

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 – **in-person**

MINUTES

Attendees: Annie Azzariti, Deborah Berek, Gina de Baca, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Aimee Koeplin, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Lydia Muraro, Domi Piturro, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Co-Chair Janis Gabbert.
2. **Minutes** from the October meeting were approved by unanimous consent. (Josephs)
3. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley reported on the Ballet Folklorico and Mariachi performance at JAMS on January 19, with about 500 attendees including Dr. Mora's family. There will be another performance on May 4. The January 21st Samohi Jazz Band concert with Stanley Clarke, John Beasley, and Clay Jenkins at JAMS was also well attended. Today was the first rehearsal of the Stairway elementary honor groups. Re Prop 28, Austin Beutner has appointed Tom to an implementation board. In March, school principals will present their proposals, and the programs will begin in Fall 2024. A new 7-foot Yamaha piano was purchased with Measure R funds for the new JAMS Performing Arts Center. Using a discount on the Yamaha piano, Tom also got the existing 7-foot Mason Hamlin piano refurbished.

CASMEC is this weekend, with lots of SMMUSD students in the honor groups, including one of the 17 members of the All-State Jazz Band. Samohi Theatre is presenting "Phantom of the Opera" and Jeffe Huls is the musical director. Lincoln Middle School is presenting "Matilda the Musical." The new band trailer for the Samohi Marching Band will be arriving soon, paid for by Measure R. A Samohi band concert, including the marching band, is scheduled for January 23. There will be 2 Districtwide Art Shows – One in the Samohi Roberts Art Gallery on April 23, and one in Malibu in May.

4. **Board of Education Liaison** – Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein was not present. Maria Leon-Vazquez reported on Dr. Shelton's program, California Dashboard results, trying to catch up with all the work Dr. Mora had been doing, the Board retreat, the meaning of DEI (feeling comfortable), the budget for 2024-25 (including \$10 million from Measure GS), union negotiations, and upcoming hearings re district elections for SMMUSD Board members.

5. **DAC Mid-Year Report** -- The draft Mid-Year Report was reviewed, amended, and approved by unanimous consent. (Josephs) It will be formatted and submitted to Sarah Wahrenbrock by 2/1/24 for the 2/15/24 Board of Ed meeting.
6. **General public comments regarding items not on the agenda** – Gina de Baca commented that she teaches Ballet Folklorico at Will Rogers and McKinley.
7. **Agenda planning for the February 21 meeting** – Dr. Devon Smith to discuss how the existing VAPA programs will be integrated into the Academies and the CTE pathways involving Arts, Media, & Entertainment. Lydia suggested that the DAC invite Erin Hill to discuss how ACES is integrated into regular classes and the Academy classes.
8. **Adjournment** at 9:00 PM.