

Subject: Superintendent's Monthly Report to the Board – May 17, 2018

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of April 19, 2018:

### **INTERNATIONAL JAZZ WEEK**

International Jazz week was held from April 23, 2018 through April 28, 2018. Local jazz musician Prince Lawsha and three additional jazz artists played concerts at five of our county schools (Harbor High School, Soquel Elementary School, Scotts Valley High School, Santa Cruz High School and Sequoia Schools) throughout the week to open the minds, hearts and ears of our students to the wonderful world of jazz.

### **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY LAW DAY 2018**

Santa Cruz County Law Day was held on April 27, 2018 at Cabrillo College. I, along with a number of the COE staff, attended and participated in Law Day. Santa Cruz County Judge Denine Guy was the Master of Ceremonies and California Supreme Court Justice Ming Chin was the keynote speaker on the Separation of Power and Check and Balances. Approximately 150 high schoolers attended this really worthwhile event.

### **ACSA SPRING FLING & AWARDS BANQUET**

The ACSA Spring Fling & Awards Banquet was held on April 27, 2018 at Seascape. The event is held to recognize amazing administrators from Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito counties. I am very proud to say that many of our Santa Cruz administrators were recognized during the event and I was also recognized with the Dr. William D. Barr Scholarship Award.

### **BLACK LIVES IN SANTA CRUZ: WHAT MATTERS?**

I was invited by Santa Cruz Police Chief Andrew Mills to attend a portrait exhibit at the Santa Cruz Police Community Room on April 30, 2018 entitled "Black Lives in Santa Cruz: What Matters?" Freelance photographer Allison Garcia explored the day-to-day reality of being black in Santa Cruz. The exhibit was comprised of portrait photos, writings, and interviews from a cross-section of Santa Cruz community members who share their perspective on being black in Santa Cruz.

## **MATH AWARDS**

On May 1, 2018 we held the Math Awards Ceremony here at the COE to recognize the winner of the Math competition that was held on April 28, 2018 at Aptos High School. 56 students in Grades 5-8 received certificates and were awarded 1st 2nd 3rd place team & individual pendant medals.

## **ORAL HEALTH ACCESS**

I attended the most recent meeting of the Oral Health Access for Santa Cruz County on May 3, 2018. The mission of Oral Health Access is to improve the oral health of Santa Cruz County by uniting community leaders and developing actionable, measurable strategies that increase access to care and education for underserved populations. The major item at this meeting for the COE concerned the kindergarten/first grade screenings.

## **STUDENT AUTHORS' FAIR**

The Student Authors' Fair was held on May 5, 2018 at the Capitola Mall. The fair was sponsored by the Santa Cruz Reading Association and the COE. The fair encourages students to write and illustrate their own books. Students are recognized by the community during the Authors' Fair. There is no judging or censorship at the Fair. Every book entered receives an Award Certificate.

## **CCEE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SCREENING**

I participated on a screening panel on May 8, 2018 to narrow down the applicants for the CCEE Executive Director position currently held by Dr. Carl A. Cohn. Final interviews will be held in Sacramento on May 24-25, 2018.

## **APTOS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

I attended the Aptos Chamber of Commerce breakfast on May 10, 2018 in support of the new Cabrillo College President, Dr. Matthew Wetstein. Dr. Wetstein came to Cabrillo from San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, California. He received a Ph.D. in Political Science and an M.A. in Political Science from Northern Illinois University, and he holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of St. Francis, in Joliet, Illinois.

## **CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**

The COE is entering the fourth year of a four-year MOU with the four high school districts in Santa Cruz County. In meetings with the District Superintendents, it appears, as we move forward, that CTE will look differently because some of the districts are looking into taking back many of the programs and services that COE currently offers. Our staff has been meeting with each of the districts individually in order for us to be able to determine what each CTE program will look like in order for us to develop a model that work not only for the COE but for the four high school districts.

## **PLANTRONICS**

Over the past few months, we have been meeting with Plantronics and with their CEO, Joe Burton regarding our STEM programs and the Science Fair. Mr. Burton has invited our management team to tour their facility and have lunch on May 30, 2018 from 10:00 – 12:00. Each trustee is formally invited to join us.

## **NAVIGATOR CHARTER SCHOOL**

Navigator Charter School is currently petitioning Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) to open a school in their district. Navigator's mission is to equip students to be learners and leaders in high school, college, and beyond. They develop top-tier teams of educators who continuously improve and encourage schools to deliver phenomenal outcomes for all students, regardless of their circumstances. Navigator is dedicated to increasing high quality educational opportunities for students in California's Central Coast region. If PVUSD denies Navigator's Charter petition, it is expected that they will petition the County Board of Education for approval. If this were to occur, the COE will utilize both an internal team and a legal team to fully determine if Navigator meets the criteria for approval. We will also work with the Charter School Committee throughout this process.

## **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ANTI-CRIME PRESENTATION**

George Rivera, Commander, Santa Cruz County Anti-Crime Team, gave a presentation at the Superintendent's Council meeting on May 10, 2018. Mr. Rivera stated that crime/gang activity is increasingly occurring with children at younger ages. Mr. Rivera requested that the superintendents allow him to do presentations at elementary schools to make the children aware of gang activities and help steer them away from gangs.

## **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY**

The COE responded to the Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury on May 4, 2018. We have now complied with all of the Grand Jury's items and are working with all the districts to ensure that they are also in compliance with the Grand Jury's requests.

## **ENVIROMENTAL COORDINATOR**

The COE has hired Amity Sandage to be our new full-time Environmental Coordinator to increase environmental literacy throughout our county schools and with our local community to increase their knowledge on environmental issues. Amity goals are to create a plan for more environmental education experiences for all students across the county and support our school districts in connecting environmental resources within all subject areas.

## **WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES (WASC)**

We received the attached WASC notification for renewed accreditation (six years with a mid-cycle progress report).

## **COE ANNUAL PICNIC**

We held the annual COE Picnic at Harvey West Park on May 15, 2018. Staff was entertained with games sponsored by the Payroll Department, music by Brain Sluggett from Maintenance and Operations, taco truck food from Tacos Don Beto and ice cream from Marianne's. A good time was had by all!

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION FUN DAY**

Approximately 70 Special Education students attend this year's annual Fun Day on May 11, 2018 at the Sheriff's Posse Grounds. Students, parents and teachers enjoyed the afternoon event that has been held for the past 36 years.

## **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

I was invited by Sandra Nichols to address the People's Democratic Club on the topic of Restorative Justice in Santa Cruz County Schools on May 16, 2018. Martine Watkins, Vice-Major, Santa Cruz presented the topic with me to the club.

### **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**