

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

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of February 15, 2018:

CABRILLO COLLEGE

On February 20, 2018 I met with the new Cabrillo College President, Mr. Matthew Wetstein. President Wetstein was previously the Vice-President of Instruction and Planning at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton and is replacing Laurel Jones who retired earlier this year.

FOOTBALL POOL LUNCH

Faris Sabbah and I took the winners of the football pool team competition to lunch on February 21, 2018. The Gutsy Gridiron Girls won the football pool (for the second year running) thereby winning lunch at The Hind Quarter here in Santa Cruz.

MOUNTAINS TO SEA

I met with Brian King, Founder, Mountains 2 Sea on February 22, 2018. Mountains 2 Sea partners with schools to provide at-risk youth with weekly outdoor adventure outings that focus on leadership skills, goal setting and environmental awareness.

The program operates during the school year, and outings consist of hiking, sailing, surfing, trail maintenance, local historical sites, working with community partners on environmental stewardship projects, and overnight backpacking...activities to promote self-growth, self-reflection, and serving the community.

PLANTRONICS

I met with Joe Burton, President and CEO, Plantronics on February 22, 2018 concerning Plantronics partnering with the COE. Plantronics has decided to graciously donate \$10,000.00 to aid in travel expenses for the Science Fair winners, another \$7,500.00 in discretionary science costs throughout the year, and to teach a coding class during the summer.

CLOTHES SWAP

Jenny Im, Account Specialist IV, Business Services, created and coordinated a Clothes Swap held at the COE on February 27, 2018. The Clothes Swap provided employees the chance to swap old clothes that they no longer use for new clothes that other employees no longer wanted. All the proceeds were donated to the COE United Way Fund Drive. All the clothes that weren't "swapped" were donated to the Pajaro Valley Shelter Services and Encompass Community Services.

THE COLOR OF FRIENDSHIP

I was asked by Debbie Friedman from Our Community Reads (part of the Friends of the Aptos Library) to attend and facilitate a screening of the film “The Color of Friendship” on February 27, 2018. The film is based on actual events about the friendship between two girls (one from the United States and the other from apartheid South Africa) who learn about tolerance and friendship.

GREEN CALIFORNIA SUMMIT

Amity Sandage, Region 5 Coordinator, for the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network and I were asked to present at the Green California Summit on February 28, 2018 in Sacramento. The Summit brought together leaders in the environmental community, allies and legislative leaders to plan for 2018. Throughout the day, environmental advocates and allies shared strategies for action on key environmental issues in the coming year. Amity and I held a session stressing the importance of building environmental literacy for students (our future decision makers) as an essential long-term strategy.

YOUR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS

I, along with a number of COE employees, attended the 16th Annual Business/Education Luncheon for Your Future is our Business (YFIOB) on March 2, 2018 at Twin Lakes Church. YFIOB is dedicated to providing every Santa Cruz County student with opportunities to forge a path to a fulfilling and successful career.

PCS DINNER

On March 3, 2018, the Pacific Collegiate School Parent Volunteer Association held its annual dinner and awards celebration (BASH) at the Cocoanut Grove Ballroom. I was humbled to be the honoree for the evening in celebrating public education in Santa Cruz County.

SANTA CRUZ AREA SPEECH CONTEST

I was asked to be a judge at the Santa Cruz Area Speech Contest on March 6, 2018 at the San Lorenzo Valley High School Performing Arts Center. The contest involved students from the Area 7 Rotary Clubs throughout Santa Cruz County. Jamie Walton from Aptos High School was the winner.

SPOONREAD

On March 7, 2018, I met with Chris Norwood and Bart Meltzer from SpoonRead. SpoonRead is all about fundraising for schools and getting kids to read more by hosting read-a-thon events and online book fairs. SpoonRead is a cloud-based reading platform kids can access on their phone or tablet. As children read, they answer comprehension questions to validate their reading and earn credit towards their overall reading goal. Many students find that the way SpoonRead chunks the content and rewards them for their close reading makes reading feel more like a game they want to play. It lets them be successful reading as much or as little as they like, whenever they have time, while always requiring them to pay careful attention to what they’re reading. SpoonRead presented their program at the Superintendent’s Council meeting on March 8, 2018 to let the superintendents see what the program is and if it will be valuable in their schools.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK ANNUAL AWARDS

I, along with a number of employees, attended the Second Harvest Food Bank Annual Awards dinner on March 7, 2018. The COE was recognized with the “Big Step” Award for this year’s campaign in which the COE increased the number of meals donated from 10,780 in 2016 to 22,419 in 2017.

COE ALL

We held a COE ALL meeting on March 8, 2018 in the Tech Center of the COE. The meeting was very well attended as we discussed the results of the latest COE Survey, talked briefly about security and handed out numerous accolades to many different employees.

4TH GRADERS VISIT CABRILLO

Santa Cruz 4th graders made their yearly visit to Cabrillo College on March 9, 2018. The event involved all 4th grade students in public schools across Santa Cruz County. About 4,000 students visited Cabrillo College's campus, touring the classrooms, attending special classes taught by Cabrillo College faculty, and visiting special locations. Students are taken on tours through the library, lecture halls, science labs, cafeteria, the arts complex, inside the Crocker Theater and more. They get a taste of what it's like to be a college student.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR

The Santa Cruz County Science and Engineering Fair was held on March 10, 2018 at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. More than 400 kindergarten to 12th grade students competed in this 30th annual event. The competition promotes student research and provides opportunities for advancement of finalists to state and international competitions.

Entries were judged at four grade levels: Kindergarten through third grade, fourth grade and fifth grade, sixth grade to eighth grade and ninth grade to 12th grade. Students entered in a variety of categories from chemistry and plant science to energy and environmental management. Awards will be presented on March 19, 2018 at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN SUPERINTENDENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS (CAAASA) CONFERENCE

I am currently attending the CAAASA Conference in Sacramento. During the conference I will be presenting a session for the Aspiring and New Superintendent’s Academy and will be sworn in as the new President of CAAASA.

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