

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

Thursday, October 22, 2020 – 7 PM – via Zoom

AGENDA

7:00 PM – **Call to order and welcome** -- Co-Chairperson Janis Gabbert

7:05 PM – **Approve minutes** from September 2020 meeting

7:10 PM -- **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas

7:20 PM -- **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Jacqueline Mora

7:40 PM – **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley

8:00 PM -- **Board of Education Liaisons** –

Dr. Maria Leon-Vazquez and Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

8:20 PM – **VAPA DAC Charge for 2019-20** (approved by the BOE on 9/5/19)

- *Support a comprehensive preK-12 arts education program as an integral part of the core curriculum offered at all SMMUSD students, with dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts taught as discrete disciplines and integrated into other subject areas; as we align with and promote the Excellence through Equity Plan, which includes teaching cross-cultural and socio-emotional skills.*
- *Serve as a conduit for parents, teachers, students and community members to inform and make recommendations to the Board of Education on matters related to equitable access and successful participation in comprehensive, sequential, standards-based preK-12 arts education, while comparing the District's curriculum, scheduling, staffing, instructional materials, equipment, and facilities with National and State standards and frameworks; as we align with and promote the Excellence through Equity Plan.*
- *Maintain the Board and District commitment to the adoption of a new 6-year SMMUSD Arts Education Strategic Plan. Review and advise this Plan to align with and promote the Excellence through Equity Plan.*

Discussion/action items (per the DAC charge)

1. *Serve as a conduit for parents, teachers, students and community members to*

inform and make recommendations to the Board of Education on matters related to equitable access and successful participation in comprehensive, sequential, standards-based preK-12 arts education.

- a. **Distance learning** – impact on Dance, Media Arts, Theatre, and Visual Arts instruction in the middle and high schools (follow-up to September update on distance learning impact on Music instruction)
- b. **VAPA elective choices** – follow-up to September discussion of the Visual Arts program at Lincoln Middle School – from the VAPA DAC Mid-Year Report in January 2020:

John Adams Middle School – 1,006 total students in 2019-20

Visual Arts: Art Foundation (3 sections), Art (1 section),

Exploratory Art/PLTW (semester-long) – added in 2019-20

Exploratory 6 Art (year-long – 2 sections) -- eliminated in 2019-20
(1.2 FTE reduced to 1.0 FTE)

- 191 students (2015-16) -- 113 students + 78 trimester Exp students
- 164 year-long students (2016-17) -- 40 7th/ 8th graders on waiting list
- 167 year-long students (2017-18)
- 168 year-long students (2018-19)
- **169 students (2019-20) = 111 year-long students + 58 semester-long students**

Lincoln Middle School – 1,116 total students in 2019-20

Visual Arts: Art (4 sections – year-long), **Exploratory 6 Art (1 section – quarter system)**

- 162 students (2015-16) = 108 year-long students + 54 semester-long Exp 7 students
- 193 students (2016-17) = 82 year-long students + 81 trimester Exploratory 7 and 30 semester-long Exploratory 8 students
- 250 students (2017-18) = 112 year-long students + 90 trimester Exploratory 7 and 48 semester-long Exploratory 8 students
- 237 students (2018-19) = 109 year-long students + 128 quarter-long Exp 6 students
- **236 students (2019-20) = 112 year-long students + 124 quarter-long Exp 6 students**

Malibu Middle School – 334 total students in 2019-20

Visual Arts: Art (4 sections), Exploratory 6 Art (trimester rather than semester-long in 2019-20)

- 165 students (2015-16) = 105 year-long students + 60 trimester-long Exp 6 students
- 151 students (2016-17) = 106 year-long students + 45 trimester-long Exp 6 students
- 133 students (2017-18) = 93 year-long students + 40 semester-long Exp 6 students
- 116 students (2018-19) = 72 year-long students + 43 semester-long Exp 6 students
- **140 students (2019-20) = 95 year-long students + 45 trimester Exploratory 6 students**

2. **Follow-up to September presentation by Carey Upton** – Tour of JAMS Performing Arts Center for VAPA DAC members -- TBD
3. **Media**

“SMMUSD Requests Community Input as Elementary, Middle School Projects Move Forward” -- 10/16/20 – SMMUSD news release

<https://www.smmusd.org/Page/4007>

“SMMUSD School Board Approves Purchase of 4th Street Building on District Land” -- 10/16/20 – SMMUSD news release

<https://www.smmusd.org/Page/4007>

“The building will soon become the district headquarters.”

“EdTA Survey Shows Profound Impact of COVID-19 on Theatre Education”

10/16/20 – Educational Theatre Association

<https://www.schooltheatre.org/blogs/edta-news/2020/10/16/edta-survey-shows-profound-impact-of-covid-19>

“National Poll Ranks SMMUSD among California’s Best Districts”

10/15/20 – SMMUSD news release

<https://www.smmusd.org/Page/4007>

“Extracurricular Activities Gear Up for an Online-Only Semester”

8/22/20 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*

<https://www.smdp.com/extracurricular-activities-gear-up-for-an-online-only-semester/195765>

The new school year begins on Monday, but students will not be donning sports uniforms or packing up their instruments.....Fortunately for some students, there are many activities that are more easily adapted to distance learning.... auditions have already taken place for orchestra at Samohi, and the theatre department plans to carry out online plays and musicals....”

“Samohi Orchestra Director Retires after 17 Showstopping Years”

8/20/20 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*

<https://www.smdp.com/samohi-orchestra-director-retires-after-17-showstopping-years/195645>

“Joni Swenson, who has been the orchestra director at Samohi for 17 years, announced she is retiring this fall. Beloved by students, parents, and teachers alike, Swenson helped bring the Santa Monica High School symphony orchestra to concerts across the world....Swenson was an industrious director and added three orchestras and a second orchestra director to the Samohi music program during her career. She was so dedicated to her position that she commuted to Santa Monica from Mountain View by airplane on a weekly basis for almost two decades....During Swenson’s tenure the symphony orchestra has performed at

concerts in Argentina, Uruguay, China, Prague, and Vienna, and became the first public high school ensemble to perform at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, which is the home of the LA Philharmonic....”

“Samohi Orchestra Director Retiring after 17 Years”

8/20/20 – *Santa Monica Mirror*

<https://smmirror.com/2020/08/samohi-orchestra-director-retiring-after-17-years-santa-monica-beat-august-20-2020/>

“Girl Scout Goes for Gold”

7/31/20 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*

<https://www.smdp.com/girl-scout-goes-for-gold/194938>

“My name is Emma Crawford. I am a rising junior at Santa Monica High School, where I am heavily involved in the Music program. I play oboe in the Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra, and flute in the marching band....My Girl Scout Gold Award has included the education of both parents and students, and I am currently trying to raise enrollment in the music programs in Santa Monica by raising awareness about the benefits of music education through hosting a series of meetings for parents at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The main parts of my project have been collected onto my website at www.instrumentinvestigation.weebly.com....”

California Music Educators Association announcement -- 7/11/20

“Southwestern Section Election Results!” -- Congratulations on the most active election cycle in the history of the SWS section. We are pleased to announce the 2020 - 2022 CMEA Southwestern Section Board:

President - Ryan Rowles, SMMUSD

8:45 PM -- **Calendar review**

1. **DAC meetings** – December 2, January 13, February 17, April 21, May 12
2. **Board of Ed meetings** -- <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/5456>
Agendas -- <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/4047>
Meeting / Video Archives -- <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/4049>
3. **Drama Teachers Association of Southern California** – Virtual Fall Festival
<http://cetoweb.org/dtasc/>
4. **California Art Education Association** -- Virtual Conference – November 4, 5,7 -
<https://www.caea-arteducation.org/>
5. **California Dance Education Association** -- COVID-19 Best Practices for K-12
Dance Teachers -- <https://www.cdeadance.org/>

6. **California Music Educators Association** – COVID-19 information & Resources
– <https://calmusiced.com/resources/covid-19-information/>
7. **VAPA calendar** -- <https://smmarts.net/>

8:50 PM – **Public comments regarding items not on the agenda** -- Public Comments is the time when members of the audience may address the District Advisory Committee on items not scheduled on the meeting’s agenda. The Brown Act states that Committee members may not engage in discussion of issues raised during Public Comments, except to ask clarifying questions or to refer the matter to staff.

8:55 PM – **Agenda planning for December 2 meeting** – Fall 2020 VAPA class offerings and enrollment

9:00 PM – **Adjournment**

Resources:

National Core Arts Standards – Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, Visual Arts

<http://www.NationalArtsStandards.org/>

California Arts Standards *for Public Schools, Prekindergarten through Grade Twelve*

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/vapacontentstds.asp>

California School Dashboard -- <https://www.caschooldashboard.org/>

VAPA Department web site – <https://www.smmusd.org/domain/307>

VAPA Staff / Faculty – <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/3951>

VAPA Curriculum -- <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/3937>

VAPA DAC email -- vapadac@gmail.com

VAPA DAC web page – <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/168>

VAPA Calendar -- <https://smmarts.net/>

VAPA Facebook page -- <https://tinyurl.com/y9m7hr8d>

VAPA on Instagram -- <https://www.instagram.com/smmusd.vapa/>

VAPA on Twitter -- @vapa_smmusd aka VAPA SMMUSD

DAC Application Forms – <https://tinyurl.com/y3sga7w8>

California School Dashboard -- <https://www.caschooldashboard.org/>

“2020 Otis Report on the Creative Economy” - Los Angeles Region and California

<https://www.otis.edu/creative-economy/2020>

Key findings for California: 15.4% jobs in California are arts-related.

Total creative economy output: \$650 billion

Jobs created: 2.7 million

Labor income: \$209 billion

Sectors: Architecture & related services, Creative goods & products, Entertainment & digital media, Fashion, Fine Arts & Performing Arts (Dance companies, Musical groups, Theater companies, other performing arts companies, Art galleries, Fine arts schools, Museums)

“A Three-Pronged Approach to Excellence through Equity” – 8/25/17

<http://www.smmusd.org/lcff/pdf/Three-ProngedApproachEthruE.pdf>

- 1) Create a Culture of Shared Accountability through a Systems Approach
- 2) Teach Cross-cultural and Socio-emotional Skills – *“The ways in which students learn and think are deeply influenced by their cultural identity and heritage, and that to teach a diverse student population effectively requires educational approaches that value and recognize their cultural backgrounds.”*
- 3) Engage in Constant Self-reflection around Issues of Equity