

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

December 2, 2020 – via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees – Annie Azzariti, Deborah Berek, Scott Ferguson, Janis Gabbert, Linda Gross, Zina Josephs, Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Domi Piturro, Ann Thanawalla, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by Co-Chairperson Janis Gabbert.
2. **Minutes** -- The minutes from the September and October meetings were approved after corrections by unanimous consent. (Berek)
3. **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas was unable to attend but sent a written update:
 - a. They’ve scheduled the remaining 15-week programs to begin in January. They’re coordinating with schools to deliver art supply kits for use after winter break.
 - b. P.S.ARTS will be holding a FREE virtual Family Dance Night for the general public on December 11th from 4:30pm-5:30pm.
4. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Mora reported on meetings with elementary and secondary teams regarding a re-opening plan in the Red Tier (we’re currently in the Purple Tier). No hybrids are allowed, only EL, Special Learners, and others unable to access distance learning (homeless, foster youth) for in-person assessments. A survey went out to parents and teachers. She also noted an academic support program to 260 TK-6 students partnering with 2 community organizations, plus academic support for low income middle school students, funded by the Ed Foundation.
5. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley reported as follows:
 - a. The middle school Mariachi group (60 students) performed for the Board of Education. There are 40 students in the elementary mariachi group.
 - b. According to the L.A. County Health Department, singing and playing wind instruments in groups is not safe now. Choirs could practice outside if they wore special masks. The elementary music program remains distance learning only for now.
 - c. The Bergmann program will be starting later this year, with 200 students receiving 18 lessons (a \$630 value).
 - d. An online reading of “The Diary of Anne Frank” was done via Zoom, with a diverse cast.
 - e. Embedded professional development allows sharing of best practices.
 - f. Copyright issues – sharing music online can be complicated.

- g. The Samohi Jazz Band is using Jamulus, an open source software which enables musicians to perform music, rehearse or just jam, all in real time over the Internet.
6. **Board of Education Liaisons** -- Neither Dr. Leon-Vazquez nor Dr. Tahvildaran-Jesswein was able to participate in the meeting.
 7. **VAPA elective choices** – Follow-up to September discussion on modification to the elective sheet to include the audition process for Music ensembles, and report on the November meeting with principals, ELAC, and bilingual liaisons: Malibu MS doesn't audition students. JAMS and Lincoln teachers go to the elementary school to audition students. Dr Mora stated that Tom will be presenting to the DELAC Committee to clarify the process and let them know whom to contact if they have questions or concerns.
 8. **Waiting lists for middle school art classes** – Follow-up to September meeting discussion -- how to obtain those each year: Deborah Berek commented that the DAC needs to know how many students are being served, and how many aren't being served, i.e., how many requests are met and how many aren't. Dr. Mora suggested emailing counselors and copying principals, i.e., "We want to support the program and are gathering information for our report." "How can we augment a discipline while supporting the need to balance the budget?"
 9. **Mid-Year Report** – So far we have the Fall 2020 VAPA class offerings and enrollment information. An ad hoc committee consisting of Janis, Deborah, and Scott will meet before the January meeting to discuss the best way to present the information.
 10. **Report on tour of the JAMS Performing Arts Center** – Zina and Ann toured the new rehearsal facility, auditorium, and choir room along with members of the Facilities DAC. Completion is expected in March, with an October grand opening.
 11. **Ed Foundation** – Linda Greenberg commented on the impact of the pandemic on fundraising, which is down 20% overall. However, \$30,000 was donated to help homeless and foster youth.
 12. **Public comment** -- none
 13. The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.