



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 29, 2018

Message from Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati: Fundraising Structure Change

Dear parents, guardians, staff and community members,

I am writing to you with an important update about fundraising in our district.

After discussions with representatives from our Superintendent's Advisory Committee (SAC), Education Foundation, PTA Council, Malibu PTAs, Malibu principals, several school board members and others, I recommended that, beginning with funds raised for fiscal year 2019-2020, our fundraising structure should be changed so that the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation is responsible for raising money to support board-approved programs for Santa Monica schools and a Malibu-based nonprofit entity is responsible for raising money for board-approved programs for Malibu schools.

At last night's board meeting, the Board of Education approved this fundraising structure. This means that, beginning with our new fiscal year starting July 1, 2018, a Malibu-entity will raise money for Malibu schools while the Education Foundation will raise money for Santa Monica schools.

I believe this change will lead to even stronger support for our schools in both communities. Our district continues its firm commitment to programmatic equity across our schools. The Education Foundation and our Malibu fundraising partner will be charged with raising money for programs that are approved by the SMMUSD Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and staff, after collaboration with SAC. A SAC for each community will be comprised of representatives from all the community's respective schools.

If the most positive outcome occurs and Malibu and/or Santa Monica begin to raise money over and above the amount necessary to pay for programs approved by the School Board, the additional monies may be placed in an endowment, rolled over to help cover the following year's program costs, or become part of a bigger plan to address "aspirational" programs not yet funded or approved.

Thank you to each of you for your continued dedication to our schools and students. Your donations to our schools set Santa Monica and Malibu apart from most districts and allow us to provide outstanding arts, STEM and more for our students. I look forward to our continued success in this new fundraising structure.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ben Drati
Superintendent, SMMUSD

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Board of Education: Oscar de la Torre • Jon Kean • Craig Foster • Maria Leon-Vazquez

Laurie Lieberman • Ralph Mechur • Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

Superintendent: Dr. Ben Drati