

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

November 20, 2024 – in-person

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

MINUTES

Attendees: Annie Azzariti, Deborah Berek, Gina de Baca, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Michael Mollo, Bertha Roman, Courtney Spike, Rebecca Terlizzi, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Co-chair Janis Gabbert.
2. **Minutes** -- October meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent. (Berek)
3. **Calendar review** – On December 19, Stacy Williamson will present information to the Board of Education about Prop 28 “Arts and Music in Schools” implementation.
4. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** Tom Whaley reported on
 - a. Elementary honor orchestra auditions on December 7 – via Zoom or in-person
 - b. Bergmann letter sent out to qualified families. The Malibu Arts fund pays for programs that that SMEF supports in Santa Monica. 200 students get 18 lessons per year. Teachers recommend students who need instruments.
 - c. VAPA teachers get \$109,000 for non-capital equipment and \$63,000 for sheet music from Measure R, \$148,000 from the Bergmann fund via SMEF (which includes \$140,000 for 200 SED students to receive 18 free music lessons, \$15,000 for SED students who need a new instrument s, and \$3,000 in reserve). VAPA teachers also receive extra support for supplies and materials plus “professional experts” from Prop 28. These experts range from the percussion coordinator for the Samohi band, to Visual Arts experts to help in art classes and/or a technical theatre person to support the drama programs.
 - d. Rebecca noted a book on teaching journalism to middle and high school students: “The Journalistic Learning Initiative” by Ruth Carter.
 - e. The Stanley Clarke gala on November 15 included a video from Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, a performance by Japanese jazz pianist Hiromi Uehara, and the awarding of four \$500 scholarships, 3 of which went to students in the Samohi Jazz Band.
 - a. Samohi Marching Band – The top 12 bands from Southern California get to compete in the SCSBOA championships on November 23.
 - b. The auditions for “Chicago” at Samohi include student-to-student coaching and 3 days of dance practice.

- c. Elementary music – The new teacher, Steven Robin, who replaced Susan Justin, has trained in teaching students on the Autism spectrum. Susan will be able to begin subbing in December.
- 5. **Board of Education Liaisons** – Neither was able to attend the meeting.
- 6. **Prop 28 update** – Tom Whaley and Bertha Roman are compiling a slide show for the December 19 presentation. Funds were received from the state in February 2024. The district is applying for a waiver to allow more than 20% of the funds to be used for staff.
- 7. **Mid-Year Report** – The draft report was reviewed and revised. Additional information included the Santa Monica Youth Orchestra (SMYO) supplying the JAMS mariachi instructor, plus SMC and SMYO partnering re instruction for the Samohi mariachi ensemble.
- 8. **Public comments regarding items not on the agenda** – None.
- 9. **Agenda planning for January 22 meeting** – Approve the revised Mid-Year Report.
- 10. **Adjournment** -- at 9:25 PM.