

Subject: Superintendent's Monthly Report to the Board – April 20, 2017

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of March 16, 2017:

2017 SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR AWARDS

On March 20, 2017, I presented the 2017 Science & Engineering Fair Awards at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. This year's Fair was a huge success! Students throughout the county from grades K-12 participated in this year's highly successful fair. This year over 130 students were Science Fair award winners.

The Science & Engineering Fair, which was held on March 11, 2017, is a regional academic Science, Engineering, Technology, and Mathematics competition for students in grades K-12. This annual event honors award winning students and provides opportunities for advancement to state and international science and engineering competitions.

SILICON VALLEY REGIONAL DATA TRUST

I, along with multiple members from Santa Cruz County Social Services, Public Health, Mental Health and Probation met with Rod Ogawa and his team from the Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust on March 21, 2017. The meeting was the initial step needed to build the Secure Information Sharing Environment which will link education data to data from these Santa Cruz Agency partners.

KINSHIP CENTER/APTOS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

On the evening of March 21, 2017, I attended a reception to honor the joining of Above the Line with the Kinship Center. The Kinship Center focuses on changing children's lives in Santa Cruz County through adoption, foster care and therapeutic services. The event was co-hosted by the Aptos Chamber of Commerce.

UNITED WAY COMMUNITY BUILDER AWARDS LUNCHEON

I attended the United Way Community Builder Awards Luncheon on March 22, 2017 along with 10 employees from the COE to support Jim Guss who was awarded the 2017 Employee Campaign Manager of the Year. Jim was recognized for his innovative approach to increase participation (pre-filled pledge forms AND electronic filled pledge forms) which led to an increase in the COE's overall workplace campaign.

RAISING OF AMERICA – DNA IS NOT DESTINY

The Child Development Resource Center presented the second part of Raising of America called “DNA is Not Destiny – How the Outside Gets Under the Skin” at Cabrillo College on March 22, 2017. Delaine Eastin, former California State Superintendent for Public Instruction, was the keynote speaker. Many state, county and local officials were in attendance at this event which showed how early environments (nurturing, toxic and in-between) can alter a child’s genetic code (the switch that turns our genes on or off – often, with long-lasting consequences for children).

ASSOCIATION FOR SUPERVISION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (ASCD)

I was asked to present “Understanding the Career Path to Becoming a School Superintendent or Administrator” at the ASCD Empower17 Conference that was held in Anaheim, California on March 26, 2017. My presentation was very well attended and received by the conference attendees.

COE ALL

We held a COE ALL meeting on March 28, 2017 to recognize the efforts and achievements of our staff and to introduce new staff members to the COE. The keynote speaker for the day was Santa Cruz County Supervisor Zach Friend. I asked Supervisor Friend to speak to the staff concerning communications and being “On Message” with the things that we are trying to say to each other within the COE but also to show us how to communicate with the public and outside agencies.

REGION 5 MEETING

On March 29, 2017 I met with the Superintendents of San Benito, Monterey and Santa Clara and some of their key staff members to go over all of the different regional projects that are currently happening in our counties.

CCSESA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

I attended the CCSESA General Membership Meeting in Palm Desert, California from April 2-4, 2017. I attended a number of Board and Committee meetings, General Membership Meetings and a Charter Schools Task Force Meeting.

CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (CCEE)

I attended the most recent meeting of the CCEE on April 6, 2017 in Sacramento. Highlights from the meeting included: reviewing the Riverside County Office of Education CCEE 2016 Final Report, reviewing the 2016-17 CCEE Budget Revisions, hearing the Executive Director’s Progress Report and reviewing relevant excerpts from SB 828 (School Finance: Education Omnibus Trailer Bill) and AB 1624 (applicant’s plan for recruitment attempts to meet the demand for bilingual cross-cultural teachers).

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD DINNER

We held a Santa Cruz County Board Dinner for all District Trustees and the County Board Trustees here at the COE on April 10, 2017. Keynote speaker for the evening was Vernon Billy, CEO/Executive Director of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) and his team. Mr. Billy spoke on a number of topics facing school boards today and also on a number of educational tools that CSBA has to offer trustees to help them better understand the landscape of issues currently being put before school boards.

GRIDIRON GIRLS

I was finally able to congratulate the Gridiron Girls for finishing in 1st place in the COE Football Pool this past season by having lunch at Sake here in Santa Cruz on April 11, 2017. Congratulations go out to Debbie Stanbra, Monica Beverly, Jody Belgard, Cathy Carr, Alison Warner and Robin Beall for beating the boys in football prognostication!

MANAGERS' MEETING

We held a Managers' Meeting here at the COE on April 12, 2017. The main topic of the meeting was "Messaging and Communicating the Work of the COE". We chose this topic to follow along with the COE ALL meeting where the topic was "On Message".

SUSAN MAURIELLO RETIREMENT

I was invited to attend and speak at the Aptos Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on April 13, 2017 recognizing Santa Cruz County Administrative Officer Susan Mauriello. Susan is California's longest-serving county executive and a champion of innovation and collaboration in county government. She will be retiring on July 7, 2017.

SUPERINTENDENTS' COUNCIL

The most recent Superintendents' Council meeting was held at the COE on April 13, 2017. Some of the topics discussed during the meeting were: housing shortage of teachers, water testing, stipends for interns and bullying in schools.

LGBTQ TASK FORCE

I attended the LGBTQ Task Force meeting on April 18, 2017 here at the COE. Students on the panel represented Pajaro Valley High School, Delta Charter High School, Cypress Charter High School, Georgiana Bruce Kirby Preparatory School, Scotts Valley High School and San Lorenzo Valley High School. The students discussed safe and inclusive school climate and the effect of bullying in schools.

POSITIVE DISCIPLINE COMMUNITY RESOURCES (PDCR)

I met with Nga Trinh-Halperin, Executive Director of Positive Discipline Community Resources and her Certified Positive Discipline Lead Trainer, Jane Weed Pomerantz on April 18, 2017. The purpose of their visit was to talk about "Celebrate a Culture of Respect". I invited both of them to speak at our next COE ALL meeting scheduled for May 16, 2017.

LANDED, INC.

I have been working with Ian Magruder, Director of Partnerships for Landed Inc. Landed, Inc. is a company whose objective is to help teachers in purchasing a home through down payment assistance. Landed, Inc. will provide half of the educator's down payment in exchange for 25% of the appreciation (or depreciation) in the value of their home at sale or refinance.

I recently distributed a survey to all teachers in the county (districts and in our COE programs) to assess their current housing situation and their interest in the offer being presented by Landed, Inc. Once the survey results have been received and tabulated, I will begin to work with local realtors in helping teachers purchasing a home.

EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

This year's Educators of the Year have been announced: Cynthia Balthaser, Administrator of the Year, New Teacher Project; Sharon Espinosa, Classified Person of the Year, Mountain Elementary School; Sheri Williams, Counselor of the Year, ROP; and Ricardo Vazquez, Teacher of the Year, Pajaro Valley High School. Congratulations to these well-deserving recipients! We will recognize these outstanding educators at next month's Board meeting.

SECOND SATURDAY NETWORK

On April 12, 2017, I met with Nubra Floyd, Program Coordinator for the Second Saturday Network. The Network provides a community-based program of educational resources aimed at promoting African cultural awareness and informed appreciation of the Black heritage experience. The COE will support Second Saturday by hosting a supporting under-represented youth as they strive to attend college.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COALITION

I attended the Criminal Justice Coalition (CJC) Executive Board meeting today at the Community Foundation here in Santa Cruz. The main topic for the meeting was in regard to the future focus of the CJC.

ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE

Cindy Holmes, Administrative Aide to the Superintendent, has decided to retire as of May 1, 2017 after 19 years with the COE. We will recognize Cindy and all of our other retirees at the May 18, 2017 Board meeting.

Regular Monthly Meetings

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

Agriculture Board
Children's Network
S4C Steering Committee
CCSESA Board of Directors
CCSESA Accountability Task
Adult Education Block Grant