



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

December 3, 2018

## Message from Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati: Measure M Passed - What's Next?

Dear Malibu parents and staff,

We are in the final stages of thorough cleaning of schools, following the devastating fire last month, with the plan of opening Juan Cabrillo and Malibu High School next week. Please continue to follow our updates and review the district or school websites for previous communications and posting of clearance testing results.

Much has transpired since Measure M passed last month. I would like to share some very important information regarding the modernization and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) remediation of Malibu High School.

First, I would like to personally thank you for overwhelmingly passing Measure M last month. Your trust and support is very much appreciated as we move forward together to improve our Malibu schools.

We appreciate the hard work of the Measure M campaign committee, the Facilities District Advisory Committee-Malibu (FDAC-M), staff, teachers and community members who worked with residents sharing our plans for this \$195 million bond to improve facilities at all four Malibu schools.

Last spring, key decisions for the future of our Malibu schools were considered and approved by the Board of Education on a 7-0 vote and supported by community members. These included:

- **Measure M:** Move forward with specific bond that can only be used for Malibu schools through the creation of a School Facilities Improvement District (SFID).
- **Malibu pathway realignment:** Juan Cabrillo Elementary School will merge with Point Dume Marine Science School at Point Dume starting in the 2019-20 school year.
  - This will open the adjacent Juan Cabrillo space for the expansion of Malibu Middle and High School.
- **Malibu High School master campus plan:** The district has started holding meetings with staff, teachers and community groups to create a long-term facilities and educational specifications plan for Malibu Middle and Malibu High School.
- **Pause PCB remediation:** Passing Measure M and re-building the campus provides an opportunity to replace buildings completely removing the PCBs rather than remediation.
  - This involves going to federal court this month and asking for an extension to court ordered remediation of PCBs due Dec. 31, 2019 outlined in *America Unites vs SMMUSD*. This decision was discussed and agreed to by FDAC-M, teachers, and staff. Support for the action was voiced by community leaders and members at the May 3, 2018 school board meeting held at Malibu City Hall. ([Video](#), item



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starts at approximately 1:40 minute; [BOE minutes](#) for this multi-item discussion). The extension saves approximately \$10 million in costs. Modernization and building replacement would still occur within five years. Without the extension we would *only* be remediating, which is due by Dec. 31, 2019. The interest of the community is to remove PCBs throughout the site instead of just remediating, and this plan would achieve that goal. There is some expediency to this request due to the time needed to meet the court order if our request is denied. As we previously planned, this request was made soon after Measure M was approved.

- We are committed to moving students and staff out of impacted facilities as soon as we can. We will accomplish this by moving classes to:
  - the new middle school building on the MHS campus, scheduled to open Spring of 2019;
  - Cabrillo facilities created through moving Cabrillo students and staff to Point Dume for the 2019-20 school year;
  - the new administrative building, currently under construction;
  - Remediating specific facilities to reduce exposure.

The specific details regarding how we will move students and staff will be developed as part of the MHS master campus plan.

- Best Management Practices cleaning and testing continues. PCB results continue to reflect health protective levels for teachers and students.
- All past and current PCB testing results are easily accessed on the home page of [Malibu High School](#) through the green [School Modernization Update](#) button, then click on the green [Environmental Reports](#) button.
- Accountability measures are in place with full public view of plans, testing and progress.

We will continue to be transparent and collaborative with the community regarding our plans to provide all Malibu students with a high-quality education and whole child experience. We have great momentum to move forward with our modernization plans with the health and safety of our students and staff in mind.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati  
Superintendent