



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ms. Jane Royer Barr
Mr. Jack Dilles
Ms. Sandra Nichols
Mr. Dana M. Sales
Mr. Abel Sanchez
Mr. Bruce Van Allen
Mr. George "Bud" Winslow

Michael C. Watkins, Superintendent • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • 831-466-5600 • FAX 831-466-5607 • www.santacruz.coe.org

Subject: Superintendent's Monthly Report to the Board – February 18, 2016

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of January 21, 2016:

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION GRADUATIONS

I attended the Alternative Education graduations on January 22, 2016. 63 students graduated from a number of schools throughout the county with many of the students being college-bound.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office hosted an Emergency Preparedness & Response Training "School Violence and The Active Shooter" on January 22, 2016. Many members of the COE staff attended the training which was developed for school faculty after the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut.

CCSESA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

CCSESA held its Board of Directors, General Membership and Legislative meetings in Monterey from January 25 – 27, 2016. During the meetings, we discussed state and federal legislative issues, reviewed 2015-16 financial reports and budget revisions, had a discussion on Riverside County's Blueprint for Action for African American students and discussed Destination Graduation. LCAP was a major discussion throughout the meetings and lastly, Tom Torlakson provided us with an update from the California Department of Education.

WATSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER DAYS

I spoke at the Watsonville High School Career Days on January 29, 2016 at Watsonville High School. This event was well-attended with high school juniors and seniors who are looking to their future careers.

PLATE OF BOUNTY AWARD

During the scheduled Migrant Head Start/JPA Board meeting on February 1, 2016, it was announced that Maria Castro was the 2016 National Migrant Seasonal Head Start Association winner for the Plate of Bounty Award. Only one person every two years is selected from a host of nominations to achieve this serving recognition. For almost three decades, Maria has been a champion and mentor for migrant children and their families.

FOOTBALL POOL POTLUCK

The annual football potluck was held at the COE on February 2, 2016 for the “Eaters” and the “Feeders”. I am happy to say that this year I was an “Eater”!

NEW LEGISLATION IMPACTING EDUCATION

Carl Corbin, General Counsel, School & College Legal Services of California came to the COE on February 3, 2016 to give a workshop on new legislation impacting education for 2016. I along with many members of the COE staff found the workshop to be very informative.

SUMMER MATTERS

I met with Katie Brackenridge, Senior Director, Expanding Learning Initiatives/Partnership for Children & Youth on February 3, 2016 to discuss tools and resources from the Summer Matters Campaign and about expanded learning that might be helpful to struggling districts in Santa Cruz County. We discussed how summer learning matches LCAP priorities, CDE summer funding and how it can be combined with LCFE dollars and how the program is linked to Common Core Implementation and Social-Emotional Learning.

COLLEGE PREPAREDNESS AND FINANCIAL LITERACY

On February 3, 2016, Mary Anne James, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, and I met with Max Seetho from Wells Fargo Bank to further our discussion on college preparedness and financial literacy programs for the students in Santa Cruz County.

CCEE MEETING

I attended the scheduled CCEE Meeting in Sacramento on February 4, 2016. Items discussed during the meeting included: Executive Director’s Progress Report, Potential Fiscal Support for CCEE, a presentation on Peer-to-Peer Partnerships, Blueprint for Action and the CCEE Board Workshop.

LEADERSHIP SANTA CRUZ

50 participants with Leadership Santa Cruz County came to the County Office to learn about the variety of programs we offer to the students of Santa Cruz County. I gave the participants an overview of our programs and then they received an overview of ROP before heading off to Harbor High School and San Lorenzo Valley High school to see our programs in action. The participants then returned to the COE Annex in time for a fantastic lunch provided by the students of the Culinary Arts ROP Program. After lunch, a Q&A Panel with four district superintendents was held to answer the participants many questions.

GRANDPARENTS AND FRIENDS EVENT

I was very happy to attend the 3rd Annual Tierra Pacifica Charter School Grandparents and Friends Event on February 8, 2016. Students who are studying finance and entrepreneurship launched their businesses during the event.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

On February 8, 2016, I met with Andy Stone, Director, Santa Cruz Workforce Investment Board to introduce Michael Paynter as the new Director of Student Support Services.

SUPERINTENDENTS COUNCIL MEETING

The Superintendents Council Meeting was held on February 11, 2016. The following items were discussed during the meeting: Epipen Training, Future Ready Schools, S4C/Gates Grant, SB-277, Inside Ed Panel Discussion, LCAP, Keeping Kids in School, Artistic Discovery and the Bernard Kinsey Collection.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

I attended the Criminal Justice Council meeting on February 11, 2016 in which we spoke of Grant opportunities, Legislative updates, a presentation on the Parent Involvement/Papas Program and discussed hot topics for future meetings.

2007 COP REFINANCING

Craig Hill from NHA Advisors, LLC met with Jack Dilles, Cindy O'Conner and I to review the refinancing options for the COE buildings. Craig is on today's agenda to present his findings and options for the Board.

MARTIN LUTHER KING CONVOCATION

I attended The 32nd Annual Martin Luther King Convocation was held at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium on February 12, 2016. During the event, I was honored to receive the Tony Hill Memorial Award. The award is selected in recognition of an individual in Santa Cruz County who exemplifies the work and efforts of the late Tony Hill. This award honors individuals for their efforts in seeking solutions to economic and social issues that face our local community, developing innovative approaches and building bridges among diverse populations.

FOOD WHAT?

I attended the Food What Winter Gathering to kick off their 10th year on February 16, 2016 at the Patagonia in Santa Cruz. The event included delicious snacks and soups, with ingredients from the farm, made by the FoodWhat Crew and the Voices of Change youth speakers with alumni sharing stories about themselves and FoodWhat over the past decade.

CEIL CIRILLO

The Tannery Arts Center will honor my friend and colleague Ceil Cirillo tonight with a dedication and sculpture unveiling for all of her efforts over the years to bring about the Tannery Arts Center and more recently the Colligan Theater at the Tannery. I have worked with Ceil for a number of years now and her inspiration and effort into the Tannery Arts Center has been exceptional.

INSIDE EDUCATION

The latest Inside Education meeting was held on February 17, 2016 here at the COE concerning “Gaining Ground in the Middle Grades”. I was asked to give the welcome to the group before they left the COE to tour Branciforte Middle School and Aptos Junior High school.

SUENOS COLLABORATION

We are looking to have the Suenos Program, which is based in Watsonville, collaborate with the Watsonville Community School in the near future as both programs serve students in the 18-24 age range.

THE BERNARD KINSEY COLLECTION

Over this past month, I have been working with the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History (MAH) to bring the Bernard Kinsey Collection to Santa Cruz. The Collection will open at MAH on Friday, February 26, 2016 for three months. With education as a goal, The Kinsey Collection has been on national tour since 2007, and has been seen by over 3 million visitors. Students and teachers in Santa Cruz will be able to tour the collection at the museum in order to learn and understand African American culture.

Regular Monthly Meetings

Special Education Coordinating Agency Meeting
Migrant Head Start Videoconference
Criminal Justice Council
CCSESA Executive Board
CCSESA Agenda Committee
Manager’s Meeting

Agriculture Board Meeting
Children’s Network
S4C Steering Committee
CCSESA Board of Directors
CCSESA Accountability Task Force