



October 11, 2006

Dear Teachers, Staff, Parents and Community Members:

I am writing to update you about Measure BB, which will improve every school/sites within our District. Santa Monica-Malibu Schools are consistently improving – test scores are up, especially among disadvantaged students, and graduation rates are among the highest in the State. Measure BB will help students continue this progress by providing our schools with the necessary resources to ensure our schools remain competitive and that Santa Monica-Malibu schools are eligible to receive millions of dollars in state matching funds.

Due to age, some of our schools need safety improvements. Over the past several years, millions of dollars in education funding cuts have threatened the quality of our California schools. Some of our local neighborhood schools were built in the 1920s and even with recent improvements aging portables now need to be replaced.

As you may know, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School Board placed Measure BB on the November 2006 ballot. Measure BB will reduce overcrowding in schools, remove asbestos and mold, repair leaking roofs and make other overdue and necessary improvements, which would improve health, safety and classroom instruction in our schools.

Over the summer, we conducted a community opinion survey to assess the non-parent community's support for this measure. I am happy to report that the research indicates that voters would potentially support a bond to upgrade aging schools, make them safer, and update them with current technology needs. However, the community is also unaware of some of these needs.

We are engaging in a public information effort over the next several weeks to ensure that residents of Malibu and Santa Monica understand our current needs and are fully aware of the benefits of Measure BB. To ensure the maximum participation possible in this election, we will also be working to implement a strong Parent/HS Senior Voter Registration and Parent/HS Senior Absentee Voting Project.

We appreciate the continued interest, efforts and engagement of all parents, teachers and staff and will continue to keep you updated on our efforts to improve our schools.

Sincerely,

Dianne Talarico
Superintendent

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

1651 Sixteenth Street • Santa Monica • California 90404-3891 • (310) 450-8338 • www.smmusd.org

Board of Education: Emily Bloomfield • Julia Brownley • Oscar de la Torre • José Escarce • Maria Leon-Vazquez • Shane McLoud • Kathy Wisnicki
Dianne Talarico, Superintendent of Schools