



# Santa Monica Malibu Schools

Extraordinary Public Education

February 19, 2009

Open letter to the Malibu community

RE: Malibu Middle and High School Campus Improvement Project  
Public Workshop: Field Lighting and Educational Uses  
Monday March 2, 2009  
Malibu High School Library  
6:30pm to 8pm

Dear Malibu Community,

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District would like to extend an open invitation for community participation in a workshop related to field lighting and educational uses at the Malibu High School campus. We ask that participants bring an open mind and willingness to listen and participate in a discussion regarding the needs of our students, including athletic facilities.

The District has conducted a series of public meetings providing a forum for discussion between the District and the Malibu community to better understand the community's concerns as well as develop approaches to the planned Measure BB improvements of the Malibu campus. At the February 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting, a discussion item was presented to the Board and the public summarizing the project status, public meeting process, and the environmental and community concerns.

It is apparent that although significant progress has been made on the traffic and parking topics with appropriate proposed improvements, the lighting of the athletic field is both a contentious and divisive issue for the community and the District. In the previous public meetings, there was examination of potential uses related to the athletic facility improvements. This included a possible extension of the existing Joint Use Agreement with the City of Malibu and other potential users. This resulted in a potential lighted field demand in excess of 200 nights a year.

To provide better clarity of the educational uses intended, including Title 9 compliance, the District will sponsor this workshop focusing solely on current and anticipated educational related uses of the athletic field improvements. This will include the addition of synthetic turf as well as permanent field lighting. The District will no longer pursue any expansion of the Joint Use Agreement with the City beyond current uses, which does not include use of the football field.

At this time, it is anticipated that the workshop will provide detailed planning for educational uses, number of nights and hours of operations of the field lights, and a structured basis for monitoring actual use.

The District appreciates the overall support for public education throughout the District. We welcome continued participation from the Malibu community so that the Measure BB projects will make a major contribution towards the renewal and long term welfare of our facilities and support a comprehensive education program for the children of the Malibu community.

Sincerely,



Tim Cuneo, Superintendent

## Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

1651 Sixteenth Street • Santa Monica • California 90404-3891 • (310) 450-8338 • [www.smmusd.org](http://www.smmusd.org)

**Board of Education:** Ben Allen • Oscar de la Torre • José Escarce • Maria Leon-Vazquez • Ralph Mechur • Kelly Pye • Barry Snell

Tim Cuneo, Superintendent of Schools