

# Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021 – 7:00 PM – via Zoom**

Tom Whaley is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: DAC Meeting

Time: Jan 13, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86177786520?pwd=R2Jrc1VrcXcxOHdwaU0wZWpYSFI0Zz09>

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## **AGENDA**

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

7:05 PM – **Approve minutes** from December 2020 meetings

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. What California’s color-coded county tracking system means for schools:**

<https://edsources.org/2020/quick-guide-what-californias-color-coded-county-tracking-system-means-for-schools/639357>

Gov. Newsom released the “Blueprint for a Safer Economy” on August 28 that changed the way the state monitors counties to determine when schools can open for in-person instruction. The blueprint includes a four-tiered, color-coded system that tracks counties by the number of Covid-19 cases recorded each day and the percentage of positive cases out of the total number of tests administered. Higher risk to lower risk tiers range from **Purple to Red to Orange to Yellow**.

No public or private schools in counties rated **purple** can reopen for in-person instruction unless they receive a waiver for students in grades K-6, or are following guidance for small groups of children, known as “**cohorts.**”

**Purple:** widespread risk – Most schools are closed to in-person instruction, unless they meet certain conditions. One criteria is **more than 8% positive tests**. As of December 31, L.A. County had **15% positive tests**.

**Red:** substantial risk – Schools can reopen for in-person instruction after they have remained in the red for 14 days.

**Orange and Yellow:** moderate or minimal risk – Schools can reopen for in-person instruction based on state and county guidance.

## 2. Career Technical Education (CTE) Pathways at Samohi

<https://www.smmusd.org/domain/4311>

“Relevant. Real-world. Rigorous. Career Technical Education (CTE) helps students gain valuable academic and technical skills for postsecondary institutions and high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers across a wide range of industry sectors. Nationwide, students are experiencing high-engagement and are graduating college and career-ready through a variety of sequential career-related courses called pathways. It’s like majoring in college, but students are doing it in high school!

Nestled in the heart of Silicon Beach and surrounded by the entertainment industry, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has CTE pathways designed to prepare students for local industry. Specifically, **Santa Monica High School offers five pathways in Arts, Media, & Entertainment (AME), Transportation, and Engineering Design**. Click on the icons below for more information.

**Arts, Media, and Entertainment Sector (AME)** -- <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/6060>

Of all the career industries, the Arts, Media, and Entertainment sector requires perhaps the greatest cross-disciplinary interaction because the work in this sector has a propensity to be largely project-based, requiring both independent work and interdependent management skills for career success.

Learning the skills and knowledge for creating, refining, and sharing work in the Arts, Media, and Entertainment industry sector promotes teamwork, communication, creative thinking, and decision-making abilities - traits that are necessary to function successfully in the competitive and media-rich twenty-first century. Through the manipulation of sight, sound, and motion, those choosing a pathway from this sector reach out in unique ways to enhance the quality of life for those around them.

**Samohi hosts FOUR pathways in the AME sector:**

Film, Video Production Pathway -- <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/6061>

Graphic Design Pathway -- <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/6079>

Photography Pathway -- <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/6080>

Professional Dance/Choreography Pathway – <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/6081>

*Some questions for discussion purposes:*

- a) Are the CTE Pathways already being implemented this year?
  - b) If so, how many students have enrolled in them?
  - c) How are they scheduled?
  - d) How are the Arts, Media & Entertainment pathways integrated with the existing Samohi VAPA classes, in which thousands of students are enrolled?
- 3) Speaking philosophically, are high school math classes only of value to students who intend to become professional mathematicians? Are history classes only of value to students who plan to become professional historians? Are foreign languages only of value to students who plan to become professional diplomats or spies? Are dance classes only of value to students if they plan to become professional dancers or choreographers? Or are these classes of value because they contribute to a well-rounded education?

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- 3. **VAPA elective choices** – Follow-up to September meeting discussion -- Report on Tom Whaley’s presentation to the DELAC Committee to clarify the process and let them know whom to contact if they have questions or concerns.
- 4. **Waiting lists for middle school Art classes** – Follow-up to September meeting discussion – Zina contacted a counselor at Lincoln Middle School: About 67 7<sup>th</sup> graders requested Art and were not able to get in. About 15 8<sup>th</sup> graders requested Art as a SECOND elective and were not able to get in, i.e., students with AM PE or ISPE may have not gotten it as their 2nd choice, due to scheduling conflicts. Priority goes to 8<sup>th</sup> graders with only 1 elective. Re Music classes, the school was able to accommodate most if not all Music selections. There are no Dance or Theatre classes.

**5. Mid-Year Report**

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

- 1. **DAC meetings** – February 17, April 21, May 12
- 2. **Board of Ed meetings** -- <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/5456>

Agendas -- <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/4047>

3. **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 DAC on items not on the meeting’s agenda. The Brown Act states that Committee members may not engage in discussion of issues raised except to ask clarifying questions or to refer the matter to staff.

8:55 PM – **Agenda planning for February 17 meeting**

9:00 PM – **Adjournment**

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**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/vapacontentstnds.asp>

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## **Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)**

**December 2, 2020 – via Zoom**

### **MINUTES**

**Attendees** – Annie Azzariti, Deborah Berek, Scott Ferguson, Janis Gabbert, Linda Gross, Zina Josephs, Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Domi Piturro, Ann Thanawalla, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by Co-Chairperson Janis Gabbert.
2. **Minutes** -- The minutes from the September and October meetings were approved after corrections by unanimous consent. (Berek)
3. **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas was unable to attend but sent a written update:
  - a. They’ve scheduled the remaining 15-week programs to begin in January. They’re coordinating with schools to deliver art supply kits for use after winter break.

- b. P.S.ARTS will be holding a FREE virtual Family Dance Night for the general public on December 11th from 4:30pm-5:30pm.
4. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Mora reported on meetings with elementary and secondary teams regarding a re-opening plan in the Red Tier (we're currently in the Purple Tier). No hybrids are allowed, only EL, Special Learners, and others unable to access distance learning (homeless, foster youth) for in-person assessments. A survey went out to parents and teachers. She also noted an academic support program to 260 TK-6 students partnering with 2 community organizations, plus academic support for low income middle school students, funded by the Ed Foundation.
  5. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley reported as follows:
    - a. The middle school Mariachi group (60 students) performed for the Board of Education. There are 40 students in the elementary mariachi group.
    - b. According to the L.A. County Health Department, singing and playing wind instruments in groups is not safe now. Choirs could practice outside if they wore special masks. The elementary music program remains distance learning only for now.
    - c. The Bergmann program will be starting later this year, with 200 students receiving 18 lessons (a \$630 value).
    - d. An online reading of "The Diary of Anne Frank" was done via Zoom, with a diverse cast.
    - e. Embedded professional development allows sharing of best practices.
    - f. Copyright issues – sharing music online can be complicated.
    - g. The Samohi Jazz Band is using *Jamulus*, an open source software which enables *musicians* to perform *music*, rehearse or just jam, all in real time over the Internet.
  6. **Board of Education Liaisons** -- Neither Dr. Leon-Vazquez nor Dr. Tahvildaran-Jesswein was able to participate in the meeting.
  7. **VAPA elective choices** – Follow-up to September discussion on modification to the elective sheet to include the audition process for Music ensembles, and report on the November meeting with principals, ELAC, and bilingual liaisons: Malibu MS doesn't audition students. JAMS and Lincoln teachers go to the elementary school to audition students. Dr Mora stated that Tom will be presenting to the DELAC Committee to clarify the process and let them know whom to contact if they have questions or concerns.
  8. **Waiting lists for middle school art classes** – Follow-up to September meeting discussion -- how to obtain those each year: Deborah Berek commented that the DAC needs to know how many students are being served, and how many aren't being served, i.e., how many requests are met and how many aren't. Dr. Mora suggested emailing counselors and copying

principals, i.e., “We want to support the program and are gathering information for our report.” “How can we augment a discipline while supporting the need to balance the budget.?”

9. **Mid-Year Report** – So far we have the Fall 2020 VAPA class offerings and enrollment information. An ad hoc committee consisting of Janis, Deborah, and Scott will meet before the January meeting to discuss the best way to present the information.
10. **Report on tour of the JAMS Performing Arts Center** – Zina and Ann toured the new rehearsal facility, auditorium, and choir room along with members of the Facilities DAC. Completion is expected in March, with an October grand opening.
11. **Ed Foundation** – Linda Greenberg commented on the impact of the pandemic on fundraising, which is down 20% overall. However, \$30,000 was donated to help homeless and foster youth.
12. **Public comment** -- none
13. The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.