



# City of Malibu News

23825 Stuart Ranch Road • Malibu, California • 90265-4861  
Phone (310) 456-2489 • Fax (310) 456-3356 • [www.malibucity.org](http://www.malibucity.org)

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## **Statement by Mayor Rick Mullen on SMMUSD Decision March 21, 2018**

(Malibu, CA) – The City of Malibu, its Mayor, Council Members, and Staff, have heard well the desires and have been working hard on behalf of its citizens to gain permanent local educational determination, creating a locally governed, independent Malibu Unified School District. We have worked in good faith with the SMMUSD and its stakeholders to explore many options over many years.

These efforts have only underscored and more clearly defined the benefits for all for Malibu to have its own school district. It is in the best interest of Malibu children, their education and opportunities to attend local community schools that are supported and governed by – and closely integrated with – their local community and their fellow Malibu neighbors.

We are cautiously optimistic for and pleased by the SMMUSD proposal because it offers a genuine path to creating an independent MUSD.

Although concerned about the details of the SMMUSD proposal, particularly its extremely lengthy financial mechanisms, we are encouraged by and focused on its agreement to creating an independent Malibu Unified School District. Therefore, in principle, we are open to reviewing the proposal and working cooperatively to reach workable solutions that work towards the establishment of an independent locally governed Malibu Unified School District.

What motivates us to explore this framework is our core belief that we cannot place a price on our children or their future. Instead we are focused on what is best for them and their families, their education, their future, and the integrated quality of our Malibu community as a whole. This is why we are willing to highlight a workable path to an independent MUSD, rather than walk away over the number of years financial arrangements may be shared.

We'll need to understand better the details of the proposal and how it does not create burdens that are more than what Malibu citizens would bear if the status quo were maintained. But we are open to understanding and, if need be, to finding creative ways to meet both sides' objectives and we will always keep the needs and the best interests of our children in the forefront. The City Council needs to approve the next steps to be taken.

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