

**For a Listing of Upcoming Board Meetings See Page vi of this Table of Contents**  
**Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**MINUTES**

**July 19, 2007**

A special meeting of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education was held on Thursday, July 19, 2007, in the District Administrative Offices: 1651 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Monica, CA. The Board of Education called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. in the Board Room.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Roll Call
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*President Wisnicki explained the amended process for board member selection in Discussion Item D.01. Following this, it was moved by Ms. Maria Leon-Vazquez, second by Mr. Barry Snell, and voted 5/0 (Dr. Jose Escarce was absent) to approve the amended agenda.*

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A.01 Approval of Minutes ..... 1  
*There are no minutes to approve.*

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public Comments is the time when members of the audience may address the Board of Education on items not scheduled on the meeting's agenda. All speakers are limited to three (3) minutes. When there are a large number of speakers, the Board may reduce the allotted time to two (2) minutes per speaker. The Brown Act (Government Code) states that Board members may not engage in discussion of issues raised during "VIII, Public Comments" except to ask clarifying questions, make a brief announcement, make a brief report on his or her own activities, or to refer the matter to staff. This Public Comment section is limited to 20 minutes. If the number of persons wishing to address the Board of Education exceeds the time limit, additional time will be provided in Section XVI, CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.

**MAJOR and DISCUSSION Items**

*As a general rule, items under MAJOR and DISCUSSION will be listed in order of importance as determined by the President, Vice President and Superintendent. Individual Board members may move to request a change in the order prior to consideration of any Major item. The Board may also move any of these items out of order to be heard immediately following PUBLIC COMMENTS if it appears that there is special interest by the public or as a courtesy to staff members making presentations to the Board.*

**V. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

These items are submitted for information (FIRST READING) and discussion. Action will generally be considered at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

- D.01 In-Person Interviews of Applicants to Fill Vacancy on Board of Education ..... 2-4

**VI. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

These items are submitted by individual Board members for information or discussion, as per Board Policy 8320(b).

**VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Board Member Comments is the section where a Board member may make a brief announcement or make a brief report on his or her own activities relative to Board business. There can be no discussion under "BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS."

**VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Items for future consideration will be listed with the projected date of consideration. The Board of Education will be given any backup information available at this time.

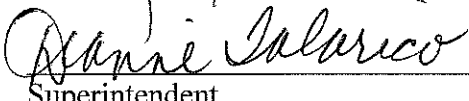
**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Oscar de la Torre, seconded by Ms. Maria Leon-Vazquez, and voted 5/0 (Mr. Jose Escarce was absent) to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 9, 2007**, at **5:30 p.m.** at the **District Administrative Offices**, 1651 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Monica, CA.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

8/9/07

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

**Meetings held at Santa Monica City Hall are broadcast live - City TV2, Cable Channel 16.**

**Meetings held at the District Office and in Malibu are taped and rebroadcast  
in Santa Monica on CityTV2, Cable Channel 20 - Check TV listing.**

**Meetings are rebroadcast in Malibu on Government Access Ch. 3 every Saturday at 8pm.**

# SMMUSD Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2007-2008

## Public Meetings begin at 5:30pm

July through December 2007					
Month	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	Special Note:
July		7/12 DO	7/19* DO		* Special meeting
August		8/9 DO		8/23 DO	
September	9/6 DO			9/27 DO	
October	10/4 M		10/18 SM		
November	11/1 M		11/15 SM	11/30 WHERE (5th Thurs)	Thanksgiving 11/22-23
December		12/13 DO		winter break	Usually one mtg. (Three wks in Dec. before winter break)
<b>December 24 – 31: Winter Break</b>					
January through June 2008					
<b>January 1 – 4: Winter Break</b>					
January	winter break		1/17 DO	1/31 WHERE (5th Thurs)	
February	2/7 M		2/21 SM		
March		3/13 DO	spring break	spring break	Stairway 3/6 & 3/7
<b>March 17 – 28: Spring Break</b>					
April	4/3 DO		4/17 SM		
May	5/1 M		5/15 SM	5/29 WHERE (5th Thurs)	
June	6/5 DO			6/26 DO	Last day of school 6/20

District Office (DO): 1651 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Monica.

Malibu City Council Chambers (M): 23815 Stuart Ranch Road, Malibu, CA

Santa Monica City Council Chambers (SM): 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica.

**Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District  
Board of Education  
July 19, 2007**

**I      CALL TO ORDER**

**4:10 p.m.**

**A      Roll Call**

Kathy Wisnicki – President  
Oscar de la Torre – Vice-President

Jose Escarce – *excused absence*  
Maria Leon-Vazquez  
Kelly Pye  
Barry Snell

Student Board Members

*Due to the end of the school year, there were no students board members present.*

**B      Pledge of Allegiance**

*Led by Mr. Oscar de la Torre.*

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FROM: DIANNE TALARICO  
RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION  
07/19/07

RECOMMENDATION NO. A.01

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following Minutes:

*There are no minutes for approval.*

MOTION MADE BY:  
SECONDED BY:  
STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE:  
AYES:  
NOES:

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## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

DISCUSSION

07/19/07

FROM: DIANNE TALARICO / TIMOTHY R. WALKER

**UPDATE**

RE: IN-PERSON INTERVIEWS OF APPLICANTS TO FILL VACANCY ON  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

DISCUSSION ITEM NO. D.01

Due to a board member relocating out of the jurisdictional boundaries of the school district, there is now a vacancy on the Board of Education. At the June 28, 2007, board meeting, the Board of Education agreed to accept applications from the public to fill the vacancy, with a submission deadline of July 9, 2007. At the July 12, 2007, board meeting, the Board of Education then agreed to hold a special board meeting for in-person interviews on July 19, 2007, at 4:00 pm.

Two paper applications were received by the July 9, 2007, deadline.

In an effort to develop a standard list of questions to ask the applicants, each board member created and submitted one question to the Superintendent. These questions were to be unique from the questions found on the paper application. **Each candidate will be interviewed individually.** Each board member will ask ~~their one question of both~~ **each** candidates ~~in alternating fashion.~~ Each candidate will have three minutes to answer the question during the in-person interview. The Board President will act as the moderator. Follow-up questions may be asked only for clarification of the original question. No other questions may be asked that were not on the standard list of questions submitted to the Superintendent.

Board members will be provided with a rubric on which to rate each applicant based on his/her answers to the standard list of questions. **Following each oral interview, there will be a 10-minute break for board members to fill out the rubric.**

Following the in-person interviews at the July 19, 2007, meeting, board members will ~~engage in public discussion and then~~ select the candidate who will fill the current vacancy on the Board of Education **based on the result of the tally of points from the paper application and the oral questions.** The candidate chosen by the Board will be officially appointed at the next meeting of the Board of Education.

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*President Wisnicki announced that the City of Santa Monica informed the Board of Education that the Superintendent, as Secretary of the Board, can swear in the new board member.*

*President Wisnicki thanked both candidates for their willingness to serve and their thoughtful applications.*

*Ms. Nicole Picard and Mr. Ralph Mechur were each asked five (5) questions (attached) and given three (3) minutes to answer each one. Each candidate was also given the opportunity to provide an opening and closing statement.*

*Following the individual oral interviews, each board member tallied his/her scores and added them to the scores they had given the paper application for each candidate. The totals were then checked by Deputy Superintendent Tim Walker. At the conclusion of this process, the board recommended that Ralph Mechur be appointed to the Board of Education at the next board meeting.*

*Each board member congratulated Mr. Mechur and thanked him for his willingness to serve. Additionally, commendations were given to Ms. Picard for her participation in the process and all of her service to the district. She was encouraged to continue her involvement with our schools, and to consider applying for the Board of Education again in the future.*

*Mr. Frank Torres, on behalf of SEIU, congratulated Mr. Mechur.*

**Standardized list of Questions**  
**In-Person Interview to Fill Vacancy on Board of Education**

**Question #1**

Studies have shown that there is a big drop off in children's interest in reading from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. What ideas would you like to see our school district develop to increase student's interest in reading?

**Question #2**

How would you respond to community perceptions that our three middle schools are not of equal quality? How can we strengthen our middle schools to deliver a high quality education to all students?

**Question #3**

In your opinion, how does institutionalized racism reveal itself in the district, and what are possible solutions?

**Question #4**

Finances will always be a driving issue in our District, what are your thoughts in terms of other streams of revenue, other than city and parent support that could generate monies for the district?

**Question #5**

The primary responsibilities of the board are policy setting and ensuring the financial health of the District. Describe your idea of governance and the role of a board member in fulfilling these responsibilities.