

Santa Monica Malibu Council of PTAs
Resolution on SMMUSD Review and Evaluation of
Special Education Program

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Malibu Council of PTAs advocates for the health, welfare and education of all students of the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Malibu Council of PTAs firmly believes that increased funding for our schools is necessary to improve the educational opportunity and experience of all children; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Malibu Council of PTAs has heard the concerns raised by Santa Monica City Council members and members of the Special Education district advisory committee regarding the existing special education dispute resolution process and confidentiality provisions included in settlement agreements resulting from that process; and

WHEREAS, we believe that a review of the district's special education program will provide excellent transparency for this multifaceted program, and will help the Board of Education and the interested public understand how it might be improved; and

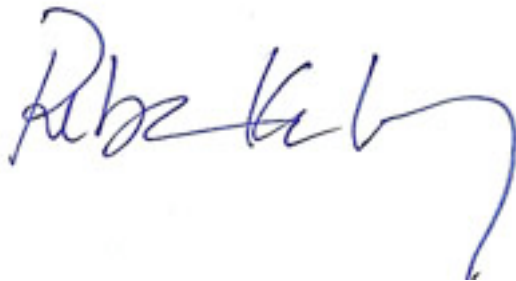
WHEREAS, we believe that such a review is the most responsible course of action to provide all necessary data for improving the program, including bringing to light potential alternatives to the existing dispute resolution processes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Santa Monica Malibu Council of PTAs supports the Santa Monica Malibu Board of Education's stated and written commitment to initiate a comprehensive evaluation and review of its special education program including the dispute resolution process and confidentiality requirements; and
2. The Santa Monica Malibu Council of PTAs recommends that said evaluation be conducted by an independent third party (such as an equivalent of FCMAT in this area); and
3. The Santa Monica Malibu Council of PTAs will closely monitor and participate in this review to the fullest extent possible to ensure the district is addressing the interests of our special education students to the best of its ability.

Date: June 12, 2007

Authorized Signature:



Rebecca Kennerly, Santa Monica Malibu PTA Council President