

Extraordinary Public Education

Educational Services – Visual and Performing Arts Department

SMMUSD Advisory Committee on the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA DAC)

September 26, 2007 * 7:00-9:00pm

Board Conference Room, SMMUSD District Offices

1651 16th St., Santa Monica

MINUTES

Attendees: Janis Gabbert, Kathryn Kert Green, Zina Josephs, Rebecca Kennerly, Kelly Pye, Cindy Rosmann, Carey Upton, Tom Whaley

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Minutes of the August 22nd meeting -- Approved (Green)
3. Public comment - Rebecca Kennerly (rebecca@kennerly.com), president of the Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs, spoke about her goals for the year of partnering with the DACs and working with a coalition of administrators, principals, the Board of Ed, SMMCTA, and SIEU to communicate with the community regarding the excellence of the public schools. The new "World Class Education" banners at the school sites are part of this effort. They are also planning a tabloid-style newspaper.
4. Comments from Board Liaison Kelly Pye -- Kelly spoke about the Prop BB workshop on Oct. 2nd, suggesting that we compare the DAC 2006 VAPA Facilities Inventory with what's on the projects list, and then prioritize what's not been included. For example, it's not clear whether dedicated arts classrooms at the elementary schools are on the list. She spoke about the student performances at Samohi Back-to-School Night (other attendees noted that parking was a problem and that they missed the performances), and about the District Arts Education Audit (still in progress).
5. Calendar review: Regarding the upcoming "For The Arts" art auction on Oct. 11th, Cindy noted that the web site is not up-to-date.
6. Discussion/action items
 - a. District arts web sites:
 - VAPA Department -- <http://www.smmusd.org/vapa/>
 - VAPA Curriculum -- <http://www.smmusd.org/vapa/curriculum.html>
 - VAPA Brochure -- <http://www.smmusd.org/vapa/VAPABragSheet.pdf>
 - VAPA DAC -- <http://www.smmusd.org/vapa/DAC.html>
 - VAPA DAC Glossary -- <http://www.smmusd.org/vapa/pdf.DACVAPAGlossary07.pdf>

Action: It was noted that the DAC Brochure link now connects to the VAPA Brochure/brag sheet.

- b. DAC brochure - Zina noted that about 25 copies had been passed out at the Vendors' Night at Lincoln.
Action: That the DAC revise some of the language to reduce duplication.
- c. VAPA "Spotlight" newsletter -- Cindy and Janis suggested that rather than doing a hard copy twice-a-year newsletter in November and March, that perhaps we could post announcements/articles on a continual basis, linked to the VAPA website calendar, and then drive traffic to the calendar.

- d. Recruiting new DAC members -- 7 parents at Vendors' Night asked to be added to the email list as prospective DAC members.
- e. District Arts Education audit -- still in progress (attached)
- f. Back-to-School Music Night (Vendors Night) -- Tom noted that more 1/2 size violas are needed.
- g. Play It Forward -- encouraging donation of instruments to district/schools (see attached) – The announcement has been posted on the web site. Action: That hard copies be distributed at school concerts/Stairway and a press release be sent to local newspapers and to PTA presidents for inclusion in their newsletters.
- h. District VAPA class offerings, enrollment, and FTE's -- 2007-08 update to be discussed in October.
- i. Election of DAC officers: A slate of officers for 2007-08 was nominated (Green) and elected unanimously -- Chair: Cindy Rosmann; Vice Chair: Janis Gabbert; Secretary: Zina Josephs
- j. Arts education for special education students -- LACOE is presenting a workshop on Nov. 6th.

7. Updates

- a. VAPA departments (teachers) -- None.
 - b. Restore Barnum Hall! -- Carey Upton, who has been the theater manager/technical director for 8 months, noted that a proposed budget has been completed, that they're getting ready to start a marketing campaign (while taking into consideration a busy campus and limited parking), and planning to restart the usher corps. The Microsoft event this summer netted the district \$230,000. He eventually envisions summer concerts at the campus' Greek Theater. If the Mitzi plan is followed, a separate technical advisor would be hired, and then Carey would supervise all district performance venues.
 - c. Arts for All -- tabled
 - d. For The Arts -- tabled
 - e. SmART Schools -- tabled
 - f. PTA Council -- <http://smmpta.org> <<http://smmpta.org/>> . Unit presidents: <http://smmpta.org/presidents.html>
8. VAPA Coordinator's report -- Tom has applied for the Grammy Signature School grant to use for technology. He has invited Chris Schwabe to be guest conductor and honoree for Stairway. More elementary students are signing up for trombone and cello, which helps the balance of the instrumental groups. Middle school choir enrollment seems to be higher this year due the feeder program created by the elementary general music/choir program. During spring break in March, the Samohi orchestra will tour Salzburg, Vienna, and Prague.
9. Agenda planning for October 17th meeting: Review DAC charge at request of Board of Ed; Review class listings, enrollment figures, and VAPA FTE's; revise DAC brochure language; review Arts Education Inventory; Press release for "Play It Forward"; Review process for posting announcements and articles linked to the online VAPA calendar; Review article for PTA newsletters that will drive parents/community/local newspapers to the VAPA website.

10. Adjournment