



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SMMUSD Board Approves Project Labor Agreement

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education approved a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with an area trade council recently, providing for future apprenticeship programs for students, alumni and community members.

A PLA is a collective bargaining agreement with one or more labor organizations that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for workers on construction projects in the school district and includes provisions for development of a training and apprenticeship program. This PLA is with the Los Angeles / Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council.

The apprenticeship provision will be reviewed by district staff to determine the best method of implementation to meet the needs of students. The program goal will be to provide training and eventual employment for students, alumni and community members, in construction trades. Details of the program and how students can participate will be announced once the program is developed. No information is available at this time.

Other key provisions of the PLA include hiring local residents as workers, with hiring goals outlined, utilizing local contractors, hiring veterans as workers, creation of dispute resolution procedures and including a sufficient number of skilled workers from union halls.

“The Project Labor Agreement will provide our students and alumni with opportunities to learn valuable skills in high paying construction trades, while providing local residents the opportunity to find work in the community,” said SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati. “We are looking forward to working with all involved stakeholders on the implementation of this mutually beneficial agreement.”

The school board initially reviewed the benefits of this type of agreement beginning with an initial presentation in November 2014, and approved commencement of negotiations of the PLA in April 2015. Board sub-committee members Maria Leon-Vazquez, Oscar de la Torre and Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein worked on terms and conditions for the agreement, along with staff and legal counsel.

The school board held a public discussion at the February 16, 2017 regular board meeting. Several community members and union leaders spoke on behalf of the agreement stating that it would support local job growth and also provide an opportunity for students to participate in apprentice and pre-apprentice programs.

The SMMUSD construction projects that apply to the PLA include the upcoming Malibu High School administration, library and building E replacement project, John Adams Middle School performing arts complex and additional projects recommended by the district with the consent of the other parties.

The February 16, 2017 board agenda item, including presentation slides and the agreement are online: <http://fip.smmusd.org/pdf/PLA030217.pdf>.

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