

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: SANDRA LYON
RE: MALIBU UNIFICATION

DISCUSSION
03/01/12
7:10pm

DISCUSSION ITEM NO. D.01

This discussion item will provide the Board of Education an opportunity to hear from Los Angeles County Office of Education representatives regarding a summary of the role and authority of the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization and the criteria that is considered for unification.

This discussion is in response to the City of Malibu's petition with the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) for the purpose of forming a unified school district from territory currently within the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. (The Malibu City Council voted unanimously to move forward with the petition process at its regular meeting on November 28, 2011.)

Public Comments:

- *Laura Rosenthal, Craig Foster, Seth Jacobson, and Hans Laetz encouraged the board to work with the Malibu community and other stakeholders regarding Malibu school district unification.*

Mr. Allen announced that the board had attempted to move tonight's meeting to Malibu, but the Malibu City Council Chambers were not available. Ms. Lyon introduced Matt Spies and Allison Deegan from the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

Mr. Spies summarized the responsibilities of the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization. He explained how a community can submit a petition for unification to the County Committee, the process for approval/denial by the County Committee and the State Board of Education, and the criteria for a petition.

Board members asked about the geographic area and demographics of a new school district, bond and parcel tax implications, staffing rights, petition submission and review timing, personnel obligations of a new district, the election of a Board of Education of a new district, the factors that could influence the county committee's recommendation to the state, and the factors that could influence the state's decision to approve or deny a petition.

The board asked the Mayor of Malibu to comment. Ms. Rosenthal said that the Malibu City Council voted unanimously to work with SMMUSD, the City of Santa Monica, and other stakeholder groups to meet and examine the details of a Malibu unification.

The board directed staff to draft a scope of work that would be needed to analyze a petition and any associated costs. Staff will bring this information forward for board approval. After reviewing the scope of work and associated costs, the board will determine the next steps.