

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

October 26, 2022 – via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees: Deborah Berek, Zina Josephs, Aimee Koeplin, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Elizabeth Manco, Lydia Muraro, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Vice President Lydia Muraro, in the absence of President Janis Gabbert. (Koeplin)
2. Minutes from the September meeting were approved with 3 yeases and 2 abstentions. (Koeplin)
3. There was no update from P.S. ARTS.
4. The Administrator Co-Chairperson, Dr. Mora, was unable to attend.
5. VAPA Coordinator Report: Tom Whaley reported on the following:
 - the “Dia de los muertos” art exhibit in the new Roberts Art Gallery;
 - the Samohi orchestra concert (sold out);
 - the Samohi choir “Sweet Serenade” (his daughter Emily sang);
 - the Austin Beutner Prop. 28 story on ABC7, which was filmed at Samohi, along with the Dr. Dre event;
 - a statewide music supervisors meeting;
 - discussing with stakeholders what to do with Prop 28 funds if it passes – 80% has to be spent on staffing;
 - 3 course descriptions – Music Composition in fall 2023 (a family wants to fund it as an after-school class, perhaps through SMC), and Mariachi, which need UC approval;
 - Bergmann lessons – 20 kids will get 18 lessons – letters to parents will go out the beginning of November – some vendors apply for grants in order to extend the lessons;
 - work continues on the ACES curriculum at Samohi with a new coordinator of American Cultures & Ethnic Studies, Erin Hill.
6. Board of Education Liaison Maria Leon-Vazquez reported on
 - A “new teacher” induction program, including mentor teachers
 - Data on graduation rates, etc., from the new Director of Assessment

- The International Baccalaureate program at Will Rogers, which includes foreign language study, was certificated. Their new principals came from Webster.
- ACES has been recognized by LACOE – already integrated in the history classes, arts classes are next
- Budget re-allocation – reducing computer lab expenditures since students have individual tablets. Need campus-wide infrastructure.
- Preview of state test results – small declines, but double-digit improvement in elementary math.
- She attended the Samohi Orchestras Disney concert – When her son started there were only 3 orchestras – now 7.
- In response to a question about the state ACES requirement, she suggested that the DAC invite Erin Hill to speak at one of our meetings.

7. Board response to DAC 2021-22 Year-End Report: Maria asks to liaisons to present, and there were no questions or comments – all reports were accepted.
8. Prop 28: “Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee Accountability Act” is on the November 8th ballot.
9. Samohi Master Schedule Committee and ACES curriculum update – Tom reported that Dr. Drati has included students, parents (including Lydia Muraro), and teachers on the committee and proposed several schedules, which can be tweaked and others discussed. After consensus is reached, the new schedule would have to be approved by the Samohi staff and the Board. Lydia reported that each of the schedules presented has pro’s and con’s. She also mentioned a 7-period cascading block schedule which would allow students to complete high school graduation requirement during the school year and during the school day, and also being equity back into the schedule. Currently, students who take AVID classes have no free period for arts or foreign language. We want to offer opportunities to ALL students and educate the whole child. A related topic of discussion the conflicts in the after-school schedule, for example mariachi and sports.

Public comments included the following:

- What stresses kids is not being able to fit everything into the school day.
- Mediation is needed between after-school sports coaches and other staff, so kids don’t get caught in the middle.
- There’s no “choice” for entering 9th graders re electives, they’re told by counselors to take a foreign language.
- The current system limits diversity and only works for kids who can do AM classes or ISPE, i.e., the equivalent of a 7th period.

10. 6-Year Arts Education Strategic Plan (2019-2025) update – Tabled.
11. K-5 arts education funding – Discussion of combining Ed Foundation, Measure R, and Prop 8 funding to implement the Arts Education Strategic Plan.
12. 8 VAPA DAC vacancies – Tom suggested sending an email to VAPA teachers with a flyer about the DAC that they could forward to parents. Maria will talk to the PTA Council.
13. List of Fall semester performance dates – Reviewed.
14. Media coverage – Reviewed.
15. Public comments regarding items not on the agenda – Wendy Dembo commented about students having to choose between foreign language and arts classes, or taking an AM class. Also, the Lincoln Middle School needs 3 levels of Art instruction.
16. Agenda planning for November 30, 2022:
 - 1) Invite Erin Hill to speak about ACES.
 - 2) Include the DAC application form URL in every agenda.
17. Adjournment at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Zina Josephs