



October 17, 2013

Message from the Superintendent
Santa Monica Malibu Unified School
Contact: Sandra Lyon, (310) 450-8338

The Malibu Environmental Task Force Held Its First Meeting

Today's meeting of the Malibu Schools Environmental Task Force, created to examine and oversee the implementation of the environmental evaluation at the schools in Malibu, was successful and productive. Thirteen representatives from the school community, including teachers, staff members, a student and parent representatives, met with Board President Laurie Lieberman, environmental consultant Mark Katchen, the District's Associate Superintendent Jan Maez, and me to outline the timeline and action plan for the environmental evaluation. The task force agreed to the following points:

- The testing protocols must yield scientifically solid, reliable data that will guide proper conclusions and any necessary action.
- There is a tremendous sense of urgency to gather data, and answer questions and concerns, but the task force agreed that adequate time must be provided to ensure the process is inclusive of community input.
- Immediate action will be taken to:
 - Remove visible mold in Room 12 at Juan Cabrillo Elementary School
 - Release the report of the latest mold sampling at MHS
 - Post the asbestos management plan for MHS and Juan Cabrillo
- The public can submit questions to the task force at mhsfaq@smmusd.org. Fact sheets will be developed in response to community questions, in both English and Spanish and posted to:
<http://www.smmusd.org/PublicNotices/Malibu.html>.
- The task force will reconvene next Thursday, Oct. 31, at 10 a.m. at Malibu High School, and will continue to meet weekly as necessary.
- At next week's meeting, they will review a draft evaluation plan, with plans to begin implementation by October 31, 2013.

Since Monday, Mark Katchen met with staff at both Malibu High School and Juan Cabrillo Elementary School to gather input and he performed a walkthrough of both campuses to provide input to develop the evaluation plan. Additionally, he is

reviewing all technical reports, including the Arcadis report, to advise future testing and to address community concerns.

Elaine René-Weisman, the Malibu community liaison, reported to the task force that she attended the parent meeting, and was pleased to hear that the expert who met with the parents stressed the importance of gathering one set of data for analysis. To this point, Mark Katchen and the task force agreed they will cooperate with any expert the parent group might hire, but agreed that the ideal approach would be for the parents to bring their concerns and desires to the task force, through Elaine René-Weissman.

The District seeks to gather all facts as expeditiously as possible, but with careful consideration to provide time for community review and input.