

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Emergency Resolution
Reduced Days of Operation or Attendance Due to
Emergency Conditions: October 2019**

WHEREAS, beginning in early October, Southern California Edison (SCE) started notifying SMMUSD on a daily basis that certain power grids in Malibu *could* be shut off with very little warning to prevent wildfires during significant Santa Ana wind events that month; and

WHEREAS, the schools in Malibu – western Malibu in particular – have limited points of ingress and egress as well as unreliable cellular service, making transportation and communication a challenge even in ideal weather conditions with the power operating; and

WHEREAS, with the safety of students and staff as one of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School's District's primary concerns, the school district worked closely with the City of Malibu and SCE to monitor the anticipated heavy winds, potential power shut-offs, and hazardous wildfire conditions in order to determine whether or not school should be in session in Malibu; and

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2019, all four schools – Webster ES, Malibu ES, Malibu MS, and Malibu HS – as well as the preschool and before- and after-school programs in Malibu were closed out of an abundance of caution due to hazardous wildfire conditions (the forecast for a significant Santa Ana wind event, high temperatures, and low humidity) and possible SCE Public Safety Power Shutoffs affecting those four schools; and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2019, in the early morning hours, a fire broke out near the Getty Center in West Los Angeles along the 405 freeway, causing 1) the freeway – a main artery of transportation for SMMUSD employees into Santa Monica – to be shut down in both directions, 2) a small portion of families attending SMMUSD schools to be evacuated, and 3) extremely poor air quality and falling ash throughout Santa Monica, given the westerly direction of the strong winds; and

WHEREAS, following extensive EOC discussions with public agencies in Malibu and Santa Monica regarding the continued weather and power conditions affecting Malibu and the new air quality and transportation issues facing Santa Monica with the Getty Fire, SMMUSD made the decision to close all of its TK-12 schools, preschool programs, and before- and after-school programs on October 28, 2019:

- Santa Monica Schools: Edison Language Academy, Franklin ES, Grant ES, McKinley ES, John Muir ES, Roosevelt ES, Will Rogers Learning Community, Santa Monica Alternative School House (SMASH), John Adams MS, Lincoln MS, Olympic HS, and Santa Monica HS
- Malibu Schools: Webster ES, Malibu ES, Malibu MS, and Malibu HS; and

WHEREAS, in the late afternoon of October 29, 2019, the City of Malibu alerted its residents to be prepared to evacuate for the next couple of days if the extreme Santa Ana wind event and hazardous fire conditions led to wildfires in Malibu and the surrounding mountains; and

WHEREAS, given this urgent message from the City of Malibu, the weather conditions, and the continued SCE Public Safety Power Shutoffs, SMMUSD decided to close all four

schools, preschool programs, and before- and after-school programs in Malibu, on October 30 and 31; and

WHEREAS, the CDE also states that whenever a contractor's days of operation are reduced for any of the above reasons, and the reduction in days of operation did not require the contractor to reduce staff through layoffs or unpaid furloughs, the contractor's governing board must adopt a resolution that clearly and fully describes the nature of the emergency condition as well as the specific effect on program operations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education that SMMUSD, a contractor with the CDE for state-funded child care and development programs, should not be penalized for incurred program expenses nor in subsequent annual budget allocations for either partial or complete program closures in October 2019, as explained in detail above, due to:

- the imminence of a major health or safety hazard, as determined by the local health department or law enforcement agency;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education directs staff to forward this approved resolution to the appropriate Field Services Office Consultant in the Early Education and Support Division (EESD) in the CDE.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education on this 6th day of February 2020 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Mr. Kean, Board President

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent