

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

November 30, 2022 – via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees: Annie Azzariti, Deborah Berek, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Aimee Koeplin, Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Lydia Muraro, Domi Piturro, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Co-Chair Janis Gabbert.
2. Minutes from the October meeting were approved, with two abstentions by members were not at the meeting. (Berek)
3. Calendar review – An email from Gail Pinsker listing and describing upcoming school concerts was shared.
4. P.S. ARTS – No report – Tom will contact Elda Pineda.
5. Administrator Co-Chairperson – Dr. Mora reported on an LCAP meeting and stated that Ed Services will be moving to the District Office on December 2.
6. Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator -- Tom Whaley reported that Dr. Drati will become superintendent of the Bellflower Unified School District; 900 elementary school students attended an abbreviated version of “The Nutcracker” ballet at the Broad Stage; Auditions for the Elementary Honor Orchestra will be via Zoom; 200 students have signed up for the Bergmann program; in planning for implementation of Prop 28, Tom will work with all stakeholders, and it will be added to the 6-Year Strategic Arts Education Plan; Lincoln MS has new risers for the choirs, and the orchestra shell also needs to be replaced; Clay Jenkins, Professor of Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media and Trumpet Instructor at the Eastman School of Music, provided an improvisation clinic for the Samohi jazz bands.
7. Board of Education Liaisons – Neither Maria Leon-Vazquez nor Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein attended the meeting due to a schedule conflict with the California School Board Association Conference in San Diego.
8. DAC Mid-Year Report to the Board of Education – Co-Chair Gabbert appointed an Ad Hoc committee consisting of Deborah, Lydia, Zina, and herself to draft a report to be presented to the DAC for review and approval at our January 25 meeting. An extensive discussion of possible talking points included the Samohi master schedule, equity, diversity, inclusion, and Measure R funding. Dr. Mora stated that the process for any changes to the master schedule would include working out the details, the teachers’ union contract, funding, HR, Mark Kelly, Melody Canady, and Dr. Shelton.

9. Prop. 28 – Tom reported that the district won't know the exact amount of ongoing funding until June 2023. He is looking at estimated costs for various programs that could be added or expanded. Annie suggested the possible use of teaching artists.
10. ACES curriculum – Lydia asked whether the ACES classes will meet the state's Ethnic Studies requirement. Dr. Mora stated that the LACOE has approved them.
11. 6-Year Arts Education Strategic Plan – Tom stated that the Prop 28 funding will lead to Board approval of a 2023-29 version of the plan by the end of the school year.
12. K-5 arts education funding – Since reduced donations to the Ed Foundation led to P.S. ARTS classes being reduced from 30 weeks to 15 weeks per year, Lydia suggested switching the funding to Measure R. Tom stated that the district tells the Ed Foundation what to fund and would have to approve such a change.
13. VAPA DAC vacancies – Zina for help incorporating into flyer Pdfs the colorful postcards we used in the past to recruit new DAC members, and Domi volunteered.
14. Fall performance dates and media coverage were reviewed.
15. Announcements -- Domi Piturro reported that he participates in a CTE Advisory Committee headed by Dr. Devon Smith, and he described concurrent enrollment classes that Samohi students are taking on Saturdays at SMC. His suggestion to add an SMC update to the DAC agendas was welcomed.
16. Agenda planning for the January 25 meeting: Draft Mid-Year Report; Prop. 28/6-Year Strategic Arts Education Plan; SMC update
17. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Zina Josephs, Secretary