

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

October 23, 2024 – in-person

Board Room, SMMUSD District Office, 1717 - 4th Street, Santa Monica 90401

MINUTES

Attendees: Deborah Berek, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Aimee Koeplin, Elizabeth Manco, Rebecca Terlizzi, and Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.
2. Minutes from the June meeting were approved by unanimous consent. (Berek
Minutes from the September meeting were approved by unanimous consent. (Manco)
3. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley reported that
 - a. All 5th graders will attend the Westside Ballet production of “The Nutcracker” on December 4 at the Board Stage.
 - b. A gala honoring Stanley Clarke will be held on November 15. Three jazz students will receive scholarships from Clarke’s foundation. On October 30, Jazz Band sectional rehearsals will be led by Stanley Clarke (rhythm), Katisse Buckingham (saxophones), Dan Fornero (trumpets), and Tom (trombones). A Jazz Band concert is scheduled for January.
 - c. The Samohi music composition program has 25 students this year.
 - d. The Director of Human Resources, Doug Meza, has approved a “temporary” 10th elementary music teacher for this year.
 - e. Measure R income has increased.
 - f. The Samohi marching band is competing in the second highest division: 5A.
 - g. Stairway – Lydia Muraro will be helping again this year. Brown Paper tickets finally refunded \$18,500 from the canceled concert during COVID. The Stairway concert costs \$60,000 with \$30,000 coming from tickets sales and \$30,000 from the district
 - h. Prop 28 has paid for \$18,000 in new drum equipment for the marching band and \$40,000 for instruments for the elementary music program. Malibu Elementary School is using Prop 28 funds for TK-2 music, TK-5 visual arts, grade level plays, and dance. He is reviewing the 6-year strategic plan, including Prop 28 programs. Stacy Williamson will present Prop 28 information to the Board of Education.
 - i. The Samohi musical this year will be “Chicago.”
 - j. Samohi has a new film teacher.

4. **Board of Education Liaisons** – Neither Maria Leon-Vazquez nor Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein was able to attend the meeting.
5. **Election of Co-Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary** – Janis Gabbert was elected Co-Chair, Rebecca Terlizzi was elected Vice Chair, and Zina Josephs was elected Secretary – all by acclimation.
6. **SMC's Broad Stage and SMMUSD** – Aimee Koeplin reported that the SMC staff person in charge of renting out the Broad Stage increased the fee, making it impossible to hold the annual "Bands at the Broad" fundraising concert there in 2023-24. Renamed "Bands on the Road," the concert was held at JAMS and raised money for the Seattle trip with the Symphonic Winds (the second highest band).
7. **VAPA DAC vacancies** – Suggestions included creating a sticker to update the post cards, creating a QR code that links to the VAPA DAC web site, creating a flyer, promoting at concerts, making announcements during concerts, and talking with individuals who might be interested in applying to be appointed to the DAC.
8. **Announcements** – This was Elizabeth Manco's last DAC meeting as her daughter has graduated from Samohi and is now a music major at Cal State Fullerton.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.