The following matters and events have occurred since the report of November 21, 2013:

**Youth Career Connect Grant**
A committee has been formed to write a grant for Youth Career Connect Grant. The grant is designed to encourage America’s school districts, institutions of higher education, the workforce investment system, and their partners to scale up evidence-based high school models that will transform the high school experience for America’s youth. Youth Career Connect schools will strengthen America’s talent pipeline through Integrated Academic and Career-Focused Learning, Work-Based Learning and Exposure to the World of Work, Robust Employer Engagement, Individualized Career and Academic Counseling and Integration of Post-secondary Education and Training.

**Pacific Collegiate Charter School**
The Pacific Collegiate Charter Board has hired Simon Fletcher as Principal of the school. He is the first internal employee to have been selected as principal after serving as the interim since March. He previously taught science and math at the school and is a local graduate of Soquel High. He will have the challenge of finding a new home for the school in the next year.

**Insight Technology Days**
I met with Theresa Taggert, Insight Education Representative to discuss the potential for quarterly technology summits in conjunction with Microsoft and Intel Education. Agendas would be created around updates from Microsoft and Intel on the most critical, current technology issues facing school districts. New hardware offerings and solutions would be highlighted and the summit meetings would be presented at no charge to attendees.

**UC Santa Cruz Education Class**
Professor Brad Olsen, Education Department, invited me to participate in a panel for an undergraduate course on teaching for a class of approximately 120 students. The panel focused on the views of educational leaders and how they see the state of education in California as it relates to teachers and teaching and then exploring the future of education.

**Summit on Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court**
I joined a team from Santa Cruz to attend the Summit on Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court. The team included the following: Fernando Giraldo, Probation; Mark Hoguin, Family & Children’s Services; Dan Cervine, Children’s Mental Health; Cynthia Druley, CASA; Rachael Velcoff Hults, FosterEd; Michael Paynter & Martine Watkins, COE; Kenya Edison, Pajaro Valley Unified; Eileen Brown, Santa Cruz City Schools; Judge Heather Morse, Delinquency Court; and Judge Denine Guy, Dependency Court. The summit explored truancy and recognizing the importance or educational success as a way out of incarceration and dependency on public services. The summit was funded by the federal Court Improvement Program, private foundations and is part of the statewide juvenile Beyond the Bench Conference.
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Interviews were held to replace Brunella Deeds as Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and after careful consideration, Melanie Martin, Sr. Executive Assistant, Business Services was promoted to fill the position.

California School Boards Association Annual Conference
I attended the California School Boards Association Annual Conference in San Diego along with four of our Trustees. I attended a number of interesting presentations including one on media relations. The keynote speakers were Yong Zhao and Jane McGonigal talking about the future of teaching and learning. I was also introduced to the group as the President of CCSESA.

Young Writers Program Salsa and Sonnets Party
The Young Writers Program held a fund raiser called Salsa and Sonnets Party. The Young Writers Program was launched in the fall of 2012 to foster a love of writing and build confident writing skills in Santa Cruz County students. As of now, 45 trained volunteers have served 293 students in 11 classrooms, with new projects scheduled to start this coming January. Students win. Teachers win. Volunteers win. It’s hard to beat an equation like that. Co-sponsored by Santa Cruz Writes and our office, the Young Writers Program brings volunteers into countywide classrooms to work on teacher-initiated writing projects that often result in a publication. Published student writing is sold in area bookstores. They are continually holding fundraisers and would welcome your attendance.

Statewide Special Education Taskforce
I was invited to be one of the members of the Statewide Special Education Taskforce. The first meeting was to discuss the State’s vision/mission for students with disabilities. Subcommittees formed and broke out into groups to begin development of Work Plans, identify stakeholder groups. I will be a member of the Fiscal Committee. We hope to have the recommendations in place for the State Board of Education by December 2014.

TICAL – Technology Information Center for Administration
I met with John Cradler, Jason Borgen and Rowland Baker to discuss possible legislation in support of TICAL as the program’s funding has been jeopardized by Local Control Funding Formula. Our plan is to work with the local members of the Senate and Assembly to get the program re-funded. (See Attachments)

S4C Steering Committee
I met with the Committee for the final meeting this year with UCSC and CSUMB Staff attending as well. Discussions were held on the Middle School Summit, 4th Grade Launch, AB790 Linked Learning next steps, Collaborative Updates.

SUMMER MATTERS
I met with Kate Brakenridge, Sr. Director, Expanded Learning Initiatives/Partnership for Children and Youth, to discuss introducing The Summer Matters campaign to other COE Superintendents to share new reports and information about how summer learning supports LCAP priorities and local district goals. Summer Matters is the first-ever statewide effort to expand and improve summer learning programs across California. In twelve California communities, the Summer Matters Campaign has helped education leaders and their community partners create, operate, and refine a new breed of summer learning programs. The instructional strategies they use are strikingly similar to ones recommended for implementation of the
Common Core. The programs focus on strengthening students’ critical thinking skills, problem-solving ability, collaboration with their peers, and confidence in their own ability as learners.

**SAVE OUR SHORES**
I attended the Benefit for Save our Shores – a local non-profit that is partnering with schools to inform students of the importance of preserving marine life.

**Superintendents Council**
I met with the Superintendent’s with Laurel Jones, new Cabrillo President joining us as well. A number of items were discussed such as: Ecology Action, LCFF, LCAP, Smarter Balanced Assessment Readiness, Suspensions, Expulsions & Truancy, Youth CareerConnect Grant, a Budget Workshop on January 24, here at SCCOE, Summer Matters.

**TANDY BEAL**
Coordinating transportation for elementary school students to attend monthly performances at the Mello Center, which are being sponsored by Tandy Beal, local dance troupe and artist. The first concert is December 20th and will include the singing group, SoVoSo.

**ARCHES**
I participated in a conference call as part of a collaborative of S4C, formerly known as the Monterey Bay Educational Consortium, to discuss goals, common core state standards, as well as funding issues, collaborative members and governance structures, communication and data collection.

**FORD & BONILLA**
A media relations firm, I met with SCCOE staff to discuss marketing strategies for departments and the COE. Roland Bonilla will present at the January 8th, Manager’s Meeting to talk about media relations, public advocacy, branding, coalition building and crisis communications.

**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