

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

April 27, 2022 - via Zoom

## MINUTES

**Attendees:** Annie Azzariti, Deborah Berek, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Elizabeth Manco, Lydia Murraro, Dominic Piturro, Rebecca Cardenas, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by co-chair Janis Gabbert.
2. Minutes from the February meeting were approved by unanimous consent. (Berek)
3. **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas reported on wrapping up programs for the year, Family Arts Nights at Franklin and Roosevelt Elementary Schools, and no decision yet as to whether 2022-23 instruction will be for 15 or 30 weeks.
4. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Jacqueline Mora reported on the upcoming Folklorico Festival, “Mexico Magico”; the upcoming “State of the Schools” live stream event to celebrate successes and perseverance while facing challenges; and the end-of-year assessments (tests are modified and shorter).
5. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley reported on the successful Stairway of the Stars concert at the Samohi Greek Theater (830 student performers, sold-out crowd, cleared \$35,000, printed programs available free on QR code, hard copies available for \$5); Ballet Folklorico (professional dancers on May 7 in Barnum, SMMUSD students in grades 3-5, who have been rehearsing at Edison and McKinley, on May 8 in the Greek Theater); Mariachi program expanding to Samohi next year; 20<sup>th</sup> NAMM Award; JAMS Art Show exhibited on new accordion-style wheeled display boards; no Districtwide Art Show this year; for the elementary music teachers who have to move furniture 6x per day, more tables on wheels are being purchased; Elizabeth Manco commented on the recent Samohi Master Works concert, which included a piece by a Ukrainian composer.
6. **Board of Education Liaisons** – Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein was unable to attend. Maria Leon-Vazquez reported there will be a presentation to the Board of Education on Career Education. Malibu High has a new film production class. SMC supports SMMUSD with dual enrollment. Tom reported on a joint SMC-SMMUSD meeting 3 months ago re Dance instruction, and that there will be a Dance class once again at Samohi in the fall. Domi Piturro reported that he’s been teaching design technology at SMC for 3 years, and that he’s bringing Samohi students to the campus for late afternoon, Saturday, and summer classes. Maria stated that Visual Arts instruction may be re-focused on career paths. The Board retreat will focus on

SMMUSD becoming a high-performing district for ALL students. She stated that the district's mission is outdated and that 21<sup>st</sup> century education is the goal.

7. **End-of-Year Report** -- Suggestions included adding accomplishments and funding P.S. ARTS programs through Measure R (stable) rather than parent donations (not stable, i.e., reduction from 30 weeks to 15 weeks). With only 15 weeks, most principals have opted for Visual Arts, so very little Theater instruction is being offered in the elementary schools. Should all elementary arts instruction be modeled after the Gr. 3-5 elementary Music program, i.e., part of the academic program like math? Tom noted that in the past, a proposed plan to use certificated elementary Art teachers, with each teacher assigned to 2 schools, was not implemented because of the cost. If it were added to Measure R, other things would have to be shuffled.
8. **“The Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee Accountability Act”** – Tom reported that enough petition signatures have been collected to place the proposed initiative on the November ballot.
9. **Impacts on arts electives** – Tom reported that Dr. Drati has formed a committee to discuss alternative Samohi schedules that might better accommodate arts electives, with Jeffe Huls, Jason Aiello, Lydia Muraro, and Alisa Facchini Stewart serving on the committee. Also, ACES curriculum is being developed for Samohi music and theater students with the help of Dr. Satinder Hawkins, Coordinator of American Cultures & Ethnic Studies.
10. **Budget update/timeline for 2022-23 school year** -- Lydia Muraro asked about the FOC budget presentation at the last BOE meeting and whether there will be new funding for the Music, Visual Arts, Theatre, and Dance programs when the new Measure R funding is approved. Maria stated that it will come back as part of the final budget. There will be budget items on the upcoming BOE agendas, and the final public hearing and vote will be on June 23.
11. **6-Year Arts Education Strategic Plan (2019-2025) update** – Tabled.
12. **6 VAPA DAC vacancies -- DAC Board Policy and Administrative Regulations** <https://www.smmusd.org/domain/118> -- Maria stated that the policy needs to be revised and that it will be discussed during the Board retreat. More elementary, middle, and high school parents should be included, but not vendors. FOC and DELAC are different.
13. **Public comments regarding items not on the agenda** – None.
14. **Agenda planning for May 11 meeting** -- Approve End-of-Year Report
15. **Adjournment** -- The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.