



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SMMUSD Board of Education Gives Go-Ahead for Malibu Middle and High School Campus Plan

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education gave district staff the go-ahead to execute a [campus plan](#) for the Malibu Middle and High School site that will build 21st-century learning facilities while optimizing use of the district’s extraordinarily located Malibu property.

The plan features separate areas and distinct identities for middle and high schools with a large U-shaped drop-off quad, which community members have lauded for the potential to reduce traffic along Morning View Drive.

With the Board’s direction at the November 7, 2019 regular meeting held in Malibu, the district will now hire a project architect to begin designing the first phase.

The plan will result in the removal of old buildings and the construction of the new campus over the next eight to ten years. The first phase will build most of the new high school and will be funded by Measure M, a \$195 million Malibu-only bond measure approved by voters in 2018. District officials said construction could begin as early as 2022.



Part of the former Juan Cabrillo Elementary School site will be used for the high school buildings. Cabrillo’s students were merged with former Point Dume Marine Science School students this year to form the new Malibu Elementary School.

Noemi Avila-Zamudio, deputy bond program manager, lauded the inclusiveness of the process that involved more than 50 meetings with internal and external stakeholders. “We listened to the community and that showed in every one of the iterations of this plan,” she said. “That has allowed us to build interest and it has allowed us to build trust.”

Also as part of the process, a survey was conducted of current Malibu students, parents, staff

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and community members asking, among other things, what should be prioritized. Portions of that research, as well as heavy input from the steering committee, the site planning committee, and the Malibu Facility District Advisory Committee, all went into the plan that was developed by the master plan architect, LPA.

Making the campus a community resource was an important goal of the process. The plan carves out 450 parking spaces for staff, students and the community. It also includes improved parking and access to community resources like the planned performing arts center, athletic fields and the pool. Board members particularly liked the creation of a public trail system (outside the secure perimeter) that would be educational and take advantage of the campus' expansive views.

As for those views: It is envisioned that an open eating area at the high school will take advantage of the campus' prime ocean view and sunsets to the west northwest.

Construction on a new middle school building was completed in time for the beginning of school in August, and major progress is being made on a new administration, library and science lab / classroom building that will be complete in August of 2020.

Questions can be directed to Barbara Chiavelli, Sr. Design Manager, at bchiavelli@smmusd.org

Written by Chris Clonts, communications specialist

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