

**Santa Monica High School**  
**School Site Council Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

4:00 PM

**Room D205**

---

**Compiled by:**

*Charlie Snyder, Amy Chapman, Amitis Akbari*

**Members Present:**

1. Charlie Snyder
2. Veronica Garcia-Hecht
3. Stephan Corbel
4. Amy Chapman
5. Kelly Okla
6. Nancy Wu
7. Amitis Akbari
8. Jennifer Cowan
9. Jose Cuevas
10. Susan Gates
11. Shayna Kadish
12. Mele LeVeaux

**Community members present:**

Dr. Devon Smith - presenter

**I. Welcome**

**II. Review and Approval of Minutes from 11/29/23**

Approved by: Nancy Wu

Seconded: Veronica Garcia-Hecht

**III. CA School Dashboard Review**

○ **Presentation**

■ CA Schools Dashboard (from 2019)

- College and Career Readiness (Students completing A-G Requirements/  
CTE Pathways Completion)
- 58.1% prepared
- Declined 7.1%
- Our low number is mostly as a result of students either not taking or not  
completing the CTE Pathways

○ **Discussion**

- Discussed the shifting landscape in terms of adding career readiness as a focus  
(we have traditionally done really well with our A-G requirements)

- Focus on increasing our course offerings, our pathways, and encouraging students to complete pathways they start

#### **IV. CTE Pathways/Academies (Presented by Devon Smith)**

##### ○ **Presentation**

##### ■ **Mission Statement**

- Students will have the opportunity to participate in four career academies (Engineering and Technology/ Arts, Media, and Entertainment/ Health and Wellness/ Law, Government, and Public Policy).
- Students in 11th and 12th grade will learn through integrated, project-based, curriculum which incorporates English language arts, writing, public speaking, and entrepreneurship.
- Collaborate with community mentors to complete projects centered around a yearly theme and publicly present their projects through showcase events.

##### ■ **Rationale/Context:**

- Noguera's report highlighted an engagement gap, so stakeholders went out to observe schools. The academy model that other schools offer was particularly exciting (referenced school in Fresno), and they served as our model.

##### ■ **Vision Statement**

- A small learning community with a curricular focus.
- A learning and teaching model that is thematic, project based, with interdisciplinary learning.
- A curriculum that integrates rigorous college preparatory academics with real-world applications.

##### ■ **Four Academy Concentrations**

- Project Lead the Way, Engineering & Computer Science (current)
- Health & Wellness (Fall 2023)
- Media Arts (Fall 2024)
- Law, Government, & Public Policy (Fall 2024)

##### ■ **How were these concentrations selected?**

- Greatest student interests- Media Arts (42.2%)

##### ■ **How does it work?**

- Each academy concentration has an english teacher, a content area teacher, and an academy teacher. Standards are met for each subject.
- Students work in an open block (2 or 3 periods).

##### ■ **Curricular Integration**

- Intro to Engineering Design → Aerospace engineering or AP Comp Sci → Digital Electronics or AP Comp Sci A
- OR Intro to Engineering Design → Engineering design and development/ Applications of Physics in Engineering/ English 12 for Engineering
- Launched Fall 2022
- Engineering Academy (1 Year)
- Health & Wellness Academy (2 years)
  - Sports Medicine/Biology (11th Grade, Launching CTE: Fall 2023, Planning Year: 23-24)

- Adv. Sports Medicine & Health Care (Capstone)/Physiology (12th Grade, Planning Year: 23-24, Launching Fall 2024)
- Media Academy
  - Concentrator, 11th Grade History or Marketing Course, English 11 for Media (11th Grade, Launching Fall 2024)
  - Capstone, 12th grade history or marketing course, English 12 for Media (12th Grade, Launching Fall 2025)
- Law & Public Policy
  - Concentrator, 11th Grade History/ SS Course
- Engineering, Media Academy
  - Essential Question:
  - Research Paper
  - Student Project Teams
- Work Based and Apprenticeship Model
  - In the junior year students complete the group project.
  - In the senior year students may choose individual projects with a community mentor (client based) or work experience (apprentice based).
  - Two week work shadow experiences.
- **Discussion**
  - Link to 7 period day conversation because the PLTW (and all academy) pathways as it requires flexibility during the school day (esp for 9th graders)
  - How are we advertising this at the middle schools to get kids interested?
  - Traditionally, students have had to apply, and many students have been historically excluded, leading to a class that sometimes that doesn't represent our demographics accurately (we want more students of color and girls involved)
  - Are we looking to grow the freshman program (so we can offer more intro classes)?
  - Beginning sports med is the only course that will be offered next year from this list.
  - All CTE courses are electives (whereas Academies are integrated with core classes)
  - ROP had an age requirement (16), but CTE does not.

## V. Questions

1. How does Samo compare to other local schools in terms of CTE offerings and community partnerships? (Right now, we are a little behind --- our academies will put us ahead)
2. Can we get a copy of the

## VI. Closing

**Motion to end the meeting:** Mele LeVeaux

**Seconded:** Stephan Corbel

**Meeting ended at 5:15 p.m.**