

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

Thursday, October 22, 2020 – via Zoom

## MINUTES

**Attendees:** Deborah Berek, Rebecca Cardenas, Linda Greenberg, Zina Josephs, Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Lydia Muraro, John Redfield, Ann Thanawalla, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM by Vice Chair Lydia Muraro.
2. **Minutes** -- The minutes from the September meeting were tabled.
3. **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas reposted that instruction has begun at some schools, but others have opted to start after winter break. The Ed Foundation has supplied volunteers to pack art supplies for the students.
4. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** – Dr. Jacqueline Mora reported on meetings to review re-opening plans, which include two models. Parents will be able to select. In-person services can only bring in English Learners and students with special needs. They are also planning in-person instruction for students with IEPs, starting with pre-school and transition to high school. The district is working on an MOU with SMMCTA. There is an MOU with CDS staff and instructional assistants.
5. **Staff Liaison/VAPA Coordinator** – Tom Whaley
  - a. Mariachi program -- Classes have begun, with 64 middle school students, 37-40 elementary students, and 4 more instruments ordered.
  - b. “The Diary of Anne Frank” will be presented by The Broad Stage and Santa Monica Repertory to middle school students in November via YouTube live stream and class workshops, using funds that would have otherwise been used for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade dance program.
  - c. Choir directors requested help in teaching accompanists how to use Zoom.
  - d. The Bergmann endowment will provide \$146,000 this year for instruments and 18 music lessons for 200 students. By the end of October, Tom will be able to identify eligible students, and then their parents will be able to go online and select vendors.
  - e. Elementary Music – Additional instruments are needed.
  - f. Visual Arts grants – The Ed Foundation is providing about \$1,500 per teacher, depending on the number of students in their classes.

6. **Board of Education Liaisons** – Neither was able to participate in the meeting.
7. **Discussion/Action Items** (per the DAC charge)
  - a. **Distance learning** – impact on Dance, Media Arts, Theatre, and Visual Arts instruction in the middle and high schools (follow-up to September update on distance learning impact on Music instruction) – In response to a question about how students will catch up on lost instructional time. Dr. Mora stated that teachers are focusing on essential standards, providing targeted support, and using partners to provide academic support. The district plans to provide extended learning experiences next summer and during the 2021-22 school year. Tom will be meeting with LA County VAPA Coordinators to share best practices. He’s contacted VAPA teachers, with responses follows:
    - Parent permission forms didn’t cover Zoom.** The teacher is having to contact parents for virtual performances.
    - Dance** – Challenging times at Samohi. Gearing up for the Fall Showcase, with individual solos, learning choreography, professional artists.
    - Theatre** – Things are going really well at Samohi. The students are rehearsing for a play in December via Zoom, with green screen scenery.
    - Art** -- Zoom works better than Google. Working until 11 PM to prepare lessons, getting migraine headaches.
    - Middle School Art** – It’s very challenging, with only one staff meeting so far this year. Some students are doing well, but many are burned out. A small handful prefer distance learning, including one student on the autism spectrum.
    - High School Art** – No leadership at the school. Spending 8 to 10 hours a day on the computer.
    - High School Art** – Individual materials – difficult. Students’ mental health. Successes and failures. I love what I do. Google issues.
    - A question from a DAC member about how the “hybrid” model works** -- The response was that it’s okay for string classes, but doesn’t work well for wind classes or choir. Art classes can be divided in half and alternate by day or week. Re athletics, the students can work on conditioning, but no competitive sports are allowed.
  - b. **VAPA elective choices** – follow-up to September discussion of the Visual Arts program at Lincoln Middle School . The following information from the January 2020 VAPA DAC Mid-Year Report was included in the agenda:

Visual Arts: Art Foundation (3 sections), Art (1 section), Exploratory Art/PLTW (semester-long) added in 2019-20, Exploratory 6 Art (year-long – 2 sections) eliminated in 2019-20, 1.2 FTE reduced to 1.0 FTE  
**169 students (2019-20) = 111 year-long students + 58 semester-long students**

**Lincoln Middle School** – 1,116 total students in 2019-20

Visual Arts: Art (4 sections – year-long), Exploratory 6 Art (1 section – quarter system)  
**236 students (2019-20) = 112 year-long students + 124 quarter-long Exp 6 students**

**Malibu Middle School** – 334 total students in 2019-20

Visual Arts: Art (4 sections), Exploratory 6 Art (trimester rather than semester-long in 2019-20)  
**140 students (2019-20) = 95 year-long students + 45 trimester Exploratory 6 students**

A DAC member suggested that the DAC keep track of the waiting lists for Art classes each year and focus on long range planning, not just short term.

Another member noted that Spanish-speaking parents apparently don't know that they have to sign their children up for auditions for placement in Music ensembles, as the elective sheet doesn't explain the audition process, and suggested that perhaps the form could be modified. Dr. Mora stated that principals will be meeting with ELAC and bilingual liaisons in November.

- c. **Follow-up to September presentation by Carey Upton** – A tour of JAMS Performing Arts Center will be provided for VAPA DAC members – TBD

8. **Media coverage**

9. **Calendar review**

10. **Public Comment** – None

11. **Agenda planning for December 2 meeting** – Fall 2020 VAPA class offerings and enrollment

12. **Adjournment** – 8:45 PM

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