

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

February 22, 2023 – via Zoom

MINUTES (draft)

Attendees: Annie Azzariti, Deborah Berek, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Aimee Koeplin, Elizabeth Manco, Lydia Muraro, Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Tom Whaley, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, Nikki Kolhoff

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Co-Chair Janis Gabbert.
2. Minutes from the January meeting were approved by unanimous consent. (Berek)
3. **P.S. ARTS** – No report this month.
4. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Jacqueline Mora spoke about Ed Services moving to 4th Street, the LCAP process, reclassification of English learners, and reclassification of Special Ed students. In response to a question about absenteeism, Dr. Mora replied that many excused absences are included in the data, making it difficult to know which families to target with outreach efforts. Comments included the lack of VAPA programs at Olympic HS, bifurcation (some students achieving at high levels while others are not), 3 absences at Samohi barring students from participating in concerts and sports, which seems counterproductive. Dr. Mora said she would contact Samohi.
5. **Board of Education Liaisons** – Maria Leon-Vazquez spoke about the firm hired to assist with the Superintendent search and said that all DACs would be included in stake holder input sessions. When asked why the VAPA DAC Mid-Year Report had not been included in the Board of Ed agenda, she suggested that it included information not related to the charge such as a suggested Samohi master schedule. It was pointed out that scheduling has been part of the DAC charge for many years. Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein apologized for missing meetings due to COVID and said he was looking forward to in-person meetings and Stairway.
6. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley spoke about using a city grant to fund “Jazz Reach” performances at all the Santa Monica Elementary school, JAMS/SMASH, and LMS. The Stairway concert is scheduled for May 18, and \$14,000 will be saved this year because all the performers will be able to fit on a deeper stage. to fit onto the stage. Elementary Mariachi and Folklorico performed at Edison. A performance at Samohi by a group from St. Olaf College included 2 Samohi alums. The college is considered one of the “Midwest Ivies” and the music department is well known for its award-winning ensembles, with 7 choirs, 2 orchestras, 2 concert bands, 3 jazz bands, and a variety of chamber ensembles. Tom will be meeting with the art teachers to plan the May 2 Districtwide Art Show, the first since the pandemic.

7. **DAC Mid-Year Report to the Board of Education** – Submitted to Sarah Wahrenbrock on 2/2/23 for the 2/16/23 Board meeting agenda. Richard TJ said that it would be included in the 3/2/23 Board agenda.
8. **Prop 28: “Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee Accountability Act” and the 6-Year Strategic Arts Education Plan (2023-2029)** – Tom will meet with Dr. Mora to discuss outreach, the timeline, and proposals with price tags. Dr. Mora state that the district has the projected funding amount. Aimee suggested that the Olympic HS VAPA instruction needs to be restored, and Janis reminded us that Olympic HS students won awards at the last Districtwide Art Show. Lydia suggested adding that to the DAC report. Tom noted that he and Devon are looking a possible Music Production class.
9. **SMC concurrent enrollment classes update** – Domi Piturro was unable to attend. Richard TJ stated that Dance 41 and 42 are concurrent classes, and SMMUSD students are studying at Westside Ballet, which offers contemporary ballet for grades 8-12.
10. **VAPA DAC vacancies** – It was suggested that the DAC work on the text of a flyer for VAPA teachers to share with paresnts.
11. **General Public Comments** – Nikki Kolhoff commented about the process of adopting a new Samohi master schedule. Dr. Drati’s committee did not hold public meetings. She feels that all stakeholders should be involved in a developing a schedule that works for everyone, and that Theater and Sports also have a scheduling conflict.
12. **Agenda planning for April 26**
13. **Adjournment** -- at 8:32 PM.