

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

October 16, 2019 – 7 PM

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

MINUTES

Attendees: Annie Azzariti, Rebecca Cardenas, Scott Ferguson, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Dr. Mora, Lydia Muraro, John Redfield, Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, Ann Thanawalla, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Co-Chairperson Janis Gabbert.
2. **Minutes** from the September meeting were approved by unanimous consent as amended. (Muraro)
3. **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas reported that they were halfway through the 1st rotation, that P.S. ARTS will have a booth at a book signing on October 26 at Samohi, and the Family Art Nights will begin on November 11.
4. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Jacqueline Mora reported on the Great ShakeOut on October 17; Learning Walks with principals and site administrators have begun (as part of the School Plan for Student Achievement or SPSA); and Dr. Samarge-Powell received compliments from the PreK teachers regarding their new P.S. ARTS program.
5. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** –
 - a. Tom Whaley reported that the Music teachers did Learning Walks in 2018-19 and that other VAPA teachers will participate in 2019-20.
 - b. The Santa Monica City Council has approved funding for the Elementary Mariachi program for 2019-20 (50 students), to add to \$18,500 from the Arts Ed Collective for the new Middle School Mariachi program (64 students), plus \$14,000 in Title IV funding.
 - c. Bergmann Vendor Night was held at the refurbished PDLC. The online form information is captured in a spreadsheet, returning students automatically continue, there are 200 total spots, and new students are selected through a lottery. \$12,000 is available this year for instruments.
 - d. Rick Springfield, who used Samohi orchestra students in his concert at the Saban theatre last year, donated a \$5,000 drum set and guitar boards to the district.
 - e. Westside Ballet “Nutcracker” performances for 5th graders are scheduled on December 4 – 6 with a live SMC orchestra, transportation funded by grants, 20-minute Q and A, and curriculum materials provided for the classroom teachers.

6. **Board of Education Liaisons** – Dr. Maria Leon-Vazquez was unable to attend. Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein gave an update on the Muir mural, which will be discussed by the BOE on October 17. The artist, Jane Golden, has communicated to the BOAE that the mural could be replicated but not restored due to lead primer. She has also offered to lead a community process re a new mural.
7. **Calendar review**
8. **Discussion/action items** (per the DAC charge)
 - a. **Draft 6-Year Arts Education Plan (2019-2025)** – Ann Thanawalla submitted some edits. The document will probably be reviewed by the BOE in late November or December.
 - b. **6th grade VAPA elective choices** – Information about declining enrollment from the middle school Music teachers was discussed. Lydia Muraro stated that there’s no continuity in Arts instruction. When the middle school principals speak to 5th grade parents, there are no VAPA representatives present to discuss options before elective selection forms are filled out. She suggested a “script” so that all schools receive the same information. Further discussion included AVID replacing VAPA electives, the fact that JAMS and Lincoln used to have two Art teachers but have been reduced to 1.0 FTE each.
9. **Outreach to parents** – Ad hoc committee update – Lana, Lydia, Ann – *Tabled.*
10. **Media coverage** – *Tabled.*
11. **Public comments regarding items not on the agenda** – *None.*
12. **Agenda planning for November meeting** –
 - a. Ann Thanawalla: Scoping for JAMS and Lincoln Master Plans
 - b. Dr. Tahvildaran-Jesswein: BOE expectations of DACs
13. **Adjournment** -- 9:10 PM

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