

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

**September 25, 2024 -- in-person**

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

## **MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Deborah Berek, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Aimee Koeplin, Maria Leon-Vasquez, Michael Mollo, Rebecca Terlizzi, and Tom Whaley

1. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Janis Gabbert at 7:05 PM.
2. Approval of the June minutes was tabled.
3. Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator Tom Whaley reviewed the principals' proposals for using \$1.1 million in Prop 28 funds. The requirement is to use 80% for certificated or classified staff and 20% for training, supplies, materials, and partnerships (such as P.S. ARTS). Those proposals will go to the Senior Cabinet and then to the Board of Education. He also discussed the music composition program at Samohi, preschools VAPA programs, the possibility of district-funded Visual Arts instruction by certificated teachers for grades 3-5, the Samohi Jazz Band performance with Stanley Clarke at a jazz festival on September 21, and elementary music staffing approved at 10.0 FTE with a temporary teacher this year only.
4. Board of Education Liaison Dr. Richard Tahvildara-Jesswien was not present. Board of Education Liaison Maria Leon-Vasquez reported that the dashboard correlates with testing, and scores increased by a couple of points. New principals have been hired, and the current district leadership is the best she's ever seen. The draft cell phone policy is working well at the elementary level. Still to come are funding for pouches for the middle schools, Board policy, and Administrative Regulations. The Malibu Unification process continues with an upcoming operational transfer agreement, and with Mike Matthews as the eventual MUSD Superintendent.
5. The draft VAPA DAC charges for 2024-25 were approved by the Board of Education on September 19.
6. VAPA DAC vacancies – Zina brought some sample VAPA DAC postcards we created years ago, which would need updated text on the reverse side.
7. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Zina Josephs, Secretary