

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

February 19, 2020

Board Room, SMMUSD District Office, 1651 16th St., Santa Monica

MINUTES

Attendees: Annie Azzariti, Deborah Berek, Rebecca Cardenas, Elizabeth Franco, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Lydia Muraro, Ann Thanawalla, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Co-chair Janis Gabbert.
2. Minutes from the November 2019 meeting were approved by unanimous consent. (Muraro)
3. **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas reported on the 2nd rotation, Family Art Nights, Informances, and the lunchtime Art Club at JAMS.
4. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Jacqueline Mora discussed the update of LCAP goals, a review of services to see what should be continued or replaced, and training some of the literacy coaches to be instructional coaches.
5. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley reported on Stairway of the Stars concert rehearsals; a Samohi Jazz Band performance scheduled at the Catalina Bar & Grill; the music teachers' desire for a high quality video for the VAPA website; a Music protocol with teachers visiting each other's classes and giving feedback to their peers, and applying the same protocol to Visual Arts teachers; two SMMUSD music teachers to be honored at the California All State Music Education Conference (CASMEC) in Fresno, along with Sal Munoz's Lincoln MS Wind Ensemble performing and SMMUSD students participating in the All-State Honor Ensembles; Jim Wang's Lincoln MS Chamber Orchestra to perform at the American String Teachers Association conference in Orlando in March; the annual Districtwide Art Show scheduled for April 30.
6. **Board of Education Liaisons** – Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein did not attend. Dr. Maria Leon-Vazquez reported on Dr. Drati talking to the Board about the budget for 2020-21, i.e., how to consolidate to bring 21st century education to the students; March 15th layoff notices to teachers; outreach for the PBL, which hopes for 100 9th graders next year.
7. *“Review and advise regarding the Draft 6-Year Arts Education Strategic Plan to align with and promote the Excellence through Equity Plan.”* -- **Timeline for adoption of the plan** – Tom reported that he's still waiting for approval from the principals,

which he expects to receive in March. The plan will then go to the Board in April, and Phase 1 might begin in July 2020.

8. **“2020 Otis Report on the Creative Economy”** -- Los Angeles Region and the State of 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

Sectors: 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)

9. *Serve as a conduit for parents, teachers, students, and community members; Inform and make recommendations to the BOE on matters related to equitable access and successful participate:* Discussion included the following :

- a. Samohi music teachers did presentation at LMS and JAMS, including a discussion of scheduling, the value of music education, how to balance music and sports, and Q and A
- b. There seems to be a conflict between Samohi music teachers and sports coaches in which students are penalized for missing after school orchestra rehearsals even if they tape their at-home practice.
- c. Re the Samohi online advisory for 9th graders, it mentions the lottery, Crossroads (\$2,000 per class), Beverly hills HS (\$900 per class), but not Biology 3 at SMC.
- d. SMMCTA seems to oppose Samohi students taking a foreign language at SMC – one year at SMC equals 2 years of high school credit.
- e. There was a request for more robust information on the Samohi website.
- f. Middle school “road shows” visit the elementary schools in January and February. In future, middle school music teachers might go to the elementary schools to audition 5th graders.
- g. JAMS, LMS, and SMASH instrumental music students visited Samohi. The Symphony students performed for them and engaged in Q & A.
- h. The AVID class in 7th grade becomes the students’ elective, resulting in a decrease in diversity in VPA classes. Adding an AM or PM P.E. class for 7th and 8th grade could solve this problem. At JAMS, Immersion students have the option of taking AM P.E. in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade.

10. Comparing the district’s facilities with national and state standards and frameworks: **JAMS and LMS facilities master plans** – a brief written update was included in the agenda. Discussion included requests to see the report from the Office of the State Architect and to invite Steve Mazzeti to the March DAC meeting.

11. **Media coverage of the district VAPA program** – two posts in the Santa Monica Cultural Affairs Division’s Art Palette, plus an SMMUSD press release about three SMMUSD music teachers receiving high honors, which was published in the *Santa Monica Patch*.
12. **Public comment** – none
13. **Calendar review**
14. **Adjournment**