

Performing Arts Advocacy Group Meeting Summary

Meeting date: May 14, 2007

The first meeting began with introductions, including relevant affiliations. Approximately 35 people were present including performing arts teachers, parents, a lawyer, and also a representative from the Santa Barbara Foundation. There appeared to be good representation from many Santa Barbara Schools with less representation from Goleta Schools.

David Holmes, San Marcos Performing Arts teacher, explained the Santa Barbara School District hierarchy and described some of the history of Performing Arts.

Hierarchy: The Santa Barbara School Board (consisting of five members) is elected by the public. The Superintendent of Schools (Brian Sarvis) is directed by the School Board. The Superintendent tells each Principal (Craig Morgan -San Marcos) how many teachers are allocated to each school. The Principal determines which classes need teachers.

History of Performing Arts:

- In 2003, the School Board reduced the Jr High class day from seven period per day to six, resulting in great financial savings to the District. Students lost a period of electives. Performing Arts became less accessible.
- In 2007 the School Board added the requirement that 7th and 9th grade students must take a Health class. Adding a required class made the Performing Arts less accessible since students had to give up an elective class.
- A few weeks ago, the School Board reduced the number of Jr High electives teachers AND reduced the number of Santa Barbara elementary school music teachers. Reducing teachers made the Performing Arts less accessible.
- Last week the School Board adopted a Wellness Policy that limited Alternate PE credit to one semester per year and added the requirement that all 9th graders must take one year of PE. Adding a required class made the Performing Arts less accessible.

The Performing Arts Advocacy Group chairman was selected and an executive committee was formed. Stephanie Giorgio (sp?), Chairman, and the executive committee will prepare an action proposal for the next monthly meeting. A possible first goal would be stop the reduction of the number of Performing Arts teachers.

It was noted that this advocacy group may have two focuses: 1) political, influencing the School Board and 2) financial, finding money in the budget and through grants.

The advocacy group will meet monthly on the second Monday of the month. The next meeting will be June 11 at 7:00 at Santa Barbara Bank & Trust at 1021 Anacapa St.

Submitted by Monika Petersen