

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

Thursday, December 2, 2020 – 7:00 PM – via Zoom

Tom Whaley is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

AGENDA

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

7:05 PM – **Approve minutes** from September and October 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. **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.
2. **Waiting lists for middle school art classes** – Follow-up to September meeting discussion -- how to obtain those each year
3. **Fall 2020 VAPA class offerings and enrollment**
4. **Mid-Year Report**
5. **Report on tour of the JAMS Performing Arts Center**
6. **“Frequently Asked Questions: Malibu Unification (Separation)”**
11/24/20 – *SMMUSD News Release*
<https://www.smmusd.org/UnificationFAQ>

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

1. **DAC meetings** – 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>
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 January 13 meeting**

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>

Drama Teachers Assoc. of Southern Calif. – <http://cetoweb.org/dtasc/>

California Art Education Association -- <https://www.caea-arteducation.org/>

California Dance Education Association -- <https://www.cdeadance.org/>

California Music Educators Association – COVID-19 information & Resources

<https://calmusiced.com/resources/covid-19-information/>

“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

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

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Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

Thursday, October 22, 2020 – via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees: Deborah Berek, Rebecca Cardenas, Linda Greenberg, Zina Josephs, Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Lydia Muraro, John Redfield, Ann Thanawalla, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM by Vice Chair Lydia Muraro.
2. **Minutes** -- The minutes from the September meeting were tabled.
3. **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas reposted that instruction has begun at some schools, but others have opted to start after winter break. The Ed Foundation has supplied volunteers to pack art supplies for the students.
4. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** – Dr. Jacqueline Mora reported on meetings to review re-opening plans, which include two models. Parents will be able to select. In-person services can only bring in English Learners and students with special needs. They are also planning in-person instruction for students with IEPs, starting with pre-school and transition to high school. The district is working on an MOU with SMMCTA. There is an MOU with CDS staff and instructional assistants.
5. **Staff Liaison/VAPA Coordinator** – Tom Whaley
 - a. Mariachi program -- Classes have begun, with 64 middle school students, 37-40 elementary students, and 4 more instruments ordered.
 - b. “The Diary of Anne Frank” will be presented by The Broad Stage and Santa Monica Repertory to middle school students in November via YouTube live stream and class workshops, using funds that would have otherwise been used for the 4th grade dance program.
 - c. Choir directors requested help in teaching accompanists how to use Zoom.
 - d. The Bergmann endowment will provide \$146,000 this year for instruments and 18 music lessons for 200 students. By the end of October, Tom will be able to identify eligible students, and then their parents will be able to go online and select vendors.
 - e. Elementary Music – Additional instruments are needed.
 - f. Visual Arts grants – The Ed Foundation is providing about \$1,500 per teacher, depending on the number of students in their classes.

6. **Board of Education Liaisons** – Neither was able to participate in the meeting.
7. **Discussion/Action Items** (per the DAC charge)
- 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) – In response to a question about how students will catch up on lost instructional time. Dr. Mora stated that teachers are focusing on essential standards, providing targeted support, and using partners to provide academic support. The district plans to provide extended learning experiences next summer and during the 2021-22 school year. Tom will be meeting with LA County VAPA Coordinators to share best practices. He’s contacted VAPA teachers, with responses as follows:
- Parent permission forms didn’t cover Zoom.** The teacher is having to contact parents for virtual performances.
 - Dance** – Challenging times at Samohi. Gearing up for the Fall Showcase, with individual solos, learning choreography, professional artists.
 - Theatre** – Things are going really well at Samohi. The students are rehearsing for a play in December via Zoom, with green screen scenery.
 - Art** -- Zoom works better than Google. Working until 11 PM to prepare lessons, getting migraine headaches.
 - Middle School Art** – It’s very challenging, with only one staff meeting so far this year. Some students are doing well, but many are burned out. A small handful prefer distance learning, including one student on the autism spectrum.
 - High School Art** – No leadership at the school. Spending 8 to 10 hours a day on the computer.
 - High School Art** – Individual materials – difficult. Students’ mental health. Successes and failures. Google issues. I love what I do, but this is difficult.
 - A question from a DAC member about how the “hybrid” model works** -- The response was that it’s okay for string classes, but doesn’t work well for wind classes or choir. Art classes could be divided in half and alternate by day or week. Re athletics, the students can work on conditioning, but no competitive sports are allowed currently.
- b. **VAPA elective choices** – follow-up to September discussion of the Visual Arts program at Lincoln Middle School . The following information from the January 2020 VAPA DAC Mid-Year Report was included in the agenda:

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
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)
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)
140 students (2019-20) = 95 year-long students + 45 trimester Exploratory 6 students

A DAC member suggested that the DAC keep track of the waiting lists for Art classes each year and focus on long range planning, not just short term.

Another member noted that Spanish-speaking parents apparently don't know that they have to sign their children up for auditions for placement in Music ensembles, as the elective sheet doesn't explain the audition process, and suggested that perhaps the form could be modified. Dr. Mora stated that principals will be meeting with ELAC and bilingual liaisons in November.

- c. **Follow-up to September presentation by Carey Upton** – A tour of JAMS Performing Arts Center will be provided for VAPA DAC members – TBD

8. **Media coverage**

9. **Calendar review**

10. **Public Comment** – None.

11. **Agenda planning for December 2 meeting** – Fall 2020 VAPA class offerings and enrollment

12. **Adjournment** – 8:45 PM