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Subject: Superintendent's Monthly Report to the Board – May 19, 2016

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

NEXTGEN CLIMATE

I met with Tom Steyer, Founder of NextGen Climate, for a roundtable discussion on April 22, 2016. The roundtable discussion centered on education, climate, energy and other environmental and social issues that are priorities in Santa Cruz County. In 2010, Mr. Steyer and his wife pledged to contribute most of their wealth to charitable causes during their lifetimes. In 2012, Mr. Steyer led a campaign to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in California schools annually by closing a corporate tax loophole.

CCSESA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

I attended the CCSESA Board of Directors and General Membership meetings that were held April 24 – 26, 2016 in Riverside County. Along with the reports from the steering committees, much of the conversation during these meetings was centered on Special Education, LCAP and CTE.

COE FRONT DESK

Yong Conard, who was the face of the COE front desk for 17 years, retired at the end of April. On April 27, 2016 I attended a farewell breakfast to celebrate Yong's contributions and to also welcome Kim Czupil who has taken over for Yong in this very important role here at the COE.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH THE VISITING SCIENTIST

On April 29, 2016, Dr. Bruce McFadden, visiting scientist from the University of Florida, held a professional development workshop with the teachers in Santa Cruz County who have been selected to go to Panama as part of an on-going archeological dig of the Panama Canal. I was asked to attend this workshop to not only show my support but to also increase my knowledge of the interesting work they will be performing in Panama this summer.

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS (ACSA) SPRING FLING

I was asked to attend and be the keynote speaker at this year's ACSA Spring Fling held on April 29, 2016. The Spring Fling recognizes the administrators from Region 10 (Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties) for their outstanding achievements over the past year. This year, Mark Hodges, Senior Director, ROP, was recognized as the CTE Administrator of the Year.

2016 MATH CONTEST

The 2016 Math Contest (for grades 5, 6, 7 and 8) was held on April 30, 2016 at Aptos High School. I was privileged to present 39 Math Contest awards to both the individual and team winners on May 3, 2016.

INTERNATIONAL JAZZ WEEK

The SCCOE helped sponsor International Jazz Week from April 25 – 30, 2016. International artists Prince Lawsha and Alain Brunet from France celebrated International Jazz Week by giving performances to our students at Juvenile Hall, the SOS Program at Cabrillo College and at Scotts Valley High School. The tour was highlighted by a performance at the wharf on International Jazz Day on April 30, 2016.

EDUCATORS LEAD PODCAST

I was asked by Jay Willis, Founder, Educators Lead, to join him for a podcast interview on May 3, 2016. Mr. Willis started this podcast as a way to offer encouragement, inspiration and practical advice for teachers who aspire to become great leaders. The interview centered on my journey from teacher to administrator to superintendent and the road and lessons I learned along the way.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST

I was asked by Bruce McPherson, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, to attend and speak at this year's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast on May 5, 2016. The breakfast was held for local leaders in religion, politics, education and health to come together and share on how the faith community, government, education and business can partner together to catalyze transformation of individuals, families, communities and cities.

2016 GOLD RIBBON SCHOOLS

The 2016 Gold Ribbon Schools awards ceremony was held in San Jose on May 5, 2016. 15 schools from Santa Cruz County were recognized by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson as achieving Gold Ribbon Status. The schools are: Bonny Doon Elementary, Del Mar Elementary, Green Acres Elementary, Live Oak Elementary, Mountain Elementary, Boulder Creek Elementary, San Lorenzo Valley Elementary, Gault Elementary, Soquel Elementary, Rio Del Mar Elementary, Bay View Elementary, DeLaveaga Elementary, Westlake Elementary, Brook Knoll Elementary and Vine Hill Elementary.

FOSTER EDUCATION

On May 10, 2016, I participated in an interview with Jen Laird who is a researcher at RTI International who is leading the external evaluation of Foster Education in Santa Cruz County. During the interview, we spoke of how the foster education pilot has moved from a grant-funded pilot to a publicly-funded pilot; any challenges or complications faced so far; the collaboration efforts with other local agencies; and why the COE has decided to dedicate resources to sustain Foster Education in Santa Cruz County.

MODEL THERAPEUTIC HIGH SCHOOL

I met with Mr. Don Eggleston on May 10, 2016. Mr. Eggleston helped in creating a new “dropout recovery” school in Pajaro in 1994 called New School. The school has adapted and evolved over the years and Mr. Eggleston is now proposing to open a new model therapeutic high school. This high school would be a hybrid type of recovery school combining an alternative school and an inpatient treatment center based on student needs. In the programs that currently exist, counselors and teachers cannot share their information on the students which is totally contrary to the “health family” and inpatient treatment models.

MAY 2016 MANAGERS’ MEETING

We held a really well-received Managers’ Meeting on May 10, 2016. Tandy Beall, founder of Tandy Beal & Company is a world-famous dancer, opera star and motivational speaker who came to the COE to present “different” team building exercises to our management team. I have received many positive reactions from this event and hope to build upon it for future Managers’ meetings.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION PICNIC

The Employee Appreciation Picnic was held at Harvey West Park on May 11, 2016. The Maintenance and Operations Department did an excellent job grilled hamburgers, veggie burgers, turkey burgers, hot dogs and polish sausage dogs. Music was provided by Brian Sluggett and employees were treated to Polar Bear “Bear Claws” for desert. Our employees are very important to the organization and I wanted to make sure that we took the time to thank them for all the excellent work and devotion that they bring to the COE and the community.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL (CJC) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

I attended the CJC Behavioral Health Conference on May 12, 2016. Highlights from the conference were: Prevention and Early Intervention, Diversion and In-Custody Treatment and Intensive Full-Service Partnership Services. Santa Cruz County Sheriff, Jim Hart, also spoke concerning the Santa Cruz County Crisis Intervention Team.

SCHOOL VISITS

On May 16, 2016, I traveled throughout the county to visit the worksites of the classified employee of the year, the teacher of the year and the administrators of the year (Anna Martinez – Soquel High School; Jane Wong – Mintie White Elementary School, Mary Gaukel Forster, Delta Charter High School; and Les Forster – Cypress Charter High School). I wanted to see where and how these great educators do the great work that they do in supporting the students of Santa Cruz County.

CAPITOL ADVISORS BUDGET WORKSHOP

Jack O'Connell and Gerry Shelton from Capitol Advisors, LLC came to the COE on May 17, 2016 to address the Governor's May Revision to his January Budget proposal. This year's revision will be a crucial event for school budgeting and LCAP development. Other key topics addressed during the workshop were: LCFF implementation funding; one-time funding; early learning expansion efforts, the teacher shortage; career technical education; school district budget reserve cap, November ballot politics; school facilities bonds and Proposition 30 extension.

YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT

I was asked by Julia Chiapella, Director of the Young Writers Program to attend a VIP Fundraiser on May 17, 2016. The fundraiser, which was well attended, was hosted to help support the The Word Lab, a writing center opening this fall at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History to serve local elementary and middle school students. The SCCOE is a co-sponsor of the program along with Santa Cruz Writes.

CUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I was invited to meet with the CUE Board of Directors on May 17, 2016. CUE has been a valued partner with TICAL for several years and plays a major role in the LEAD 3 Symposium. CUE held a Board meeting locally on May 18, 2016.

FORAGE ARTS INTEGRATION MODULES (FAIM)

I met with Ed Martinez with Forage Arts Integration Modules (FAIM) on May 18, 2016. The mission of FAIM is to connect working, professional artists and scientists with educators "in the classroom" to complete hands-on projects that solve an essential question or challenge and integrate the arts with core academic content provided by the teacher. FAIM is also a dynamic new way to fund vital enrichment programs to help kids succeed.

KAREN EDMUNDS – SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL

On May 18, 2016 I was invited to a Teacher & Staff Appreciation Luncheon at Santa Cruz High School in recognition of Principal Karen Edmunds retirement. I have worked with Karen for many years. She has been an outstanding Principal who has provided stability and strong leadership at the high school and the district.

2016 POETRY CONTEST

The 2016 High School Poetry Contest was held on May 18, 2016 here at the COE. This year's contestants were exceptionally creative with their incredible works of poetry. Over 100 family, friends and teachers were on hand for this year's competition.

ROP PORTFOLIO SHOWCASE

I attended the ROP Portfolio Showcase at Harbor High School on May 18, 2016. The Showcase is an opportunity for the ROP students to showcase their work throughout the year for their friends and family to see what they have learned over the past year in the ROP Program.

INTER-AGENCY SCHOOL SAFETY MEETING

The COE hosted a follow-up Inter-Agency School Safety Meeting on May 19, 2016 with leaders from multiple local agencies. We host this meeting to ensure that the lines of communication are open between all of the local agencies, especially when a crisis occurs.

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