

**POSITION PAPER
LOCAL CONTROL FOR MALIBU PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Whereas...

1. The existence of a Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is a historical anachronism, a union of two non-contiguous, dissimilar communities illegal to create under current law;
2. The community of Malibu has evolved into a populous self-governing city more than 20 years old, with a politically active, informed, and engaged citizenry;
3. The communities of Santa Monica and Malibu have distinctively different priorities for their local schools;
4. The population difference between Santa Monica and Malibu is such that Santa Monica voters control educational policies in Malibu even when Malibu voters cast super-majority votes for candidates and on issues;
5. The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School Board does not provide the citizens of Malibu with effective local representation due to the fact that the board operates almost always without a single Malibu representative and, on those rare occasions when Malibu residents have had an elected representative, Malibu has never had more than one of seven votes;
6. The board and administration of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District are often at odds with Malibu parents and residents on a host of vital issues, with Malibu residents having no effective recourse through either election or governance;
7. Current policies of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District are undermining the priorities and programs which Malibu parents have worked for many years with their principals to define and to fund;
8. Local control would result in a net increase in funding for both Malibu Schools and Santa Monica schools;
9. A locally-elected school board in Malibu would be better able to manage the many Malibu-specific interests and concerns of Malibu families and schools;
10. Santa Monica residents would never tolerate control of its schools by a geographically distant community six times its size with distinctively different demographics, educational priorities, community identity, and political dynamics;
11. Local responsibility and control are universally acknowledged to be critical features of public school vitality and success;
12. Many families would return their children to Malibu's public schools if local control and funding were in place;
13. Community pride and cohesion, electoral health, and property values in both the Malibu and Santa Monica communities would be enhanced through local control; and
14. A host of current studies by reputable authorities have shown the path by which the district can be separated into two viable districts, both with local control;

Now, therefore, my pledge as a Malibu city council member during the 2014 calendar year and beyond is to...

1. Declare the creation of an independent Malibu Unified School District to be an urgent and compelling community priority;
2. Call upon the board of the Santa Monica-Malibu School District to immediately engage in a friendly and expedited process to support and facilitate the creation of a separate Malibu Unified School District;
3. Actively campaign in Malibu as a concerned citizen and community leader for the passage of measures endorsed by AMPS that may appear on the ballot to effect the creation of a separate District;
4. Formally request that the Santa Monica City Council adopt a similar resolution calling upon the board of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District to recognize the financial and educational benefits of separation to both communities and to immediately engage in a friendly and expedited process to support and facilitate the creation of a separate Malibu Unified School District;
5. Formally request that the Santa Monica City Council and its members join the Malibu City Council in actively supporting the passage of measures endorsed by AMPS that may appear on the ballot to effect the creation of a separate Malibu Unified School District; and
6. Advocate at the county and state levels to facilitate independence and request that the Santa Monica City Council and its members do the same.

Name (printed)

Signature

Date