes regarding how his program would supplement classrooms. His program looks at successfully integrating technology in the classroom and how it promotes student achievement. His team of researchers analyzes data from various sources to identify factors that link technology use and student learning outcomes. From this they have developed a platform for easily entering and analyzing school data for various members of the school community.

**Partner, Ford and Bonilla LLC**
I met with Rolando Bonilla to discuss his public relations company and the services that they could provide to the County Office of Education.

**Work4Youth Fundraiser**
JoAnn Allen and her employees, along with community partners, hosted a fundraiser at Bargetto’s Winery to raise funds for the Work4Youth program that helps young people find jobs over the summer. Approximately $6000 was raised and will be used to pay salaries for young people most of whom have never held a job before. Work4Youth (W4Y) is an innovative effort between government, private, and community-based organizations. Youth who participate earn minimum wage, gain significant work experience, as well as develop the skills, attitudes and support necessary to succeed in today’s labor market.

**Pacific Collegiate Charter School**
I met with representatives of Pacific Collegiate Charter School (PCS), representatives of Santa Cruz City Schools and our Board members to discuss zoning exemptions being sought by PCS for their new school. Due to a recent court ruling in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz City Schools must support this request in order for it to be granted.

**California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA)**
I attended the CCSESA Quarterly meeting last month which was my last as President of CCSESA. As of January 1st, I will be attending many of the same meetings with the designation of Past President and will continue to work to keep our office in the forefront of what is happening in the state.

**Community Corrections Partnership**
I attended the Santa Cruz County Community Corrections Partnership meeting where we received updates on the implementation of AB109, heard from program providers, and consider proposals for allocation of AB109 Growth Funds and a proposal for Governance Structure.

**First 5 Santa Cruz County**
Along with Carole Mulford, coordinator, Child Development Programs, I met with David Brody, new executive director for First 5 to review his vision for the program and to discuss current collaborations as well as potential new projects in common.

**Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Workshop**
The County Office of Education provided the venue for a workshop on LCFF, coordinated by the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association and presented by the California School Boards Association. I welcomed the audience which was consisted of countywide trustees and superintendents.
**Schools and Gun Violence**
Trustees Sandra Nichols, Bud Winslow and Jack Dilles met as an Ad Hoc Committee with me to discuss how to address safety in schools, especially around gun violence.

**Association of California School Administrators (ACSA)**
I attended the annual ACSA Social attended by current and past administrators. I met with retired superintendents Diane Siri and Mary Anne Mays. The meeting was well-attended and provided networking with other school administrators from Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz County.

**Monthly Meetings**
- Special Education Coordinating Agency Meeting
- Migrant Head Start Videoconference
- Criminal Justice Council
- CCSESA Executive Board
- CCSESA Agenda Committee
- Children’s Network
- S4C Steering Committee
- CCSESA Board of Directors
- CCSESA Champions Award Conference Call

**Upcoming Events:**
**Annual CSBA Conference:** December 5-7, San Diego Marriott, San Diego