

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

September 28, 2022 - via Zoom

MINUTES (draft)

Attendees: Annie Azzariti, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Aimee Koeplin, Elizabeth Manco, Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Domi Piturro, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called order at 7:05 PM by Co-Chair Janis Gabbert. As we have a new member, Aimee Koeplin, continuing members briefly introduced themselves.
2. **Minutes** – Minutes from the May meeting were approved by unanimous consent with one minor correction. (Manco)
3. **P.S. ARTS** – There was no report as Rebecca Cardenas no longer works with P.S. ARTS. Elsa Pineda, the P.S. ARTS Deputy Director, is the temporary replacement.
4. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Jacqueline Mora reported described the after school individualized tutoring program for K-8, 2 hours per week. Middle and high school students also can get assistance via Chat in addition to the tutoring programs. The district has also expanded support for social-emotional learning and mental health, including training for staff through partnerships. In response to a question about declining enrollment, Dr. Mora said that families and staff members are moving further inland due the cost of housing near the coast.
5. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley reported the following:
 - a. VAPA programs are almost back to normal.
 - b. The Ballet Folklorico program, which started at Edison and Muir, has expanded to Rogers and Roosevelt, with 135 students participating.
 - c. The Mariachi program has expanded to Samohi, with the help of SMC and the Santa Monica Youth Orchestra. They're using the piano lab at Samohi and have purchased guitars, guitarrons, vihuelas, and traje. Winter and spring performances are planned, including a Cinco de Mayo weekend.
 - d. The Bergmann endowment provides about \$150,000 per year for 18 free lessons and instruments for 200 SED students. Lessons will begin at the end of November.
 - e. Austin Beutner brought ABC7 News to Samohi to promote Prop 28 "Vote Arts and Music." Samohi is considered a "unicorn" school, with 7 orchestras, 5 bands,

5 choirs, 2 jazz bands, 7 art teachers, a theater program, and a dance program. The video will be shown on October 6. If it passes, Prop 28 could provide about \$900,000 per year to SMMUSD.

- f. The annual Districtwide Arts Show will resume this year on May 2 in the new, larger Roberts Art Gallery at Samohi.
 - g. The VAPA programs will now receive \$200,000 per year from Measure R (which has no “sunset” clause), providing additional funds for instruments, art supplies, and theatre program needs.
 - h. Play It Forward – 10 instruments were donated by families this year.
 - i. Composition – A family wants to fund a Composition class at Samohi this year.
 - j. ACES (American Cultures & Ethnic Studies) – Dr. Satinder Hawkins is now a house principal at Samohi. She’s been very impressed in working with the music teachers, and the curriculum they’ve been developing will be implemented in Fall 2023.
6. **Board of Education Liaisons** – Neither Maria Leon-Vazquez nor Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein was able to attend the meeting.
7. **VAPA DAC Charge** -- The proposed VAPA DAC charge for 2022-23 was approved by the Board of Education on 9/14/22.
8. **Prop 28** – The “Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee Accountability Act,” will be on the November ballot and, if it passes, provide between \$800 million and \$1 billion in funding each year for K-12 music and arts education in California.
9. **Samohi Master Schedule Committee update** – Aimee Koeplin stated that it’s impossible to complete UC requirements with the 6-period day. Tom Whaley reported that the committee has had its 3rd meeting, including parents, students, and staff. 3 possible schedules are being considered, including a 7-period day with a possible 8th period before or after school. The new schedule would have to be approved by Samohi teachers and the Board of Education before possibly being implemented in Fall 2023.
10. **6-Year Arts Education Strategic Plan (2019-2025) update** – None
11. **VAPA DAC vacancies** – Elizabeth Manco submitted an application for re-appointment to the VAPA DAC in June, but her application was lost. Sarah Wahrenbrock emailed that Elizabeth’s application will appear for approval on the 10/6/22 Board of Ed agenda.

12. **Upcoming performances** -- Aimee Koeplin reported that, in addition to the upcoming Samohi Marching Band events, the Samohi orchestra program will present its annual “Disney Around the World” concert on October 14.

13. **Media coverage** – The *Los Angeles Times* endorsed Prop 28 on 9/8/22. CalMatters has produced a 1-minute video explaining the proposition: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IcicsBMUHGE>
KCET also produced a video entitled “Prop 28 in a Minute”:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biP0AGsEEnk>

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

15. **Announcements**

- a. Domi Piturro discussed concurrent enrollment at SMC. Dr. Mora stated that dual enrollment is part of the SMMUSD-SMC partnership and those classes go on the high school transcript. In addition, students at the Obama Center can earn an A.A. while still in high school.
- b. Groundbreaking occurred recently for the new Samohi Exploratory Building, which will have lots of arts facilities.
- c. Dance – SMC is running the 4th and 5th grade dance program at all schools. At Samohi, the Dance program is gradually returning, with help from SMC, and will eventually include Dance 10, 11, 14, and 20.
- d. P.S. ARTS will still be only 15 weeks of instruction this year, and only in the Santa Monica elementary schools. The district will re-evaluate the program in the spring and possibly expand to 20 weeks in 2022-23.

16. **Adjournment** at 8:40 PM.