



November 8, 2021

Superintendent's Message: Join Us at the Upcoming County Committee Hearing to Oppose City of Malibu's Unification Petition, Nov. 10, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, Students and Community Members,

A third hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 at 6 p.m. for the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization to gather more information and hear from the public on Malibu City Council's petition to separate from SMMUSD to form its own school district.

The Committee has previously heard public testimony for and in opposition to the separation, while continuing its review of a feasibility report prepared by the Los Angeles County Office of Education that clearly reflects the harm that will be caused to Santa Monica families and stakeholders if the City of Malibu's proposal for unification is approved by the Committee. [Read the staff report.](#) [\(Spanish\)](#) [Read my letter summarizing the report from Sept. 10, 2021.](#)

The Committee voted to take additional time to consider the proposal in lieu of making a decision at the September hearing.

The Nov. 10 hearing, open to the public via [Zoom](#), will provide an additional opportunity for the Committee to review and consider public comments and further study the data that clearly discourages such an approval as the petition is currently presented.

SMMUSD officials have been in negotiations with Malibu City officials about how to properly allow the Malibu portion of the school district to leave and form their own district. After years of negotiations, school district officials became less optimistic about an equitable departure, as Malibu's proposals have consistently revolved around an inequitable distribution of financial resources that would cause irreparable harm to students in both Santa Monica and Malibu.

While we continue to request that the Committee deny the petition our door is open to unification. We must ensure that students in both communities may continue to enjoy the high quality education that SMMUSD is known for. We need your help to oppose this petition. If you are interested in participating in opposing the Malibu City Council's Petition, please fill out and submit this form and we will contact you: <https://bit.ly/OpposePetition111021>

Find: [Hearing information and contact info to submit an email to the committee.](#)

The Committee will describe next steps in this process during this meeting, with regard to approving or denying the petition.

More information on the process, proposals and reports are online:
www.smmusd.org/MalibuUnification.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent