

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

September 29, 2021 – via Zoom

MINUTES

Participants: Annie Azzariti, Deborah Berek, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Lydia Muraro, Domi Piturro, Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Gabbert at 7:05 PM.
2. Minutes from the May meeting were approved by unanimous consent. (Berek)
3. **Resolution re virtual meetings** -- A resolution to hold the October DAC meeting via Zoom was passed by unanimous consent. (Josephs)
4. **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas reported that instruction will be 15 weeks again this year, as opposed to the usual 30 weeks. Malibu schools are not included in the program. Most schools are opting to begin instruction in January and are selecting Visual Arts. Art kits for every student include a Sharpie, markers, oil pastels, watercolors, pencil, glue stick, paper, and scissors.
5. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Jacqueline Mora reported that teachers and administrators are working hard on the transition back to in-person instruction, supporting students and families, and addressing students’ academic needs as well as social-emotional wellbeing after almost two years of social isolation.
6. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** –Tom Whaley
Music – Tom reported that while string classes are allowed to meet indoors, choirs and bands need to meet outside. Although the CDC says that it’s safe for all music classes to meet inside with specialized PPE, LA County is not yet allowing that. He’s setting up pop-up tents for the outdoor classes. October concerts at Samohi will be outdoors, with about 500 chairs for audience members. The Bergmann program will provide 18 lessons to about 200 students. Elementary music is being organized by classroom teacher rather than by grade level, so instruction is only once per week as a result. Tom organized a Mariachi program presentation at the Board of Education in honor of National Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month.

Dance -- 4th & 5th grade Dance instruction will include jazz dance and music theater choreography rather than couple dances this year.

Visual Arts -- Due to the demolition of the Samohi History and Art buildings, the Roberts Art Gallery is gone, and art classes have been moved into bungalows, which need window shades and kilns. Richard TJ noted that JAMS Performing Arts Center construction has been completed and it's being booked.

7. **Board of Education Liaisons** – Maria Leon-Vazquez reported that the Board of Ed held many meetings during the summer to prepare for the fall semester. 95% of students are being tested regularly. Most students 12+ have been vaccinated. Dr. Tahvildaran-Jesswein noted the importance of the budget process for 2022-23, arranging the master schedule to accommodate students who want to take both a foreign language and an arts class, and the ACES requirement.

8. **Revise and approve VAPA DAC charge for 2021-22** – After some discussion of the importance of the master schedule and of securing stable financing for VAPA programs, perhaps from Measure R (P.S. ARTS has been reduced from 30 weeks to 15 weeks due to reduced donations to the Ed Foundation), the following charge was approved with 5 yes votes and 1 abstention:
 - *Support a comprehensive preK-12 arts education program as an integral part of the core curriculum offered to 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.*

9. **DAC vacancies, Board Policy 1220, and Administrative Regulations** --
<https://www.smmusd.org/domain/118> -- The VAPA DAC has 15 slots but only 9 members currently. According to Board Policy 1220, "Membership recruitment will be ongoing throughout the year. Minimally, information about the District Advisory Committees will be shared with the public in **August, November, and January**. Applications for appointment to

*advisory committees may be submitted at any time during the year. **Once per quarter, an item shall be placed on the Board of Education agenda listing committee vacancies.*** As it's not clear to DAC members as to when and how information about the DACs has been shared with the public since 2017, Maria Leon-Vazquez offered to inquire.

10. **Update on the Draft 6-Year Arts Education Strategic Plan** – Waiting for an optimal time to present to the Board of Ed.
11. **Brown Act Training** – Zina will email out a summary of the September 14 PowerPoint.
12. **Public comment** – None.
13. **Agenda planning for October meeting** – Invite Carey Upton or Jerry Gibson to give a brief update on VAPA facilities
14. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.