



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 15, 2020**

Emergency Board of Education Meeting: March 16, 2020

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education will hold an emergency meeting on Monday, March 16, 2020, at 4:30 p.m., at the district office: 1651 16th St., Santa Monica, CA.

The purpose of the meeting is to allow the Board of Education the opportunity to adopt an emergency resolution declaring the existence of an ongoing public health emergency within the District arising from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The resolution also authorizes the Superintendent to take all appropriate action to respond to the pandemic. The full resolution is attached to the agenda item.

The agenda can be found online at:

https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=36030435&MID=2579.

Please note: In an attempt to control the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and to reduce and minimize the risk of infection, Governor Newsom issued an executive order on March 12, 2020, issuing guidance “limiting attendance at public assemblies, conferences, or other mass events.” In this executive order, the Governor waived the Open Meeting Brown Act requirements that require a majority of board members to physically participate in a public board meeting at the same location. This means that board members will be allowed to participate in board meetings during this time of pandemic remotely (via teleconference).

SMMUSD is doing its part to help in the efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by encouraging members of the public to watch the Board of Education meetings live online at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4V0jOEL4JMCCeIkGA7AJpA>. Once the meeting starts, the video link will read, “Live,” and viewers will be able to click on the “Live” link to watch the meeting. The capability to watch board meetings live online has been in place for a while now.

The district is legally obligated to provide one public meeting space for members of the public to attend the board meeting. This location is the district office (1651 16th St., Santa Monica, CA). In light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, however, and given the limited space available in the board room, the district will limit in-person attendance at the March 19, 2020, meeting of the Board of Education to 15 members of the public at any one time. We ask for the school community’s understanding that **the intent is not to limit public participation, but rather to protect public health by following the recommendations given by the Governor and**

California and Department of Public Health on March 12, 2020, that public gatherings should be held only in venues that allow social distancing of six feet per person.

While the district board room will be open for the public, **PLEASE** consider watching the meeting live from home at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4V0jOEL4JMCcEIkGA7AJpA>. We are doing our part to help in the reduction of the spread of COVID-19. In-person public comment will be allowed **as required by law**. If members of the public would like to contact the Board of Education about an upcoming agenda, please do so at <http://bit.ly/2QhkchY>. These comments will be shared with the board members prior to the board meeting. **If you wish for your written comment to be read aloud, please indicate this specifically in your communication. Requests for written comments to be read aloud will be honored, subject to the Board's usual time limits on public comment.**

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