Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 23, 2026
Board Room, SMMUSD District Office, 1717 – 4th Street, Santa Monica, 90401

Attendees: Emily Senchuk, Deborah Berek, Zina Josephs, Jenna Guggenheim, Wendy Jaffa, Rebecca Terlizzi, Aimee Koeplin, Sarah Jane Barney, Maria Leon-Vasquez, Lauren Applebaum, Ashley Benjamin, Michael Mollo, Jim Wang

I. Call to Order - Co-chair Jim Wang called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.
   A. It was noted that there is a quorum of 7 or more people present.

II. Adoption of the Agenda - Jim Wang presented the agenda. Aimee Koeplin made a motion to adopt the agenda and it was seconded by Rebecca Terlizzi. The motion was passed by unanimous consent.

III. Approval of Minutes from April 29, 2026 & May 27, 2026 - Jim Wang presented the minutes from April and May and mentioned that they were also emailed.
   A. Aimee Koeplin made a motion to approve the April minutes and Jenna Guggenheim seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous consent.
   B. Rebecca Terlizzi made a motion to approve the May minutes and Wendy Jaffa seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous consent.

IV. General Business / Action Items
   A. Review of Norms for VAPA DAC Meetings - Jim Wang presented the norms for all DAC meetings and noted that they will be set forth in every agenda.
   B. DAC Training and BP/AR 1220 Review -
      1. Jim Wang presented a training relating to the rules and regulations related to DACs and the VAPA DAC in particular as well. A power point slide presentation was made available.
      2. The role of the DAC is to inquire, inform, suggest, and recommend always with the goal of “Excellence through Equity”
   C. Officer Nominations and Elections (Co-chairperson & Secretary)
      1. Jenna Guggenheim was self-nominated as the Secretary and was elected/approved for the office.
      2. Wendy Jaffa was nominated as the Co-Chairperson and was elected/approved for the office. It was noted that Aimee Koeplin will assist particularly in January and February when Wendy is unavailable.

V. Reports
   A. Board of Education Liaison - Maria Leon-Vasquez
      1. Maria reported that the BOE is looking at the budget as well as one time monies received and how to use them.
      2. She reported that principals from the various schools have been coming to present information re: their school and all that is happening.
   B. Staff Liaison - Jim Wang

1. Outreach/Calendar
    a) Jim reported that he and his team are in the process of updating the VAPA website including calendaring, awards and AMS information
    b) Jim reported that he is running the VAPA instagram account which is @smmusd.vapa
    c) Jim also reported on various concerts and arts events happening in September and October around the district
2. Curriculum
    a) Jim reported that Dance at the 4th and 5th grade, 6th grade and folklorico program levels are happening as well as the mariachi program
    b) Jim noted that the Lincoln MS performing arts will tour Hawaii this year, Samohi Phil will tour Vancouver, Samohi WE/WS will tour Montreal and Quebec City and the Malibu orchestra will go to Carnegie Hall
3. Jim gave an update on measure R
4. Jim gave an update on AMS and reported that there is a CA Assembly Bill (2440) that updates the language in a way that could be beneficial to the district and make it easier for districts to use the funds

VI. New Business
A. VAPA DAC Charges Discussion - due to time constraints this discussion was tabled until the next meeting

VII. Public Comment - No public was present at the meeting, therefore, no comments were made.

VIII. Adjournment
A. Next meeting: 10/21/2026 at 6:00 PM
B. The meeting was adjourned by Jim Wang at 8:05pm