



## SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Santa Monica-Malibu USD Board of Education Unanimously Approves Malibu Unification Agreements**

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board of Education took a decisive and historic step voting 7-0 to approve three critical agreements paving the way for the separation of SMMUSD into two independent entities: the Santa Monica Unified School District (SMUSD) and the Malibu Unified School District (MUSD).

The unanimous vote in support of unification occurred during a special board meeting on Monday, Dec. 1, 2025, and signals the culmination of years of dedicated negotiations between the SMMUSD unification subcommittee and the City of Malibu. The approved documents, including the Property Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement, the Operational Transfer Agreement, and the Joint Powers Agreement, establish the framework for the equitable division of resources, assets, and liabilities to ensure the fiscal health and educational success of both successor districts.

SMMUSD Board Member Jon Kean, who also serves on the unification subcommittee, spoke to the guiding principles of the agreements: "As for the agreements, I will be voting in favor of them. They meet our two most important criteria; both cohorts of students will benefit, and each cohort will receive a comparable education on the last day of SMMUSD as they will on day one of SMUSD and MUSD," said Kean. "Delivering local control while not harming students is driving my decision."

Malibu Mayor Marianne Riggins highlighted the cooperative effort that led to this breakthrough: "I just want to say thank you; everybody has put in so much time and effort and work. It is great that we are here now and I just really want to thank everybody for taking this next step," Mayor Riggins stated during public comment.

#### **Next Steps for Unification**

The school board's approval is a significant milestone, but the process continues. The City of Malibu will now review the same three agreements for its final approval. The Malibu City Council is scheduled to discuss and vote on the unification agreements at its upcoming meeting on Monday, Dec. 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. Malibu City Hall, 23825 Stuart Ranch Rd., Malibu, and on Zoom. The agenda and Zoom link will be posted 72 hours in advance on the [City's website](#).

If approved by the Malibu City Council, both bodies will then work together to pursue the necessary special legislation and state approvals required to formally establish the two independent school districts.

The community can view the SMMUSD meeting recording, the board agenda item, and the full presentation of the Dec. 1, 2025, special school board meeting:

- [Meeting Video](#)
- [Board Agenda Item](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- SMMUSD unification webpage with the three agreements: <https://www.smmusd.org/our-district/superintendent/malibu-unification>

*Written by Gail Pinsker*

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