

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

**May 8, 2024 – in-person**

## **MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Deborah Berek, Gina de Baca, Janis Gabbert, Aimee Koeplin, Elizabeth Manco, Lydia Muraro, Domenic Piturro, Devon Smith, Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Co-Chair Janis Gabbert.
2. Minutes from the February meeting were approved by unanimous consent. (Muraro)
3. Calendar review -- The committee voted by unanimous consent to delay the May 22 meeting to June 12. (Josephs)
4. GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Devon Smith, who coordinates Project Based Learning (PBL), Career Technical Education (CTE), and Adult Education for SMMUSD spoke about CTE and how the existing VAPA programs will be integrated into the Academies and the CTE pathways involving Arts, Media, & Entertainment. CTE is about college and career for all students, and the programs are tied to the local economy, i.e., Silicon Beach, the medical centers, and entertainment.

Since 2018, the 4 PBL tenets have been 1) the PBL pathway, 2) the Academies, 3) high quality career pathways (CTE). And 4) professional development for teachers in project based learning. The mission is to prepare students to graduate ready for college and career by engaging in skill-driven, real world learning experiences. Each “pathway” is a sequence of at least 2 classes: exploration, concentration, and capstone (i.e., beginning, intermediate, and advanced).

The National CTE Pathways:

- Arts, Media, & Entertainment (SMMUSD: film, graphic design, photo, media, multimedia, journalism)
- Engineering and Info & Computer Technology (SMMUSD: 4 years of PLTW)
- Health & Wellness (SMMUSD: Sports medicine & Patient care)
- Public Services (SMMUSD: Law & Public Policy)

Vision for High School CTE Pathways:

- High quality instruction (CTE credential & curriculum)

- College credit opportunities (dual enrollment)
- Leadership opportunities
- Industry certifications (Adobe, summer jobs, gap year work experience)

Aligned Approach to Career Education:

- Elementary – exposure
- Middle School – exploration
- High School – experience – CTE
- Post secondary while in high school – dual enrollment and internships
- Partnerships – Future-ready skills series

Samohi Integrated Academies – based upon a 2019 student survey

- Sports medicine and Patient care
- Law & Public policy
- Engineering – launched in 2022-23, based upon a model

How does it work? Each academy concentration has 2 teachers (academy and content) and students work in 2 or 3 periods.

Committee comments – Concerns about scheduling conflicts with VAPA classes. All VAPA classes are “project based learning” by nature.

5. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley reported on
  - a. 2 art shows – One took place in Samohi’s Roberts Gallery and included Kiwanis scholarships and the Samohi Jazz Combo. The other took place at Malibu High School. They were well-attended, and the judges wrote wonderful comments.
  - b. The Samohi Jazz Band will compete in a festival on May 18, have a concert on May 19 with Stanley Clarke, and participate in a festival on September 21.
  - c. Lots of school concerts this month. The Samohi Orchestra “Pops” Concert sold out.
  - d. At the Mexico Magico event, all the district mariachi and ballet folklórico groups performed, and a painting of Dr. Mora was presented to her family.
  - e. Kiwanis solo performances by the 1<sup>st</sup> place finishers is scheduled for June 4.
  - f. Elementary music teacher Susan Justin is retiring.
  - g. At a Prop 28 event, Austin Beutner expressed concern about funds being spent to replace existing VAPA program funding, rather than supplement existing funding.
6. Board of Education Liaisons – Maria Leon-Vazquez nor Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein -- Neither was able to attend.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.