

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

January 15, 2020

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

MINUTES

Attendees: Annie Azzariti, Deborah Berek, Rebecca Cardenas, Scott Ferguson, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Domi Piturro, John Redfield, Ann Thanawalla, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Co-Chairperson Janis Gabbert.
2. **Minutes** from the November meeting were approved by unanimous consent. (Ferguson)
3. **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas reported on informances, Family Art Nights, Rotation 2 starting the last week of January, and funding received to continue the JAMS lunchtime Student Art Club.
4. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Jacqueline Mora reported on the 3rd year of “Matrix of Bias,” i.e., partnering with CT and SMMCTA on a voluntary 3-day training program for teachers (in groups of 20) to discuss bias, leading to increased empathy, becoming aware of unintended negative impact, and removal of barriers to responding and better assisting students and families. DAC discussion included concern over the numbers of days that classroom teachers are out of the classroom.
5. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley reported on current professional development for music teachers, planning for “learning walks” for middle and high school Visual Arts teachers, planned Getty work with art teachers, the upcoming Mariachi concert at Edison on January 21, the upcoming Samohi Jazz Band concert on February 9, plans for Stairway, Ballroom dancing classes, discussions about embedding Dance instruction in P.E. at all grade levels, and applying for the state “Golden Bell” award.
6. **Board of Education Liaisons** – Neither Dr. Maria Leon-Vazquez nor Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein attended the meeting.

7. **Review and advise regarding the Draft 6-Year Arts Education Strategic Plan** to align with and promote the Excellence through Equity Plan. – The presentation to the principals, which must be completed before presenting the plan to the Board of Education, was delayed.
8. **Serve as a conduit for parents, teachers, students, and community members.** – The draft DAC Mid-Year Report was reviewed, revised, and approved by unanimous consent.
9. **Public comments regarding items not on the agenda – None**
10. The remainder of the agenda items were continued to the February meeting.
11. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.