Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board
December 15, 2011

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of November 17, 2011:

**Barney Bricmont**
Long time trustee in Live Oak School District, Barney Bricmont, passed away on December 6th. He and his wife who had been a librarian at Branciforte Elementary School were both supportive of schools and ensuring that children came first.

**CAP Goals - Dominican**
On Monday, November 21st, I attended the annual press conference and celebration to present the 2011, Year 17 Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project findings. The report finds that there are more children living in poverty and more concerns with housing, and alcohol and drug use but also some positives as well. People are satisfied with schools and test scores are generally up with reported cases of child abuse down.

**BASTA**
The BASTA (Broad-Based Apprehension, Suppression, Treatment and Alternatives) Steering Committee held its quarterly meeting. It has become a great resource for bringing together all the people who work together to fight gang and youth violence. The North and South County Working Groups have been making an impact on individual students who have been redirected away from gangs.

**American Teacher**
The County Office of Education partnered with the New Teacher Center to present the movie, American Teacher, at the Nickelodeon Theatre. Approximately eighty educators gathered to watch the movie and then participate in a panel discussion. I have received very positive feedback from the event.

**California School Boards Association Annual Conference**
Along with five trustees, I attended the annual conference in San Diego. Sal Khan of the Khan Academy was one of the General Session speakers. He and his colleagues have created a web site that is free of charge to students, teachers, home-schoolers, principals or anyone else who finds it of use to be sure that everyone is afforded a quality education anywhere in the world.

**SEAC, School Employers Association of California**
I attended my first board meeting for SEAC while at the CSBA Conference. This organization assists school districts in the areas of human resources and negotiations.
**Expanding Support of Science in the Classroom**

Miguel Anzar, UCSC Cosmos Program, met with me to form a collaboration with our office for mentorship and professional development in the area of hands-on science exploration. (COSMOS is a summer school for Mathematics and Sciences designed for talented and motivated high school students taking place on college campuses.)

**Project Impact Graduation**

The first Project Impact graduation was held on Saturday, December 10th. We had 21 graduates who have clear Special Education credentials and are now able to work in the field of Special Education where the need is ever increasing as teachers retire. It was a very moving and emotional experience as each student had the opportunity to address the group expressing their appreciation for the opportunity that this creates for them in their career.

**Special Education Services to Incarcerated Youth**

By law, schools are mandated to provide special education services to age 22. Harriet Maglin, SELPA, Bryan Wall, Deputy Superintendent, and I met with Sheriff Phil Wowak and Jim Hart, Chief Deputy Corrections Bureau, to discuss services to youth ages 18-22 that are incarcerated in the county jail facilities.

**Miss Representation**

The 2011 Sundance selected documentary, ”Miss Representation” was shown at the Museum of Art and History. It is a movie exploring the stereotypes that hold women back and/or depict women as weak and as sex objects. Discussion followed the showing to investigate programs that might lift up our young women and break the cycle of stereotypes.

**Arts Professional Training**

Mary McLaughlin, arts consultant for our office, held the last in a series of three arts professional development trainings for teachers. I was able to go by and visit with the participants. Approximately 30 art specialists participated in the peer professional development where they took turns presenting actual lessons in visual, performance or musical art and then presenting the standards behind the lessons.

**San Jose State Transfer Policy**

I met with Carolyn and Bert Post in regards to a new transfer policy between Cabrillo College and San Jose State. In the past if you graduated from a two year program at Cabrillo College you were assured to be accepted as a transfer student at San Jose State College. The policy has been revised to only automatically admit transfers from community colleges in Santa Clara County and Cabrillo students are put on a wait list with no promise of admittance to San Jose State. Although we have California State University Monterey Bay, there are at least 18 important majors that are not available to students including Engineering, Chemistry, nursing, Political Science and others. I will be writing a letter to Dr. Jon Whitmore, president, San Jose State with my concerns for the students of our county.

**Renaissance High School and Ceiba Charter School**

I was able to visit the school sites for both Renaissance High School and Ceiba College Preparatory School. Ceiba is a middle school with grades 6-8. Students there are hardworking with aspirations to succeed through high school and go on to college. At Renaissance High, we have a number of Regional Occupational Classes that I was able to visit along with a tour of the campus by Principal Artemiza Cortez.
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