

Contra Costa School of Performing Arts

2730

**Contra Costa School
for the Performing Arts
Governing Board Retreat**

**Where We've Been—Where We Are—Where We Need to Go
September 21, 2021 1pm–5pm**

Agenda

- I. Opening Items, Deborah Padberg
- II. Public Comment
- III. Greetings, Dr. Chalwell
 - A. Purpose
 - B. Ongoing Transition
- IV. Discussion:
 - A. Lens on the Beginning of the Year, Dr. Chalwell
 - B. True North, Deborah Padberg
- V. Break
- VI. Break
- VII. Discussion: The Ongoing Transition Process
- VIII. Closing Items
 - A. Retreat Wrap Up
 - B. Adjournment



Session I - Discussion

A. Purpose The purpose of the 2021-2022 Board Retreat is to hold space, time, and focus on the new realities of the policy, political, economic, public health, and socio-cultural landscape that COCOSPAA must navigate and negotiate this school year and moving forward.



Session I - Discussion

B. The Ongoing Transition Process The Executive Director provides an update on the ongoing transition process of SPA from the leadership of Founding Executive Director Neil McChesney, to Dr. Chalwell's leadership as Executive Director. The Update will focus on staffing, resource allocation, new initiatives, stakeholder supports, and leadership support, followed by Q&A.



Session II - Discussion

A. Lens on the Beginning of the School Year The Executive Director provides an update on the BOY: Experiences, Insights, and What we know empirically.



Session II - Discussion

High Level Concerns

Chronically Distracting and Disruptive Use of Cellphones on Campus

- Sexting
- Bullying
- Work Avoidance/Coordination for Work Avoidance
- Anxiety around checking social media/missing social media

Vaping & Other Substance Abuse



Session II - Discussion

Our Students

1. Our students have experienced 18+ months of disruption to their learning, development, and wellbeing.
2. Many have exhibited resilience and fortitude that continue to make us proud.
3. Too many struggled with mental health and socio-emotional wellbeing and are still trying to find their bearing.
4. Way too many were over-exposed to explicitly sexual and/or violent photos, videos, and interactions.
5. Most students feel anxiety over their ability to succeed academically and socially this year.
6. A smaller number are observed to be struggling with substance abuse and other addictive behavior, insufficient diet, sleep dysfunction, and self-regulation
7. A small number are struggling with homelessness, issues related to sexual trauma, and particularly challenging relational dynamics with parents/guardians.



Session II - Discussion

How is the Staff?

1. Grateful to be back on campus and teaching and engaging with students and each other.
2. Staff have experienced 18+ months of disruption to every aspect of daily life.
3. Many have exhibited resilience and fortitude.
4. Too many struggled with mental health and socio-emotional wellbeing and are still trying to find their bearing.
5. Most are in a state of hypervigilance around COVID-19 concerns, and anxiety over the tragic loss of life, globally.
6. Most continue to be concerned about ongoing toxic political discord in the American two-party system on the local, state, and national levels, and its impact on policy and the interactions of individuals in our many communities.
7. All are concerned about the concerning student behaviors being observed.



Session II - Discussion

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Session II - Discussion

B. True North: Mission, Vision, Values The discussion centers SPA's mission, vision, and values as the guiding frameworks for navigating current and future challenges.



Session II - Discussion

Mission

The mission of Contra Costa School of Performing Arts is to provide a distinguished, pre-professional experience in performing arts within a college and career preparatory setting. We believe in fostering a culture of excellence with the core values of rigor, relevance, resilience and relationships.



Session II - Discussion

Vision

SPA will offer quality instruction focusing on real world connections and an engaging, coherent, and rigorous arts-integrated curriculum in every classroom to facilitate student learning, achievement, and college and career readiness;

SPA will embrace and practice a personalized approach to teaching and learning, using the most innovative and transformative tools in educational technology to individualize learning for all students;



Session II - Discussion

Vision

SPA will be a beacon of creative excellence, attracting dynamic and motivated student talent, and enriching the cultural and civic life of the region;

SPA will foster a heightened sense of civic responsibility through a comprehensive character education program focusing on the guiding principles of first-class citizenship;

SPA will employ a positive, professional, and productive educational team that will embrace a culture of collaboration, innovation, evolution, and students' first decision-making.



Session II - Discussion

The Way Forward

- Expanded Communication with families
- Release of updated and expanded Family Handbook with expanded Code of Conduct
- Hire of Campus Supervisor
- Quarterly Wellness Events for Staff
- Engage stakeholders on discussions on:
 - Comprehensive Teaching, Learning, and Wellness approach to addressing substance abuse, mental health, and consent and sexual trauma
 - Grade level wellness days once-per-month
 - Cell Phone Policy
 - Monthly Wellness/Enrichment Events (Grade Level)
 - Vaccination Requirements



Parent Discussion

The Way Forward

- Expanded Communication with families
- Release of updated and expanded Family Handbook with expanded Code of Conduct
- Hire of Campus Supervisor, and filling other staff vacancies
- Quarterly Wellness Events for Staff
- Engage stakeholders on discussions on:
 - Comprehensive Teaching, Learning, and Wellness approach to addressing substance abuse, mental health, and consent and sexual trauma
 - Grade level wellness days once-per-month
 - Cell Phone Policy
 - Monthly Wellness/Enrichment Events (Grade Level)
 - Vaccination Requirements



The Road Ahead

- What do we want to be known for?
- Enrollment Challenges
- We will be hosting performances again!!!!!!
- A more comprehensive focus on wellness this school year.
- Opportunities for Strategic Board Leadership
 - Existing Committees?
 - New Committees?



Meeting Adjourned

