Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board – December 17, 2015

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of October 15, 2015

BLACK AMERICA POLITICAL ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA (BAPAC) CONFERENCE

I attended and presented at the BAPAC Conference in San Diego on October 17, 2015. My presentation centered on addressing student discipline, suspension, expulsion, truancy and chronic absenteeism.

WELLS FARGO

On October 19, 2015, I met with Max, Seetho, Vice President, Wells Fargo Bank. Wells Fargo is looking to partner with members of the community in preparing high school juniors and seniors for their next steps in life. Wells Fargo believes it is crucial to engage not only the students but also the parents in to educate them through the “next step” process. Wells Fargo has the resources to make this happen and is thrilled to offer it to our community.

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, CHAPTER #484

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education and the California School Employees Association Chapter #484 held a mediation meeting on October 20, 2015. The mediation was successful with the two parties agreeing that the SCCOE shall increase the classified employee salary schedule for bargaining unit members by 5% effective July 1, 2015 and by 7% effective July 1, 2016. The SCCOE shall stop paying the employee’s contribution to PERS as of July 1, 2016 at which time, all employees covered by PERS shall pay the employee’s portion in full. Finally, this collective bargaining agreement shall be extended to June 30, 2018 and there shall be no negotiations for the 2016-2017 school year.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT NETWORK

I met with Jeremy Hummel, Senior Strategic Partner Advisor with School Improvement Network on October 21, 2015 concerning Senate Bill 77 (Continuation of Medi-Cal coverage for foster care youth) and Evidate which is an on-demand professional learning resource that creates a highly personalized learning experience for educators, helping them improve their practice and, in turn, raise student achievement.

BOARD RETREAT

We held a Board Retreat at the COE Annex on October 22, 2015. During the meeting, we discussed the COE’s Strategic Plan, Public Relations, Protocols/Norms and we scheduled Board site visits. I was also appointed to be a member of the Adult Education Block Grant (AEBG) Consortium.
SANTA CRUZ PROGRESSIVE AG DINNER

I was invited and attended the Santa Cruz Progressive Ag Dinner on October 24, 2015. This fun event was Agri-Culture’s major fundraiser of the year. Proceeds are used to fund the many community and educational programs sponsored throughout the year.

SANTA CRUZ/SILICON VALLEY NEW TEACHER PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR (SC/SVNTP) ANNUAL BREAKFAST

The SC/SVNTP held their annual breakfast on October 27, 2015 here at the COE. The breakfast is held for administrators throughout the counties to explore how to support teachers in focusing on Social Emotional Learning for student well-being and academic success and to learn about the changes and innovations to the SC/SVNTP Induction Program.

AB86/ADULT EDUCATION BLOCK GRANT (AEBG) STEERING COMMITTEE

I, along with many local educators throughout the county, attended AB86/AEBG meetings at Cabrillo College on October 27, 2015 and December 9, 2015. AEBG was started to support the state efforts for building a strong California workforce. Holly Chase has been named the new AB86/AEBG Director.

SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY AND THE KINSEY COLLECTION

I met with Nina Simon, Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History on October 28, 2015 and December 11, 2015. I met with Ms. Simon in an effort to bring The Kinsey Collection to Santa Cruz. The Bernard and Shirley Kinsey Foundation for Art and Education is a non-profit organization with the mission of assisting educational institutions with emphasizing a broader context and awareness of African American history from the aspect of achievement, accomplishment and contribution. This awareness is brought about through the use of primary source materials contained in The Kinsey Collection exhibit, hardback books, curriculum, videos and lectures.

COLLIGAN THEATER AT THE TANNERY

On October 28, 2015 I was asked to attend the ribbon cutting for the new Colligan Theater at the Tannery. The theater will be the new home for the Jewel Theater Company and will provide a larger stage area for more dynamic sets and lighting in order to stage more classic plays.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

I was asked to attend the Second Harvest Food Bank press conference at Dominican Hospital to kick-off their holiday food drive on October 30, 2015. The goal is to raise 5 million pounds of food over the holidays. As of December 11, 2015, the COE had raised over 4,720 meals for the Second Harvest Foodbank.
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COLLEGE COMMITMENT (S4C) STEERING COMMITTEE

I attended the S4C Steering Committee Meeting on November 9, 2015 at Cabrillo College. Highlights from the meeting included: 4th Grade visits to Cabrillo; 7th grade university visits; Community Forum on Success in Mathematics; Reviewing S4C goals; and a discussion on requesting an extension of the grant deadline from December 30, 2015 to March 30, 2016.

PACIFIC COLLEGIATE CHARter SCHOOL (PCS)

I was asked by Pete Rode, Board President of PCS to tour the new Pacific Collegiate Charter School. The $9 million construction, included a complete gutting and makeover of a two-story former business park facility at 3004 Mission Street. This move will save $30,000.00 in monthly rent payments to Santa Cruz City Schools.

SUPERINTENDENT’S COUNCIL MEETING

The Superintendent’s Council meeting was held on November 12, 2015. Topics for the meeting included: Leadership and Visioning; LBGTQ Inclusion in Public Schools; Community Research Project LCAP; CalPass; 2016 Transportation Ballot Measure; Changes in Education Law; CTEIG Grant; S4C/Gates Grant; Keeping Kids in School and Truancy Mediation Court; Scheduling of School Site Visits; and December Topic(s) and Presenter(s).

THE MUSEUM OF HEART AND MYSTERY STOREFRONT/TUTORING CENTER

The COE is sponsoring a collaboration between the Young Writers Program and the Museum of Art and History to provide an after school writing/tutoring center for Santa Cruz students. The program will be four afternoons per week from 2:30 – 5:00. The program is still looking for donors to help support this program.

WALNUT COMMONS

I met with Shirlee Byrd, a resident of Walnut Commons on November 13, 2015. Walnut Commons is a Cohousing community on Walnut and Center streets in downtown Santa Cruz. The residents of Walnut Commons collected over $500.00 to help the teachers of Gault School purchase school supplies.

STEM AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE EXPO

I was asked by Amity Sandage, CREEC Coordinator, to attend and give the opening remarks for the STEM and Environmental Science Expo held at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center on November 14, 2015. The Expo allowed k-12 teachers, science specialists and district administrators to a free mini-conference featuring engaging science experiences, preview STEM and environmental science curriculum, programs and professional development that supports Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards.
POSITIVE DISCIPLINE COMMUNITY RESOURCES

We partnered with Positive Discipline Community Resources to hold trainings here at the COE on December 1, 2015. The featured guest speaker was Jody McVittie, MD who is an experienced professional development facilitator with specialization in trauma-informed practices. The morning session was on Transforming Schools with Positive Discipline and the afternoon session was on Data Collection and Research: Staying Solution-Focused. The evening session held at Harbor High School was an interactive presentation for parents called “Parents as Team Members in Support of Students.

COE ALL

On December 1, 2015, we held a COE All meeting. Mary Anne James, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, shared a video presentation on the different departments in Educational Services and the work that each of the different areas perform for the COE. We also recognized a couple of different employees for their hard work and recognized Margarita Mendoza on her retirement and subsequent move to North Carolina to be closer to her daughter.

CALIFORNIA FORESTRY CHALLENGE

We received a letter from the California Forestry Challenge and letters from four Santa Cruz County Schools thanking the COE for its support of the 2015 Santa Cruz Forestry Challenge. This year, 85 students and 15 teachers from 11 high schools participated in the event that took place from November 4th through November 7th.

CSBA CONFERENCE, CCEE MEETING AND SEAC MEETING

I attended the CSBA Conference, the CCEE Meeting and the SEAC Meeting while in San Diego from December 2, 2015 through December 4, 2015. During the CCEE meeting, we adopted a Conflict of Interest code, received the Executive Director’s Progress Report, hired four new directors and an administrative assistant and received an update on the LCFF evaluation rubrics. During the SEAC meeting, we discussed a Legislative Platform Proposal to adopt a SEAC Legislative Platform for 2016, discussed adopting a membership fee schedule for 2016-2017 and heard candidate nominations for new three-year terms. During the CSBA conference, I attended a number of breakout sessions which I found to be very interesting.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN SUPERINTENDENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS (CAAASA) LEADERSHIP TRAINING

I attended the CAAASA Leadership Training on December 5, 2015 in San Diego. During the training we paired coaches with mentors as we look to increase diversity among the ranks of superintendents throughout California.

ACT II CANDIDATE PRESENTATION ON EQUITY

On December 8, 2015 I gave a presentation to Act II candidates on Supporting Underrepresented and African American Student Achievement. Act II is a two-year program for candidates to be able to clear their Administrative Credential.
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