

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

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 – 7:00 PM – via Zoom

### AGENDA

7:00 PM – **Call to order and welcome** – Vice Chair Lydia Muraro

7:05 PM – **Approve minutes** from February 2021 meeting (see page 5 of agenda)

7:10 PM -- **Calendar review**

1. DAC meetings – May 12
2. Board of Ed meetings -- <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/5456>

### REPORTS

7:15 PM -- **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas

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

7:30 PM – **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley

7:40 PM -- **Board of Education Liaisons** –

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

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (per the DAC Charge)

7:50 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.*

**1. Best Communities for Music Education Award** – For the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the NAMM Foundation has recognized the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District for the outstanding efforts of its teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who are making music part of a well-rounded education for every child.

**2. Board of Education – March 4, 2021 – Major Action Items -- K.3**

**Recommended Motion**

It is recommended that the Board of Education adopt Resolution No. 20-28 - **Arts and Music in Our Schools Month.**

**Rationale**

The Visual and Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC) brought this resolution forward for the Board of Education to consider adopting each year in March to celebrate the renowned VAPA programs that exist in our district.

**Supporting Documents:**

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION  
ARTS AND MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH**

**WHEREAS** all students have the right to an arts education that includes dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts taught by certified arts educators, in partnership with community providers; and

**WHEREAS** arts education has the power to change students’ lives; and

**WHEREAS** arts education is a key to re-igniting students’ learning in a post-COVID-19 world; and

**WHEREAS** arts education helps nurture healthy, inclusive communities where all points of view are respected; and

**WHEREAS** arts education experiences help students understand their own cultural roots and appreciate others' cultural roots and traditions; and

**WHEREAS** arts education supports the social and emotional well-being of students and fosters a more positive, safer school environment; and

**WHEREAS** arts education is part of the well-rounded education for every student as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act and in state law; and

**WHEREAS** the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District values all fields of the arts and recognizes and promotes the numerous benefits listed above that the arts have on all of its students;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District pledges to maintain and grow its arts education programs in the 2021-22 school year and beyond.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021 by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education following vote:

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3. **DAC End-of Year Report to the Board of Education** -- Discuss possible talking points, including the Strategic Arts Plan; Maintaining the current Elementary Music program; Equitable access to Visual Arts instruction in the middle schools; Summer school options; Career Technical Education Pathways; Virtual performances and exhibits during the spring semester
  4. **Media coverage:**  
**“Innovative Teaching and Tech Lets Samohi Jazz Band Perform Live and Online”**  
2/10/21 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*  
<https://www.smdp.com/innovative-teaching-and-tech-lets-samohi-jazz-band-perform-live-and-online/201778>
  5. **Virtual exhibits and performances since January 1, 2021:**  
January 18, 2021 – **Samohi Choirs** – “We Shall Overcome” recorded by Samohi Choir, Madrigal Ensemble, and Chamber Singers for The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Westside Coalition's 2021 Virtual Celebration. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QFo5a-v25s>

January 24, 2021 – **Samohi Marching Band** -- Recording of the 2020/2021 Santa Monica High School (Samohi) "Viking" Marching Band performing their school fight song, "Vikings Bold." The animated video celebrates our new blue turf on the Samohi campus.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNjhYmn0BTE&feature=youtu.be>

January 29, 2021 – **Malibu High Film** -- Malibu Shark TV – Season 11 – Episode 11 -- <http://www.malibuhighsharktv.com/season-11.html>

Through February 28, 2021 – **Malibu Middle and High School Art** – 2021 Virtual Student Art Exhibit -- City of Malibu -- including students from Malibu Elementary, Webster Elementary, Malibu Middle School, and all Photo and Digital Design students from Malibu High School -- <https://publish.exhibit.com/gallery/098327542/long-gallery-46955/>

February 12, 2021 – **Samohi Jazz 2021 Winter Concert** – “Live from Home”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwXSYvKPPAg>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgUFdR\\_qzgBARpsBoCqCUYA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgUFdR_qzgBARpsBoCqCUYA)

March or April 2021 -- **Santa Monica High School Theatre Department** – The filming of *She Kills Monsters Virtual Realms* has been completed, is currently in the editing process, and will be presented as a hybrid film/online play. Photos on website:

<https://www.samohitheatre.org>

April 16 – **Samohi Choirs** – Café Samo -- <https://www.samohichoir.org/>

April 17, 2021 – **Samohi Theatre Department** -- DTASC Shakespeare Combined Virtual Festival (Drama Teachers Association of Southern California) --

<http://cetoweb.org/dtasc/>

April 30, 2021 – **Samohi Photo 2 students** – Opening of the exhibit of their photo books. It will be an online opening and feature a virtual gallery of their work.

May 14 & 15, 2021 -- The **Malibu High School Theatre Department** will be presenting *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* as a live stream performance at 7 PM.

May 23, 2021 – **Samohi Jazz Bands 1 & 2** – Spring Jazz Concert -- 5 PM --

The spring concert will be broadcast on our YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgUFdR\\_qzgBARpsBoCqCUYA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgUFdR_qzgBARpsBoCqCUYA)

June 4 & 5, 2021 -- **Samohi Theatre Department** will present “Les Public Miserables” in lieu of Public Domain. This will be a production including three musical theatre numbers from *Les Miserables* as well as numerous student driven scenes, dances, and musical theatre numbers.

**Samohi Professional Dance/Choreography Program**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nP3rW1CYhwE>

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**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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 May 12 meeting**

9:00 PM – **Adjournment**

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

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Annie Azzariti, Deborah Berek, Rebecca Cardenas, Scott Ferguson, Janis Gabbert, Linda Greenberg, Zina Josephs, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Elizabeth Manco, Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Lydia Muraro, John Redfield, Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jessein, Ann Thanawalla, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Vice Chair Lydia Muraro.
2. **Minutes** from the January meeting were approved by unanimous consent. (Berek)
3. **P.S ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas reported that all the 15-week programs have started, all kits have been distributed except for one school, grant funding has been renewed for the JAMS lunchtime Art Club, McKinley had a virtual Family Art Night. There’s currently no funding for the Malibu elementary schools or for a lunchtime Art Club at Lincoln MS.

4. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Jacqueline Mora reported that the district is working on a “Distance Learning Plus” plan for TK-5 and negotiating with SMMCTA. She also commented on in-school learning for ELL students and students with special needs, academic support for elementary and middle school students, and expanding partnerships with St. John’s for vaccinations for staff.
5. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley reported on updating the accompanist job description (including music apps), 1,200 views so far on YouTube of the Samohi Jazz Bands virtual concert on February 12 (the first high school to facilitate students performing together in “real time” using Jamulus software), music staff discussions re PPE, bell covers for wind instruments, and special masks. Elementary music classes have all been moved to the afternoon.
6. **Board of Education Liaisons** – Dr. Maria Leon-Vazquez and Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein – Maria discussed issues with students coming back to school, such as masks and distancing, L.A. County guidelines, a report from Dr. Drati, and a diversity presentation from the middle school principals.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (per the DAC Charge)**

7. **DAC Mid-Year Report to the Board of Education** – The committee reviewed the report and approved it by unanimous consent. (Berek)
8. **Career Technical Education Pathways, Capstone, Samohi Academy Program**  
Dr.Mora stated that in order to address the “engagement gap” noted by Pedro Noguera, the district is providing professional development for TK-12 teachers on project based learning, which will help them fully engage students. The district is also strengthening current CTE programs and aligning them with industry sectors. The career labs and capstone programs, using interdisciplinary teams of 2 or 3 teachers, will help students see how their studies relate to the real world. Personalized pathways will be determined by student interest.

**Career Technical Education** -- <https://www.smmusd.org/domain/4311> --

Dr. Mora stated that there are 3 years of courses –

- a) introductory, b) concentration, and c) **capstone**, which includes certification, i.e., building the old ROP program to a higher standard, providing support to teachers. Samohi offers 5 pathways: Arts, Media, & Entertainment (AME), Transportation (automotive), and Engineering Design (building on Project Lead the Way).

The funding comes from Career Technical Education grants and Perkins. (*Note:* The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) is a principal source of federal funding to states and discretionary grantees for the improvement of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs across the nation.)

*Note from Zina:* According to this district website page --

<https://www.smmusd.org/Page/6060> -- Samohi hosts 4 pathways in the Arts, Media & Entertainment (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>

**Samohi Academy Program** – Dr. Mora stated that these will be “Career Labs.”

*Note from Zina:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJCOFzkYqCA&feature=youtu.be>

– According to this district video, the 4 academies are expected to be fully implemented by **2024** in the new Exploration Building. All students will have access beginning in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Each student will take 3 integrated classes: English, marketing, and content. The 4 academies will be a) **Media Arts**; b) Engineering & Computer Science (Project Lead the Way); c) Law, Government & Public Policy; and d) Health & Wellness.

9. **Summer school** -- Dr. Mora stated that summer school classes will only include Geometry and “credit recovery” for students who have failed a class. There will be no more “Get Ahead” classes. Students will need to go to SMC instead.
10. **California Dept. of Education; National Coalition for Core Arts Standards**  
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/fb/cdecalendar.asp> -- The CDE encourages districts to recognize March as “Arts Education Month” & “Music in Our Schools Month.”
11. **“The Arts ARE Education”** is a resolution sponsored by the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS), an alliance of leading national arts and arts education organizations, dedicated to the work of creating and supporting national arts standards. <https://www.artsareeducation.org/our-resolution>

**The Arts ARE Education Resolution (draft):**

*Whereas all students have the right to an arts education that includes dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts taught by certified arts educators, in partnership with community providers.*

*Whereas arts education has the power to change students' lives.*

*Whereas arts education is a key to re-igniting students' learning in a post-COVID-19 world.*

*Whereas arts education helps nurture healthy, inclusive communities where all points of view are respected.*

*Whereas arts education experiences help students understand their own cultural roots and appreciate others' cultural roots and traditions.*

*Whereas arts education supports the social and emotional well-being of students and fosters a more positive, safer school environment.*

*Whereas arts education is part of the well-rounded education for every student as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act and in state law.*

*Therefore, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District commits to maintaining its Arts Education programs in the 2021-22 school year and beyond.*

**Dr. Tahvildaran-Jesswein stated that he would request an agenda item on the next Board of Education meeting in order to adopt such a resolution.**

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**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**12. Public comments regarding items not on the agenda – None.**

**13. Agenda planning for April 21 meeting – Funding for a lunchtime Art Club at Lincoln Middle School**

**14. Adjournment**