



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item 10.1

Meeting Date: May 17, 2018

Subject: Arts Education Update

- ☒ Information Item Only
- ☐ Approval on Consent Agenda
- ☐ Conference (for discussion only)
- ☐ Conference/First Reading
- ☐ Conference/Action
- ☐ Action
- ☐ Public Hearing

Division: Academic Office/Curriculum and Instruction

Recommendation: None

Background/Rationale: Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) recognizes that high quality Arts Education is essential to advancing SCUSD's Equity Access and Social Justice Guiding Principle that *all students are given an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options*. This is because the arts aides the development of the whole child and contributes significantly to raising student achievement, providing students with a relevant, rigorous and well-rounded education. It is widely known that effective Arts instruction is crucial to building skills needed in the 21st century workforce such as creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, and communication. As such, SCUSD is committed to ensuring access to the arts for all students.

Financial Considerations: None

LCAP Goal(s): College, Career, and Life Ready Graduates

Documents Attached:

1. Executive Summary

Estimated Time of Presentation: 10 minutes

Submitted by: Iris Taylor, Chief Academic Officer

Matt Turkie, Assistant Superintendent,
Curriculum and Instruction

Approved by: Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

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I. Overview of Arts Education

Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) recognizes that high quality Arts Education is essential to advancing SCUSD's Equity Access and Social Justice Guiding Principle that *all students are given an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options*. This is because the arts aides the development if the whole child and contribute significantly to raising student achievement providing students with a relevant, rigorous and well-rounded education. It is widely known that effective Arts instruction is crucial to building skills needed in the 21st century workforce such as creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, and communication. As such, SCUSD is committed to ensuring access to the arts for all students.

To provide a diverse range of relevant and meaningful Arts experiences and curricular programs for students, SCUSD offers three major forms of Arts education which include the following:

- Curricular Arts which are stand alone, standards-based Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) classes taught by certificated teachers in music, dance, theater and visual arts. The majority of these classes are offered in SCUSD's middle and high schools and provide students with variety of courses to not only fulfill the fine arts requirement for high school graduation, but to explore different art forms.
- Arts integration, which is an approach to teaching and learning in which students engage in a creative process through the arts that addresses curricular standards in an art form and another subject area. For example, in a science class, students create and perform a dance to demonstrate their understanding of why seasons exist. Students use the dance to demonstrate the energy of the sun, the rotation and orbits of the planets, and the relationship of these to the seasons. This approach is most often used at the elementary level and/or in the Arts Pathways at the high school level.
- Arts Enhancement, which is the use of arts strategies and arts activities to enhance student learning in another subject area or to enhance the school environment or as a vehicle to promote social emotional learning. The majority of these classes are offered through the Youth Services Department and take place before or after school.

In order to increase Arts programming for its students and to provide the most current Arts focused professional learning opportunities for teachers, SCUSD has thoughtfully pursued partnerships with regional, state, and national arts education leaders such as the Sacramento Municipal Arts Commission (SMAC), The Kennedy Center, California County Superintendents Arts Initiative, CA Alliance for Arts Education, California Office to Reform Education (CORE), and The California Arts Project. These partnerships serve to move the district closer to its goal of providing access to high quality Arts programs and instruction for every SCUSD student.

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II. Driving Governance

In recent years, schools across the United States have substantially reduced Arts programs in response to budget concerns and pressures to improve academic test scores. However, a substantial body of research demonstrates that the various forms of Arts Education including Arts integration, Arts enhancement, and Curricular Arts, can be an asset to districts and schools in achieving educational goals. Stanford Professor Elliot Eisner, argues that a curriculum that includes music, dance, and art is essential in developing critical thinking skills because the arts teach children to make good judgments, to celebrate multiple perspectives, and that problems can have more than one solution. Similarly, Harvard's Project Zero found that through engaging in the Arts, students learn to persist at solving problems, developing craft, reaching beyond one's capacities, and how to embrace the opportunity to learn from mistakes.

Building these competencies are also a focus of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which the district has been in the process of implementing over the past four years as a primary vehicle for actualizing the goals of college and career readiness. Thus, the Arts are a key lever in the district's implementation of the math and ELA/ELD Common Core State standards and will contribute greatly to student success in achieving the vision inherent within the standards. The Arts support the implementation of the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice, the Common Core English language Arts (ELA) Standards, the new California ELD Standards as well as provide students with meaningful content and contexts for the deep analytical thinking and reasoning called for in these standards.

Arts Education is also a key lever in the district's pursuit of closing the opportunity gap and creating greater educational equity. Studies find that students from low socio-economic backgrounds, English learners, and students with special needs - often underserved in public schools - show the greatest relative improvement in academic achievement when participating in the arts. As such, a primary consideration in SCUSD's strategy for implementing Arts experiences and programs has been to increase access in schools that have a dearth of Arts opportunities and where the achievement gap persists.

III. Budget

The budget that supports the district's Visual and Performing Arts initiatives covers various costs including those for professional learning, artists' residencies, arts exposure experiences, middle school music teachers, and maintenance of the district's Music Library. Sources of funding are from LCFF.

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LCFF	\$1,153,313
Total	\$1,153,313

IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures

The goals for Visual and Performing Arts programs are to provide high quality learning experience and increase access to the Arts, particularly for student populations that are traditionally underserved in this area. Moving forward, as the district engages in more strategic planning the district will assess the quality and effectiveness of Visual and Performing Arts initiatives through multiple indicators.

V. Major Initiatives

The district utilizes a varied approach to providing high quality Arts programming to its students, which include such initiatives as curricular arts, arts integration and arts enhancement. In addition, SCUSD engages in key strategies to build teacher capacity to implement high quality instruction. Below is a description of the Arts initiatives and capacity building opportunities.

Community Based Arts Partnerships for Arts Integration and Enhancement

A completion of a district-wide audit/needs assessment of arts programs was conducted in the 2016-17 school year. The audit consisted of a survey of elementary school programs and data garnered from the arts education data project from Create California. This revealed that the greatest need existed at the elementary level. The district acknowledges that early exposure and experiences in the arts at the elementary level contribute to its programs at the secondary level. Thus, strengthening Arts opportunities at the elementary level continues to be a focus, in spite of the limited resources, as indicated by the following initiatives:

- **CLARA** (Claire Raley Studios for the Performing Arts)

The Claire Raley Studios for the Performing Arts (CLARA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission of promoting arts education and long-term artistic sustainability through collaborative community partnerships.

This innovative partnership between seven performing arts and cultural organizations, the City of Sacramento, and the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) attracts CLARA tenants by offering reduced rent (roughly a third of market value) at the decommissioned Fremont School building donated to CLARA by the District. In exchange, tenants provide arts outreach programming to schools in Sacramento City

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Unified School District at no cost to the District.

In July 2018, CLARA will have completed its second full year of program operations, and provided over 3,600 SCUSD students with arts outreach programming and providing a home for seven arts and cultural organizations. CLARA tenants include Alliance Française de Sacramento, the Brazilian Center for Cultural Exchange of Sacramento, Capital Stage, McKeever School of Irish Dance, Sacramento Preparatory Music Academy, Sacramento Ballet, and Southside Unlimited. This diverse collection of arts organizations allows CLARA to provide District students with access and exposure to a broad spectrum of arts disciplines. Outreach programs include in-school artist residencies, performing arts assemblies, scholarships for at-CLARA classes, work-based-learning internship opportunities, a two-week performing arts summer camp and free tickets to live performances.

During the 2017-2018 school year, CLARA provided 1,750 SCUSD students with deep-impact, high-quality arts education programming totaling over 6,500 hours of instruction. All programming is aligned to CCSS, VAPA and NCAS standards. Schools served include Hollywood Park, William Land, Elder Creek, Will C. Wood, Luther Burbank, and West Campus.

- *Any Given Child*

In 2009, Mayor Kevin Johnson partnered with Michael Kaiser of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Sacramento became the first *Any Given Child* City in the nation. The primary goal of the Kennedy Center's *Any Given Child* program is to assist communities in developing a plan for expanded arts education in their schools ensuring equity and access for all students in grades K-8. For the 2017-18 school year in SCUSD, this continuing partnership has brought Kennedy Center professional learning opportunities to 50 teachers, offered 30 Arts exposure experiences to schools, and provided 21 theme based Artist Residencies. During the Artist Residencies, artists and teachers collaborate to provide students a series of classes that address agreed upon curriculum standards in the artist's discipline and in another subject area.

- *Link Up*

In partnership with the Carnegie Hall's *Link Up* national program and the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra, teachers in SCUSD and other area school districts, participate in professional learning designed to teach recorders to third through sixth grade students using the Carnegie Hall Curriculum. The *Link Up* Program provides recorders and music books for students and a teacher guide along with interactive online learning resources for the classroom. Throughout the learning process, members of the Sacramento

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Philharmonic are available for school visits to share with students what it is like to be a professional musician and to be a part of an orchestra. During the 17-18 school year, 1030 students from seven schools, William Land, Leonardo Da Vinci, Father Keith B. Kenny, Peter Burnett, Crocker Riverside, A.M. Winn, and Elder Creek, learned pieces of music that they performed along with the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra. The 2017-18 Link Up: "The Orchestra Moves" culminating concert was held in April at the Community Center Theatre which involved nearly 5000 students and teachers from the Sacramento region.

○ *Overture*

Overture is a collaboration with Sacramento Youth Symphony, the Sacramento State String Project and SCUSD. It is designed to empower students and their families through music. Inspired by the El Sistema movement from Venezuela, *Overture* is a program of social change through music. As students become citizens of the orchestra, they transform into citizens of their community. This program serves approximately 100 students from Father Keith B. Kenny and Pacific elementary schools serving over 100 students. Strings teachers meet with students from for one and a half hour lessons four times a week. No prior music experience is required and instruments are provided at no charge.

Curricular Arts

The district offers an array of Arts programs through elective courses offered in middle and high schools. Students at the high school level must complete ten (10) credits or one (1) course in the Arts as a requirement for graduating from high school. Students are able to select from traditional Arts classes such as music, dance, theatre, and visual art, as well as other courses such as photography, graphic arts, and animation. At the elementary level, some schools provide Arts programming through music and art preparation periods as well as through the integration of arts into other content areas.

Capacity Building

The district has initiated several approaches to building teacher and leader capacity to support and strengthen the quality of Arts instruction and programming at their sites has been through a range of partnerships with local, regional, and national Arts organizations. SCUSD has been able to provide the most current professional learning to its teachers in the areas of state standards.

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VI. Results

Although state assessments and standardized measures to assess student learning in and through the Arts are not available, as the district engages in more arts strategic planning impact indicators will be developed. These will include, but not be limited to:

- The number and percent of students who participate in the arts and improve attendance
- The number and percent of students who participate in the arts and improve behavior
- The number and percent of students who participate in the arts and improve grade level readiness status

The district will also collect perception data through student, teacher, and parent surveys, and evaluations of professional learning. All results will be used to determine if program changes are warranted.

VII. Lessons Learned/Next Steps

Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) recognizes that high quality Arts Education is essential to advancing SCUSD's Equity Access and Social Justice Guiding Principle that *all students are given an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options*. We are taking the following steps to move us closer to our guiding principle:

- Participating in the Sacramento Arts Education Consortium, announced by Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. SCUSD will partner with Sacramento County Office of Education and Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission to support the implementation of Arts Education.
- SCUSD is hiring a VAPA coordinator, who will lead the building of a Strategic Plan for the Arts, in collaboration with our community partners.
- For the 18-19 school year, ensuring that all K-6 students receive 10 – 15 weeks of arts instruction.