

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 - 7 PM - via Zoom

VAPA DAC Meetings

Wednesdays, 7-9 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://smmk12.zoom.us/j/82304095127>

Meeting ID: 823 0409 5127

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AGENDA

DAC roster for 2021-22: Annie Azzariti, Deborah Berek, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Elizabeth Manco, Lydia Murraro, Dominic Piturro, John Redfield

As per BP 1313 (adopted 11/18/21), the Board of Education and SMMUSD shall place this information at the top of their meeting agendas.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR THAT PROMOTE CIVILITY AT ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS:

Treat everyone with respect and courtesy.	Keep an open mind and, if merited, allow yourself to be persuaded to change your opinion.
Listen to others respectfully.	Acknowledge dissension as a civic right and as a tool to use to reach the best decisions.
Agree to disagree, and don't make it personal; discuss the issue, not the person.	Accept responsibility and maintain self-control.

NORMAS DE CONDUCTA QUE PROMUEVEN LA CIVILIDAD EN TODAS LAS REUNIONES PÚBLICAS:

Tratar a todas las personas con respeto y cortesía.	Mantener la mente abierta, y si la ocasión lo amerita, permitir ser persuadido a cambiar de opinión.
Escuchar a los demás de manera respetuosa.	Reconocer el disenso como un derecho cívico y como una herramienta para tomar las mejores decisiones.
Aceptar las diferencias y no tomarlas de forma personal; debatir el asunto, no la persona.	Aceptar la responsabilidad y mantener el autocontrol.

7:00 PM – **Call to order and welcome**

7:05 PM – **Approve minutes** from February 2022 meeting (on page 6 of the agenda)

7:15 PM -- **Calendar review**

- SMMUSD State of Our Schools Livestream Event “Emerging Stronger” – May 2 – 5:30 PM --
<https://vimeo.com/696349846/7476c7c98f>
- Board of Ed meetings – May 5 -- <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/4047>
- DAC meetings -- May 11
- VAPA Calendar -- <https://smmarts.net/>

REPORTS

7:20 PM -- **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas

7:25 PM -- **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Jacqueline Mora

7:35 PM – **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley

7:50 PM -- **Board of Education Liaisons** – Maria Leon-Vazquez and Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (per the DAC Charge)

8:00 PM – **VAPA DAC charge for 2021-22**

- *Support a comprehensive preK-12 arts education program as an integral part of the core curriculum offered to all SMMUSD students, with dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts taught as discrete disciplines and integrated into other subject areas; as we align with and promote the Excellence through Equity Plan, which includes teaching cross-cultural and socio-emotional skills.*
- *Serve as a conduit for parents, teachers, students and community members to inform and make recommendations to the Board of Education on matters related to equitable access and successful participation in comprehensive, sequential, standards-based preK-12 arts education, while comparing the District’s curriculum, scheduling, staffing, instructional materials, equipment, and facilities with National and State standards and frameworks; as we align with and promote the Excellence through Equity Plan.*
- *Maintain the Board and District commitment to the adoption of a new 6-year SMMUSD Arts Education Strategic Plan. Review and advise this Plan to align with and promote the Excellence through Equity Plan.*

1. **Discuss the End-of-Year Report**

2. **Mid-Year Report -- February 3rd Board of Education agenda:**

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/Attachment.aspx?S=36030435&ID=209543&MID=9728>

3. **Proposed ballot initiative – “The Arts and Music in Schools Funding**

Guarantee Accountability Act” -- <https://caforartseducation.org> -- Petition

signatures from 1 million registered voters are needed to get the measure on the

ballot in November. Sign up here to receive a petition in the mail, which you can then sign and mail back: <https://voteartsandminds.org/sign-the-petition>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/voteartsandminds>

Website: <https://artsandminds.org/>

On February 17, the Board of Education voted to support the ballot measure.

“City Council Takes Action on Two Potential State Ballot Measures”

3/23/22 – *City of Santa Monica press release*

<https://www.santamonica.gov/press/2022/03/23/city-council-takes-action-on-two-potential-state-ballot-measures>

“The Council voted unanimously to support ‘The Arts and Music in Schools – Funding Guarantee Accountability Act...’”

4. Impacts on arts electives

- a. Master schedule update regarding the possibility of a 7–period day
- b. ACES graduation requirements update -- Samohi music and theater teachers are writing curriculum with the help of Satinder Hawkins. AB-331 Pupil Instruction: High School Graduation Requirement: Ethnic Studies
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB331&showamends=false

5. Budget update/timeline for 2022-23 school year

6. 6-Year Arts Education Strategic Plan (2019-2025) update

7. 6 VAPA DAC vacancies -- DAC Board Policy and Administrative Regulations

<https://www.smmusd.org/domain/118> -- According to Board Policy 1220, “Membership recruitment will be ongoing throughout the year. Minimally, information about the District Advisory Committees will be shared with the public in **August, November, and January**. Applications for appointment to advisory committees may be submitted at any time during the year. **Once per quarter, an item shall be placed on the Board of Education agenda listing committee vacancies**.” -- Only one VAPA DAC member has been appointed since 2017.

When and how has information about the DACs been shared with the public and the Board of Education since 2017?

8. Upcoming performances:

April 29-May 1 – JAMS/SMASH Musical “Annie”

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/jamssmashtheatre/686852>

April 22 -- Samohi Choirs and Chamber Orchestra

Gabriel Faure -- *Requiem*
Ariel Ramirez -- *Misa Criolla*
Myroslav Skoryk (Ukrainian composer) -- *Melody*
Astor Piazzolla -- *La Muerte del Angel*

April 29-May 1 – MHS Musical – “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown”
May 2 – Music groups perform in “State of Our Schools” event
May 5 – LMS Choir Concert
May 7 – Ballet Folklorico Festival (professional groups) – Barnum Hall
May 8 – Ballet Folklorico Festival (including McKinley and Edison-based folklorico classes in grades 3-5) – Samohi Greek Theater
May 17 – JAMS Orchestra Concert
May 18 – JAMS Band Concert
May 19 – MHS Band Concert
May 25 – JAMS Choir Concert
May 26 – LMS “Pops” Concert
May 26 – MHS Spring Choir Concert
May 28-29 – Samohi Orchestras Senior Gala Concerts
June 2 – MHS Orchestra Concert
June 4 – Samohi Jazz Bands Concert at JAMS PAC

9. **Media coverage:**

a. **“SMMUSD’s Music Education Program Receives National Recognition”**

4/14/22 – SMMUSD press release

<https://www.smmusd.org/cms/lib/CA50000164/Centricity/domain/2939/2021-22/PR-NAMMAAward2022.pdf>

b. **“Malibu High School Orchestra Places First at ‘Music in the Parks’ Competition”**

4/11/22 – SMMUSD press release

<https://www.smmusd.org/cms/lib/CA50000164/Centricity/domain/2939/2021-22/PR-MHSMusicintheParks041122.pdf>

c. **“SMMUSD Music Students Named to California All-State and Honor Choirs, Bands, and Orchestras”**

4/6/22 – SMMUSD press release

<https://www.smmusd.org/cms/lib/CA50000164/Centricity/Domain/2939/2021-22/PR-CAallstateandHonor.pdf>

d. **“Stairway of the Stars” (photos!)**

3/22/22 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*
<https://www.smdp.com/stairway-of-the-stars/216098>

e. **“Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District’s “Stairway of the Stars’ Returns for In-Person Concert”**

3/16/22 – *Santa Monica Mirror*
<https://smmirror.com/2022/03/santa-monica-malibu-unified-school-districts-stairway-of-the-stars-returns-for-in-person-concert/>

f. **“Council supports music education but opposes initiative limiting local taxes at last meeting”**

3/30/22 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*
<https://www.smdp.com/?s=The+Arts+and+Music+in+Schools+Funding+Guarantee+Accountability+Act>

“Councilmembers turned to the Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee Accountability Act. This measure was brought forward for discussion by Councilmembers Lana Negrete, Kristin McCowan and Phil Brock.

This statewide ballot initiative was put together by former LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner and would raise an estimated \$800 million to support arts and music education funding for schools with limited programming. The funding would not come through a tax increase, but through an allocation from the state’s general fund.

‘I think we’re lucky in the City of Santa Monica to see that in our public schools arts programming is pretty amazing, but (only) one in five public schools in California are able to experience something close to what we have. This measure is going to provide additional funding for arts and music education, without raising taxes, for all public schools in California,’ said Negrete, adding that this will help public school students become better qualified for many of the creative job opportunities available locally.”

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

8:50 PM – **Public comments regarding items not on the agenda** -- Public Comments is the time when **members of the audience** may address the DAC on items not on the meeting’s agenda. The Brown Act states that Committee members may

not engage in discussion of issues raised except to ask clarifying questions or to refer the matter to staff.

8:55 PM – **Agenda planning for May 11 meeting** -- Approve End-of-Year Report

9:00 PM – **Adjournment**

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Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

February 23, 2022 –via Zoom

MINUTES (draft)

Attendees: Annie Azzariti, Deborah Berek, Rebecca Cardenas, Janis Gabbert, Linda Greenfield, Zina Josephs, Maria Leon-Vazquez, John Redfield, Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, Tom Whaley

1: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 by Co-Chair Janis Gabbert, and we spent some time reminiscing about Scott Ferguson, a member of the VAPA DAC since 2010, who recently passed away from COVID.

2. Minutes from the January meeting were approved by unanimous consent. (Berek)

3. Calendar review revealed that the Samohi Jazz Band concert date had been inadvertently omitted because it was originally scheduled for January 30. The new date is February 27.

4. **P.S. ARTS** – Rebecca Cardenas reported on programs starting at the end of January, beginning of March. The art kits are almost here. The virtual Art Night at McKinley had a good turnout.

5. **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Jacqueline Mora reported that the new elementary school Folklorico program will start on Monday, with about 25 students each at McKinley and Edison. 5 families in Malibu have expressed interest, but a minimum of 8 are required. In partnership with SMC, courses will be offered during the school day at Samohi in Fall 2022.

6. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** – Tom Whaley reported that

- a. Elementary Music instruction will return to 2 times per week, plus band and choir classes will be allowed to return inside.
- b. 900 students will participate in the “Stairway of the Stars” concert in the Samohi Greek Theater on March 19.
- c. He’s asking Carey Upton for “art walls,” which are on wheels and fold up accordion style. They could be used for art shows in the lobby of the JAMS Performing Arts Center.
- d. Samohi Jazz Band Concert – from rehearsing on the Samohi basketball court to performing in the JAMS PAC.
- e. Many SMMUSD students have been selected for All-Southern California and All-State honor groups.
- f. Bringing back the Dance program at Samohi -- SMC will partner to teach a variety of genres in the fall, and then focus on specific types of dance in the spring.
- g. A principal from Palos Verdes called Tom for advice. His and other districts want to emulate the SMMUSD elementary music program.
- h. In response to a question about the current school facilities “tours,” he replied that music teachers are attending those events to give input.

7. Board of Education Liaisons – Maria Leon-Vazquez reported that COVID seems to be waning. Dr. Mora is presenting student data and assessments to the Board. The district needs to provide support for students’ mental health. The current facility tours are for future planning. School site councils will give the final okay on construction projects. Re the DAC Mid-Year Report recommendation about alternative high school schedules, Dr. Drati will form a committee of parents, teachers, students, counselors, and administrators to meet in spring and summer. A DAC member commented that this was wonderful news since we’ve discussed this topic for so many years. Dr. TJ noted that Maria now has a second grandchild.

8. VAPA DAC Mid-Year Report -- February 3rd Board of Education agenda:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/Attachment.aspx?S=36030435&AID=209543&MID=9728>

Janis thanked Lydia for the new formatting this year. Maria commented about maintaining the Elementary Music program, expanding the Dance program to the middle schools, and expanding the music genres being taught to keep middle school students engaged. Regarding middle school Art instruction, i.e., the need for year-long classes at all grade levels and implementing a sequence of instruction from grades 6 to 8, one DAC member suggested expanding the discussion to include all 3 middle school art teachers.

9. GoFundMe campaign for scholarship in memory of Chandra Narain – Tom noted that about \$10,000 of a \$12,000 goal has been raised.

10. Impacts on arts electives –

- a. Lydia Muraro suggested that the goal should be for all students to be able to take all their classes during the school day. Dr. Tahvildaran-Jesswein stated that he will recommend that Lydia be included in the Samohi schedule committee.
- b. Lydia also suggested that if Samohi scheduled sports after school, as Malibu and Pali High do, students would have 6 periods available for academic cases. This would also secure foreign language, history, and science teachers' jobs as students could take all those classes at Samohi rather than at SMC or WASC-accredited private language schools.
- c. Lydia noted that 62% of Samohi graduates go on to a 4-year college, so they need at least 2 years of a foreign language.
- d. Re ACES, she asked for a list of classes that will meet the requirement. She also suggested that the 10-credit Freshman Seminar class is a missed opportunity for fulfilling the requirement, and that 5 of the 10 credits at Malibu High are for Health.

11. Budget update/timeline for 2022-23 school year – Maria noted that the 2nd interim report will be presented to the Board of March 3rd. There will be budget items on the agendas from now until June. No budget reductions or teacher lay-offs are anticipated. Dr. Mora stated that the federal and state COVID funds are coming to an end and no additional funds are expected.

12. 6-Year Arts Education Strategic Plan (2019-2025) update – Maria noted that as the pandemic becomes and endemic, the negativity that's taken up so much of the Board's time will ebb. Dr. Mora noted that the plan called for expanding programming and culturally relevant curriculum, and that the new mariachi and folklorico programs are part of that.

13. 6 VAPA DAC vacancies -- DAC Board Policy and Administrative Regulations

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14. Board of Education February 17 agenda item J-6 -- Proposed statewide ballot initiative – *“The Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee Accountability Act”* -- <https://caforartseducation.org> -- Dedicates new funding to arts and music education in public schools. SMMUSD could receive \$1 million per year in new funding. Petition

signatures from 1 million registered voters are required to get the measure on the November ballot. Dr. TJ suggested that SMC students could help collect signatures at students performances. Sign up here to receive a petition in the mail, which you can then sign and mail back: <https://voteartsandminds.org/sign-the-petition> -- Share the Facebook page updates: <https://www.facebook.com/voteartsandminds>

15. Public comments regarding items not on the agenda – None

16. Announcements – Dr. TJ announced that his son has won a dance scholarship at NYU.

17. Agenda planning for April 27 meeting – Follow-up on the Samohi scheduling committee, middle school art curriculum, increasing community involvement in all the DACs.

18. Adjournment in memory of Scott Ferguson -- 8:50 PM (Berek)