

Subject: Superintendent's Monthly Report to the Board – February 15, 2018

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of January 18, 2018:

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

On January 20, 2018, I attended and facilitated at the most recent CAAASA Leadership Training session in San Diego. The Leadership Academy was specifically designed for current superintendents as well as for aspiring superintendents to provide personal mentoring to address common barriers faced by African –Americans and other leaders of color within California schools. Two of the California's leading job search firms were invited to attend as well as two of California's top law firms. The Academy was a partnership between CAAASA and CDE, ACSA and CSBA.

CALIFORNIA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (CCSESA) 2018 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

I attended the CCSESA General Membership Meeting from January 22-24, 2018 in Monterey. A major topic during the meetings centered on the differentiated assistance meetings between county office staffs with identified school districts. Other major topics included the 2018 elections and the Governor's proposed budget.

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS (ACSA) SUPERINTENDENT'S SYMPOSIUM

I also attend the ACSA Superintendent's Symposium in Monterey from January 24-26, 2018. Some of the topics covered during the Symposium were: Charter School Oversight, Communication during Negotiations, The Politics of Superintendency, Teacher Recruitment and Retention Practices, Communicating During the First 30 Minutes of a Crisis and Working With Your Cabinet. All 10 Santa Cruz County District Superintendents attended the Symposium.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SPELLING BEE CHAMPIONSHIP

The COE sponsored this year's Spelling Bee which was held on January 27, 2018 at UC Santa Cruz. All public and private schools were eligible to register their top two spellers for the event. Approximately 96 students participated in this year's Spelling Bee. The winners move on to the statewide competition in spring. Winners of that competition will then move on to the nationals. In the junior high division, Connor Barirani (Georgiana Bruce Kirby Prep) and Owen McGinty (Rio Del Mar Elementary) advanced to State competition along with elementary division winners Owen Mercer (Scotts Valley Middle School) and Tristan Torres (Aptos Junior High School).

DIFFERENTIATED ASSISTANCE MEETINGS

Mary Anne James, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services and I met with the four school districts in the county who have been designated as needing to work with the COE to improve the education of at least one of their student groups that were ranked among the worst performers on the California School Dashboard, a new school and district grading system. We held our last meeting with Michelle Rodriguez, Superintendent, Pajaro Valley Unified School District on January 30, 2018.

CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (CCEE)

I attended the most recent CCEE meeting on February 1, 2018 in Sacramento. The major topics of discussion during the meeting included: the Executive Director Search, the 2016-17 Financial Audit Report, and the approval of a new Chief of Staff position.

POETRY OUT LOUD

I was asked to be a judge at this year's Poetry Out Loud event on February 1, 2018 at Book Shop Santa Cruz. Poetry Out Loud is a free high school program that encourages young people to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation and helps them master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, learn about literary arts and compete for national awards. This year, students from 10 schools participated in the competition with the winner going on to represent Santa Cruz County at the State Championships in Sacramento.

LEADERSHIP SANTA CRUZ

The Leadership Santa Cruz Education Day was held on February 2, 2018. Sandy Mast, Director, Inside Education, led the participants on a number of visitations/tours throughout the county. A delicious lunch was provided by the CTEP Culinary Arts Program and the day concluded with the participants traveling to the UCSC Arboretum where they met with the UCSC Chancellor, Dr. George Blumenthal and the new president of Cabrillo College, Dr. Matthew Wetstein.

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SESSION

I was asked by Amanda Dickey, Director Intergovernmental and Legal Affairs with CCSESA to present at a legislative information session that CCSESA held on February 5, 2018 in Sacramento concerning the teacher shortage especially teachers and administrators of color.

FOOTBALL POOL POTLUCK

We celebrated another fantastic year of football prognostication during our annual Football Potluck on February 6, 2018. Multiple awards were given out during the Eaters and Feeders festivities. Kris Stanga, Senior Director, District Support and Leadership was the Grand Champion with 2.755 points. The Top Team for the second year in a row was the Gutsy Gridiron Girls from the Business Technology Information Systems area.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

I spoke with Adam Anderson, Candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) on February 6, 2018 concerning his campaign and his thoughts on becoming SPI. Mr. Anderson subsequently withdrew from the race on February 13, 2018. Mr. Marshall Tuck is still scheduled to come to Santa Cruz on April 9, 2018.

KEMETIAN LOUNGE

I met with Kokoro Robinson, founder of the Kemetian Lounge on February 8 2018. The Kemetian Lounge is a three-room lower Pacific Avenue shop that has been made to be “an oasis for dreaming, planning, doing, funding.” We are currently working on a contract with The Kemetian Lounge to provide teacher professional development, facilitate self-empowerment activities for at-risk students and provide self-esteem activities for students.

SUPERINTENDENTS COUNCIL

We held the most recent Superintendents Council meeting on February 8, 2018. The topics discussed during the meeting were: Differentiated Assistance, EL Strategies, WorkForce Housing, Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust and the Use of Data in Schools.

MLK CONVOCATION

I attended the MLK Convocation on February 8, 2018 at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. Kimberle Crenshaw, Professor of Law at UCLA and Columbia Law School was the keynote speaker.

SANTA CRUZ HIGH YOUTH ENSEMBLE

I attended the Santa Cruz High Youth Ensemble on February 10, 2018 at Santa Cruz High School. More than 100 students performed during the ensemble and other groups like El Sistema from Watsonville also attended.

GREEN CALIFORNIA SUMMIT

I have been working with Amity Sandage, Region 5 Coordinator, CREEC Network and Ten Strands, the foundation directing and funding the CA Environmental Literacy Task Force in being a presenter in their session at the Green California Summit scheduled for February 28, 2018. We have been invited to speak at the Summit because of our commitment to environmental education, equity and social justice issues.

MANAGERS MEETING

We held our February Managers Meeting on February 14, 2018. Some of the topics covered during the meeting were: Customer Service Practices – Marketing the COE Work through Articles; Experience STEM through an equity lens and Frameworks.

ORGAMETRICS

Fairs Sabbah, Deputy Superintendent, and Mary Anne James, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services spoke with Mr. Art Johnson, CEO of Infinity Systems, Inc. concerning a survey tool called “Orgametrics”. This tool would be a survey of our staff to measure our effectiveness in meeting our mission and vision goals and also how to improve the process with any deficiencies that are found.

UNITED WAY

I attended the retirement celebration for Mary Lou Goeke from the United Way on January 26, 2018 at Chaminade. Mary Lou was with the United Way for over 25 years here in Santa Cruz. Keisha Frost has been named a Mary Lou’s successor as CEO.

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