

# Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

November 13, 2019

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

## MINUTES

**Attendees:** Deborah Berek, Rebecca Cardenas, Scott Ferguson, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Lydia Muraro, Domi Piturro, John Redford, Ann Thanawalla, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Co-Chairperson Janis Gabbert.
2. Minutes from the October meeting were approved by unanimous consent.  
(Ferguson)
3. **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas reported on Informances and Family Art Nights (which featured self-portraits inspired by “Windows and Mirrors”).
4. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Jacqueline Mora was unable to attend.
5. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley reported on the first Stairway volunteer meeting; guest conductors will be working only with high school students this year; *Nutcracker* performances for 5<sup>th</sup> graders at The Broad Stage; Bergmann; music textbooks -- *Sing at First Sight* elementary choral textbook, *SmartMusic* learning software for elementary instrumental students, and *Sound Innovations* for concert band, orchestra, guitar, and percussion.
6. **Board of Education Liaisons** – Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein was unable to attend. Dr. Maria Leon-Vazquez reported that the budget process has started; contract negotiations are underway; job descriptions are being re-examined; CTE instructors (who are currently hourly employees) will transition to credentialed district teachers; dual enrollment includes shared revenue and stipends for supplies; Samohi house principals are taking over Catherine Baxter’s tasks; and closing Cabrillo will also help with the budget shortfall; parent participation is important to the SPSA, and those plans will be coming to the Board soon. Discussion included parents having to return SPSA hand-outs for shredding at Lincoln MS, and Obama students not having equitable access to VAPA classes. Tom may see if the

principals are interested in a project-based music production lab for the Obama school.

7. **Review and advise regarding the Draft 6-Year Arts Education Strategic Plan**
8. **Review the draft DAC Mid-Year Report** – Discussion included a possible video presentation to the Board of Ed, such as the LMS and JAMS music videos.
9. **Public comments regarding items not on the agenda** – None.
10. The rest of the agenda was tabled, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.