

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

September 25, 2019 – 7 PM

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

## MINUTES

**Attendees:** Annie Azzariti, Debora Berek, Rebecca Cardenas, Janis Gabbert, Linda Greenberg, Zina Josephs, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Elizabeth Manco, Steve Massetti, Lydia Muraro, Lana Negrete, Domi Piturro, John Redfield, Ann Thanawalla, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Co-Chair Gabbert.
2. **Minutes** from the May meeting were approved as corrected. (Berek)
3. **JAMS VAPA facilities update** – Steve Massetti, Bond Program Manager and Consultant, reviewed the information in Carey Upton’s written update, which was included in the written agenda, about the status of the JAMS Music Building modernization project and the reasons that it has been deleted from the overall JAMS Performing Arts Complex project. The new JAMS auditorium is now scheduled to open in January 2021. He reported that the October 17 Board of Ed agenda will include a request for the BOE to hire architects to develop master plans for JAMS and Lincoln MS, including the Lincoln Auditorium, and that there will be a 4- to 5-month input process. Twitter: @smmusdconstruction
4. **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas reported that they began programming on September 4, that PreK is included this year, that Family Art Nights will begin after winter break, and that they have some new teachers.
5. **Santa Monica Ed Foundation** – <https://www.smedfoundation.org/> -- Linda Greenberg reported that they’ve already raised \$1.3 million of this year’s goal of \$2.7 million. Dr. Drati is interested in creating an Athletic Endowment, which will be organized by a separate committee from the SMEF Board. Current endowments: <https://www.smedfoundation.org/endowments> -- Fundraising for the Malibu schools is now separate and is still getting organized.
6. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Jacqueline Mora was unable to attend.
7. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator**
  - a. Tom Whaley reported that the music teacher leadership team is concerned about dropping music enrollment at JAMS. He passed out copies of a new tri-fold Music Department brochure. The Lincoln Middle School music department has produced a short video. Lana Negrete suggested that we need to talk to parents before decisions about electives are made in February. Lana Negrete, Lydia

Muraro, and Ann Thanawalla volunteered to serve on an ad hoc committee to organize outreach to parents.

- b. The Mariachi program now includes a middle school component, in partnership with the Santa Monica Youth orchestra that meets at Virginia Avenue Park.
  - c. The Bergmann Endowment vendor fair is scheduled to October 5.
  - d. The Districtwide Art Show is scheduled for Thursday, April 30.
8. **Board of Education Liaisons** – Dr. Tahvildaran-Jesswein was unable to attend, and Dr. Leon-Vazquez arrived later in the meeting.
9. **Calendar Review**
10. **DAC Charges for 2019-20** were approved by the Board of Education on 9/5/19.
11. **Draft 6-Year Arts Education Plan (2019-2025)** – The draft included comments from VAPA teachers (in red) and from Carey Upton (in blue). After some discussion, Tom requested that DAC members send their comments/suggestions to Zina to compile for him. Re the timeline, Maria Leon-Vazquez commented that the Leadership Teams need to include this document in their plans.
12. Media coverage was included in the written agenda.
- “JAMS Breaks Ground on New Performance Center”**  
8/30/19 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*  
<https://www.smdp.com/jams-breaks-ground-on-new-performance-center/179153>
- “Music Participation Is Linked to Teens' Academic Achievement -- Music students have higher academic exam scores than their non-musical peers.”**  
6/25/19 – *Psychology Today*  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-athletes-way/201906/music-participation-is-linked-teens-academic-achievement>
- “Music Engagement and Achievement Predicts Higher Grades in Math, Science, and English” -- *The Conversation***  
<http://theconversation.com/music-engagement-and-achievement-predicts-higher-grades-in-math-science-and-english-119066>
- “Middle School Music and Theater Students Get Better Grades”**  
2/12/19 – *Pacific Standard*  
<https://psmag.com/education/middle-school-music-and-theater-students-get-better-grades?fbclid=IwAR3-MLVVk089ykzdKSSMZT0QL293zm9o76gxaidgd0ieo-QGrUeRy9LkE9c>
13. Agenda planning for October included outreach to parents with the new brochure and Media Arts standards.
14. The meeting was adjourned shortly after 9 PM.