



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nov. 5, 2024

Here We Go Again!
Malibu Abandons Collaborative Unification Process
Make Your Voice Heard!

For the second time this year, the City of Malibu has thrown away hundreds of hours of collaborative work leading to the creation of an independent Malibu Unified School District and instead is reverting back to its fault-riddled original 2017 petition to create a new Malibu school district. SMMUSD is very close to finalizing three agreements to make this dream a reality for both communities!

Please make your opposing view about the petition heard by attending the upcoming county committee hearings on Nov. 8 and 13 in person, via Zoom or sending an email!

SMMUSD is in support of unification, however, the District opposes the 2017 petition. A split into two districts must be accomplished with equity and with a continuation of services in both communities. The petition submitted by the City of Malibu does not address issues of financial equity, protections for diverse and vulnerable students, and fails to meet the nine criteria needed to approve a new school district as per a [study conducted by the county committee in 2021](#).

The only path to a fair and equitable unification is through the mediation process where the needs of all students are being considered. The three agreements are nearly complete, and SMMUSD will continue the process and path toward completion.

SMMUSD must allow for ample time in order to hear the concerns and incorporate valid suggestions from our 1,500 employees who provide education and services, address the comments of 8,500 families, including historically marginalized subgroups and students with special needs, and provide in-depth details of the legal and practical ramifications to both communities of this historic process.

“SMMUSD will not place artificial obstacles or random dates as deterrents in finalizing these agreements in a rigorous manner,” said Jon Kean, School Board Vice President. “What some might see as a short delay others will see as due diligence, proper governance, and a thorough attention to details. We are at the doorstep of completing this arduous process, which was once thought to be impossible. The District will continue to place the needs of all students as our timeline.”

Make your voice heard!

See instructions on page 2

Date: Wednesday ~ November 13, 2024: Public

Notice

Time: 6 p.m.

Attend in person: Location: Malibu High School, 30215 Morning View Drive, Malibu, CA 90265. Speakers are allowed 2 minutes, but your testimony can be shorter than that.

Join The Meeting via Zoom:

<https://lacoedu.zoom.us/j/86198100117?pwd=azZlcHY4b1dqcvBqOVVhem8wVi9CUT09>

Passcode: 028856

Telephone: 1-669-900-9128

Webinar ID: 861 9810 0117

Public comments may be emailed:

Emails must be provided to the County Committee in advance may be emailed to the County Committee Secretary, Mr. Octavio Castelo, at castelo_octavio@lacoedu. Please submit brief emails by tomorrow morning.

This petition is opposed by SMMUSD, the City of Santa Monica, the Santa Monica-Malibu California Teachers Association (SMMCTA) and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), along with other organizations including the Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS), the NAACP, the Santa Monica Democratic Club, Santa Monica Forward and others.

“We encourage parents, staff and community members to make their voices heard during the hearing, or via email,” said Kean. “We are on the right track and the county committee must understand the due diligence required to ensure ~~that~~ this is good for all students.”