

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 11th 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.

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
