



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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NEWS RELEASE**

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**Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization Votes
to Take Additional Time to Consider the City of Malibu’s Proposal to
Leave the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District**

*Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District officials remain committed to fighting for a
plan that protects students in both communities*

Los Angeles, CA., (September 18, 2021) – The Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (*the Committee*) voted to move the City of Malibu’s proposal into the Committee’s regular review process to provide additional time to assess Malibu City Council’s petition to leave the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and form a new Malibu Unified School District. The vote occurred this afternoon following several hours of testimony and public comment.

Leading into the hearing, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District officials had been in negotiations with City of Malibu officials about how to properly allow the Malibu portion of the school district to leave and form their own district. After years of negotiations, school district officials became less optimistic about an equitable departure, as Malibu’s proposals have consistently revolved around an inequitable distribution of financial resources that would cause irreparable harm to students in both Santa Monica and Malibu.

“As a district, we are not optimistic about any major developments occurring during this additional review period as we have been in talks for years with the City and the City of Malibu’s position has remained consistent in seeking an inequitable distribution of financial resources,” said Jon Kean, President, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education. “Our district will continue fighting for the students of both communities and urge education leaders in Malibu to inject themselves into the city’s process in order to assist them in understanding why their proposal is flawed.”

Recently, the Committee commissioned a report to analyze the feasibility of a separation of the Malibu portion of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District for the purpose of creating a new school district in Malibu. After careful analysis, the report determined that a separation of the Malibu portion as proposed by the city would not be viable, as the city of Malibu’s proposal did not meet eight of the nine criteria required for viability. [Read the staff report.](#)

Leading into the meeting, advocates from throughout the region came together and actively organized against Malibu's proposal on the grounds that it was inequitable and that it would have created a deep racial divide between both communities.

The Committee voted 8-2 to extend the process to consider the City of Malibu's proposal. The regular review process allows the Committee to gather additional information and ask additional questions. The Committee must also hold a public hearing or hearings within 60 days. Additional details will follow regarding the process and how community members may participate in the process.

More information on the process, proposals and reports are online:
www.smmusd.org/MalibuUnification.

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