

Re: Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2074 through 2083.

From Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.gov>
Date Tue 3/24/2026 4:35 PM
To 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc Rennae Meno <rennae.meno@guamlegislature.gov>

Håfa Adai,

Received, and thank you.



Elijah Untalan
Clerks Office

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Voice: (671) 472-3465/3460 Fax: (671) 472-3524

guamlegislature.gov

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Thank you

From: 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 4:00 PM
To: Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>
Subject: Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2074 through 2083.

Håfa Adai Clerks Office,

Please see attached, **Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2074 through 2083** for processing:

✓	38GL-26-2074	Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities	Acting Director Designation of Reuel Drilon, for the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID) from March 27, 2026 to April 3, 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2075	Department of Education	Guam Education Board Meeting Packet for March 17, 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2076	Department of Public Health and Social Services	Guam Board of Examiners for Dentistry Regular Board Meeting Packet for March 18, 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2077	Guam Solid Waste Authority	Board Meeting Packet for March 19, 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2078	CHamoru Land Trust Commission	Board Meeting Packet for March 19, 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2079	Office of the Governor of Guam	Prior Year Obligations to pay The Pacific Community in the total amount of \$66,903.21*
✓	38GL-26-2080	Office of Public Accountability - Guam	OPA Report No. 26-03 March 2026, Guam Department of Education Accountability of Textbooks Investigative Audit for October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2025*
✓	38GL-26-2081	A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority	Sole Source Procurement/Emergency Procurement- February 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2082	A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority	Small Purchases and Construction for the month of February 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2083	Guam Housing Corporation	Unaudited Statement of Revenue and Expenditure Report for February 2026*

Please retrieve Doc. No. 38GL-26-2077, 2078, 2082 and 2083 from link below:

[Messages & Communications Physical Scanned Copy - Google Drive](#)

Kindly reply to this email



Si Yu'os ma'åse',

Marie Crisostomo

Committee on Rules Assistant

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

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Messages and Communications 38GL-26-2075*

2 messages

Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Mon, Mar 23, 2026 at 1:57 PM

To: 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>, Sabrina Salas Matanane <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Håfa adai,

Please see attached M&C Doc. No. 38GL-26-2075

38GL-26-2075	Department of Education	Guam Education Board Meeting Packet for March 17, 2026*
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*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'**Bernice Rivera*

Administrative Assistant

**Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.**I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan 38th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kathleen Joyce R. Lamorena** <krlamorena@gdoe.net>

Date: Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 11:04 AM

Subject: GEB March 17, 2026 Regular Meeting - Reporting Requirements

To: Jean S. Taitano <jean.taitano@guam.gov>, Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: Dr. Judith T. Won Pat (Superintendent) <jtwpnpat@gdoe.net>, MaeRose A. Nauta <manauta@gdoe.net>


Hafa Adai!

Please see the attached documents for the Guam Education Board's Regular Meeting held on March 17, 2026.

Thank you!

Warm regards,
Kathleen Lamorena
Guam Department of Education

Guam Department of Education 2026

2 attachments **GEB Reporting Requirements- March 17, 2026 Regular Meeting.pdf**
2295K **38GL-26-2075.pdf**
1144K

38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>

Mon, Mar 23, 2026 at 4:25 PM

To: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Håfa Adai,

Received, and thank you.



Si Yu'os ma'åse',

Marie Crisostomo

Committee on Rules Assistant

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

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[Quoted text hidden]



Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

GEB March 17, 2026 Regular Meeting - Reporting Requirements

3 messages

Kathleen Joyce R. Lamorena <krlamorena@gdoe.net>

Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 11:03 AM

To: "Jean S. Taitano" <jean.taitano@guam.gov>, "Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Cc: "Dr. Judith T. Won Pat (Superintendent)" <jtwonpat@gdoe.net>, "MaeRose A. Nauta" <manauta@gdoe.net>

Hafa Adai!

Please see the attached documents for the Guam Education Board's Regular Meeting held on March 17, 2026.

Thank you!

Warm regards,
Kathleen Lamorena
Guam Department of Education

Guam Department of Education 2026

Doc Type: 38GL-26-2075
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
FRANK F. BLAS, JR.
March 19, 2026
Time: 11:03 AM
Received: *FR*



GEB Reporting Requirements- March 17, 2026 Regular Meeting.pdf

2295K

Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 11:31 AM

To: "Kathleen Joyce R. Lamorena" <krlamorena@gdoe.net>

Cc: "Jean S. Taitano" <jean.taitano@guam.gov>, "Dr. Judith T. Won Pat (Superintendent)" <jtwonpat@gdoe.net>, "MaeRose A. Nauta" <manauta@gdoe.net>

Håfa Adai,

Confirming receipt of your email.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Bernice Rivera

Administrative Assistant



Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan 38th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

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3/23/26, 1:38 PM

Guam Legislature Mail - GEB March 17, 2026 Regular Meeting - Reporting Requirements

information in this e-mail or any attachment in any manner. Instead, please reply to the sender that you have received this communication in error, and then immediately delete it. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

[Quoted text hidden]

Kathleen Joyce R. Lamorena <krlamorena@gdoe.net>
To: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 11:38 AM

Thank you, Ms. Bernice!

Warm regards
Kathleen

[Quoted text hidden]



**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

www.gdoe.net
501 Mariner Avenue
Barrigada, Guam 96913
Telephone: (671) 300-1547/1536•Fax: (671)472-5003
Email: jtwonpat@gdoe.net



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Acting Superintendent of Education

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
513 West Marine Corps Drive
Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Honorable Frank Blas Jr.
Speaker
Thirty-Eighth Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero and Speaker Blas Jr.:

Håfa Adai! Pursuant to Public Law 31-233, Section 38, *Reporting Requirements for Boards and Commissions*, attached are copies of the Guam Education Board's meeting agenda, ad, and other documents as discussed at the March 17, 2026, regular board meeting. The meeting was held in the Gallery, GDOE Building B, Tiyan.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (671)300-1627.

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Acting Superintendent of Education

Attachments



38GL-26-2075
Messages and Communications

RECEIVED
COMMITTEE ON RULES
March 23, 2026

1:57 p.m.

Marie Crisostomo



JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
Chair

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

501 Mariner Avenue
Barrigada, Guam 96913-1608
Telephone Number: (671) 300-1627
Facsimile Number: (671) 472-5003
Website Address: www.gdoe.net/geb



MARY A.Y. OKADA, Ed.D.
Vice-Chair

Guam Education Board
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 17, 2026
3 PM
Gallery, Bldg. B, Tiyan
AGENDA

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| INFO | I. Meeting Call to Order |
| INFO/ACTION | II. Consent Calendar |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. February 24, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes b. February 24, 2026 Superintendent’s Report |
| | III. Communications |
| INFO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Correspondence received by the Board after February 24, 2026 |
| INFO | IV. Ex-Officio Member Reports |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report b. Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report c. Mayor’s Council of Guam (MCOG) Report |
| INFO/ACTION | V. Unfinished Business/Committee Reports |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Superintendent’s Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. JFKHS/SSHS Double Session Status Report ii. FEMA Projects Status Report iii. FBLG Renovation Status Report iv. Mold Mitigation/Fencing Status Report v. Dashboard Status Report vi. Student Behavior Infractions vii. Financial Issues viii. Transition Updates ix. Micronesia Leadership Summit – Saipan, CNMI April 20-23, 2026 b. Executive Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 2026 GEB Standing Committee Assignments c. Instructional & Academic Support Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. March Head Start Report ii. Resolution 2026-03 Relative to Urging the Guam Department of Education to Consider Reintroducing and Requiring Civics Education at the Middle School and High School Levels and to Establish a GDOE Civics Recognition d. Safe & Healthy Schools Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Security Concerns e. Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee f. Fiscal Management Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. GDOE Financial Report |
| INFO/ACTION | |
| INFO/ACTION | |
| INFO/ACTION | |
| INFO | |
| INFO | |

VOTING MEMBERS: Judith Guthertz, DPA, Chair, Mary A.Y. Okada, Ed.D., Vice-Chair, Peter Alexcis D. Ada, Felicitas B. Angel, Maria A. Gutierrez, Ron L. McNinch, PhD, Angel R. Sablan, Carl E. Torres II
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Kohen Diego - IBOGS Representatives, Timothy Fedenko - GFT Representative, Mayor Brian Jess Terlaje - MCOG Representative
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D., Acting Superintendent

- INFO 1. Accounts Payable Aging Report
- INFO/ACTION 2. Declaration of Financial Status Designation
- INFO 3. Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2026
- INFO 4. Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2026
- INFO ii. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report
- INFO iii. FY 2025 Audit Update
- INFO/ACTION iv. Management and Curriculum Audit
- g. Legislative Committee
- INFO/ACTION i. Legislative Proposals Introduced
- INFO VI. **New Business**
- INFO/ACTION VII. **Executive Session** (Board Policy 125.12)
 - a. Personnel matters (5 GCA § 8111 (a))
 - b. Matters within scope of Public Employee-Management Relations Act, including collective bargaining (5 GCA § 8111 (b))
 - c. Superintendent’s Evaluation
 - d. Legal Matters
- INFO VIII. **Celebrate Success**
- INFO/ACTION IX. **Public Participation** (Board Policy 125.6) Time Limit 3 minutes
- INFO/ACTION X. **Announcements & Adjournment**

VOTING MEMBERS: Judith Guthertz, DPA, Chair, Mary A.Y. Okada, Ed.D., Vice-Chair, Peter Alexis D. Ada, Felicitas B. Angel, Maria A. Gutierrez, Ron L. McNinch, PhD, Angel R. Sablan, Carl E. Torres II
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Kohen Diego - IBOGS Representatives, Timothy Fedenko - GFT Representative, Mayor Brian Jess Terlaje - MCOG Representative
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D., Acting Superintendent

PUBLICATION NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Guam Code Annotated, Title XI, Chapter III, Section 3315, notice is hereby given that:

KAWABATA & CO, LLC DBA: CURRY HOUSE COCO ICHIBANYA

has applied for a Class: 4 (Four) General On Sale Alcoholic Beverage License said premises being marked as Lot: 5148-3-R1, L5148-4, L5148-R7 STE 14 & 15 Donki Village 120 CHN Pasaheru TAMUNING-TUMON-HARMON

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

TO: Members of PARADISE ESTATES OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC

Pursuant to §3.07 of the By-Laws, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of the Members of the Paradise Estates Owners Association, Inc. a Guam corporation, will be held in the Paradise Estates Subdivision, at the top end of Chalan Tres Compadres, Saturday March 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., for the following purposes:

1. To elect directors of the corporation
2. To review 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
3. To review Financial Reports 2025
4. To present the 2026 budget.
5. To transact any other business that is within the powers of the Members.
6. To permit homeowner discussions.

Only the Members of record at the close of business on March 20, 2026 will be entitled to vote.

Members who are unable to personally attend the meeting are urged to execute proxies in accordance with §3.11 of the By-Laws.

Donald Perron, Board President



GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

501 Mariner Avenue, Barrigada, Guam 96913-1608
Telephone: (671) 300-1627 Facsimile: (671) 472-5003

Website Address: www.gdoe.net/geb



MARY A.Y. OKADA, Ed.D.
Vice-Chair

Guam Education Board REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 • 3PM • Gallery, Bldg. B, Tiyan

AGENDA

- INFO I. Meeting Call to Order
- INFO/ACTION II. Consent Calendar
 - a. February 24, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - b. February 24, 2026 Superintendent's Report
- INFO III. Communications
 - a. Correspondence received by the Board after February 24, 2026
- INFO IV. Ex-Officio Member Reports
 - a. Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report
 - b. Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report
 - c. Mayor's Council of Guam (MCOG) Report
- INFO/ACTION V. Unfinished Business/Committee Reports
 - a. Superintendent's Report
 - i. JFKHS/SSHS Double Session Status Report
 - ii. FEMA Projects Status Report
 - iii. FBLG Renovation Status Report
 - iv. Mold Mitigation/Fencing Status Report
 - v. Dashboard Status Report
 - vi. Student Behavior Infractions
 - vii. Financial Issues
 - viii. Transition Updates
 - ix. Micronesia Leadership Summit - Saipan, CNMI April 20-23, 2026
 - b. Executive Committee
 - i. 2026 GEB Standing Committee Assignments
 - c. Instructional & Academic Support Committee
 - i. March Head Start Report
 - ii. Resolution 2026-03 Relative to Urging the Guam Department of Education to Consider Reintroducing and Requiring Civics Education at the Middle School and High School Levels and to Establish a GDOE Civics Recognition
 - d. Safe & Healthy Schools Committee
 - i. Security Concerns
 - e. Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee
 - f. Fiscal Management Committee
 - i. GDOE Financial Report
 - 1. Accounts Payable Aging Report
 - 2. Declaration of Financial Status Designation
 - 3. Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2026
 - 4. Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2026
 - ii. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report
 - iii. FY 2025 Audit Update
 - iv. Management and Curriculum Audit
 - g. Legislative Committee
 - i. Legislative Proposals Introduced
- INFO VI. New Business
- INFO/ACTION VII. Executive Session (Board Policy 125.12)
 - a. Personnel matters (5 GCA § 8111 (a))
 - b. Matters within scope of Public Employee-Management Relations Act, including collective bargaining (5 GCA § 8111 (b))
 - c. Superintendent's Evaluation
 - d. Legal Matters
- INFO VIII. Celebrate Success
- INFO/ACTION IX. Public Participation (Board Policy 125.6) Time Limit 3 minutes
- INFO/ACTION X. Announcements & Adjournment

The public is welcome to view the meeting via live stream at <https://www.youtube.com/@guamdepartmentofeducation5142>.

Individuals requiring special accommodations or information or wish to submit public testimony via email may contact Kathleen Lamorena by email: krlamorena@gdoe.net.

This advertisement was paid by GDOE local funds.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NORTHERN DISTRICT

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 - 10:30AM
UOG College of Natural & Applied Sciences
Bldg., Conference Room 202

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Acceptance of Last Meeting Minutes - 01/13/26
- IV. Officers' Report
 - 1. District Chair's Report
 - 2. Treasurer's Report
- V. Committee Reports
 - 1. Education & Outreach
 - a. Firewise for Farmers (04/01/26, 5:30PM, UOG)
 - b. 2026 Stewardship Week & Local Working Group (04/26 - 05/02)
 - c. 2026 NACD PAC/SW Regional Meeting (08/24 - 08/28)
 - d. Mad Collab Partner with Calvo's Insurance (05/03)
 - 2. Budget & Finance
 - a. Bookkeeper - D&J Bookkeeping & Administrative Services
 - b. Perimeter Fencing Grant - Sub Account Creation
 - 3. Policy & Governance
 - a. District Workforce Management Policy
 - b. Partner Meeting Frequency Recommendation
- VI. Old Business
 - 1. FY26 Budget Review
 - 2. 2026 NACD Annual Meeting
- VII. New Business
 - 1. 2025 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Coral Reef Stewardship Grant Match
 - 2. USDA NRCS Unfunded Agreement
 - 3. 4-H Youth Development Partnership
 - 4. CIS Conference - Staff Professional Development (\$175 x 4 = \$700.00)
 - 5. Fina'Maolek Grant - RCUOG 15% Indirect Cost (\$619.55)
- VIII. Miscellaneous Matters
- IX. Next Meeting:
 - 1. Regular Board Meeting: March 10, 2026
 - 2. Partner Meeting: March 26, 2026
- X. Adjournment

For Zoom Meeting details or Special Accommodations, feel free to contact us! (671) 787-8808 or (671) 735-2014

BROOKS CONCEPCION LAW, P.C.

247 Martyr Street, Ste. 101
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
(671) 472-6848 • (671) 477-5790
Attorneys for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
ANTHONY F. SHOLING,
Deceased.
PROBATE CASE NO. PRO189-25
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Deanne P. Sholing, Administratrix of the Estate of Anthony F. Sholing, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said estate or against said deceased, that within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice, they either file them with necessary vouchers in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Guam, or exhibit them with the necessary vouchers to Deanne P. Sholing, Administratrix, at the law offices of BROOKS CONCEPCION LAW, P.C., at 247 Martyr Street, Ste. 101, Hagåtña, Guam, the same being the place for the transaction of the said estate.

Dated: 2/25/26

By: /s/ Deanne P. Sholing
Administratrix for the Estate of
Anthony F. Sholing



Newspaper bundles
\$10.00 for each pack of 150 papers

Pick up at:
THE GUAM DAILY POST
@ the CORE TECH CENTER

388 S. Marine Corps Dr.,
Suite 301 Tamuning,
Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm.

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BIG RESULTS



JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
Chair

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

501 Mariner Avenue
Barrigada, Guam 96913-1608
Telephone Number: (671) 300-1627
Facsimile Number: (671) 472-5003
Website Address: www.gdoe.net/geb



MARY A.Y. OKADA, Ed.D.
Vice Chair

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD RESCHEDULED 2/17 REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

3 pm

Gallery, GDOE Building B

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Judith Guthertz, DPA, Chair
Mary A.Y. Okada, EdD, Vice-Chair
Peter Alexcis D. Ada
Felicitas B. Angel
Christine W. Baleto
Maria A. Gutierrez
Ron L. McNinch, PhD
Angel R. Sablan
Carl E. Torres, II

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Kohen Diego
IBOGS Representative

Timothy Fedenko
GFT Representative

Mayor Brian Jess Terlaje
MCOG Representative

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Acting GDOE Superintendent

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Guthertz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Dr. Judith Won Pat, Acting Superintendent and Executive Secretary, took the roll call. The following members were **present** for the meeting:

Voting Members:

Guthertz, Judith – Chair
Okada, Dr. Mary A.Y. – Vice-Chair
Ada, Peter Alexcis D. (via Zoom)
Angel, Felicitas B.
Baleto, Christine W.
Gutierrez, Maria A.
McNinch, Dr. Ron L. (via Zoom)
Sablan, Angel R.
Torres, Carl E. II

Non-Voting Members:

Fedenko, Timothy – GFT Representative
Terlaje, Brian Jess – MCOG Representative

Legal Counsel:

Wolff, Matthew

Absent:

Non-Voting Members:

IBOGS Representative

The Acting Superintendent announced that seven (7) members of the Board were present in person, and two (2) present via Zoom, constituting a quorum.

- II. **CELEBRATE SUCCESS** – RobinLyn Sanchez was recognized for being selected as a BigFuture Ambassador for the 2026 Spring Cohort by the College Board.

III. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 1) January 27, 2026 Regular Meeting

Mrs. Angel motioned, seconded by Dr. Okada, to approve the January 27, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 9-0. The motion passed.

- 2) February 12, 2026 Special Meeting

Mrs. Angel motioned, seconded by Dr. Okada, to approve the February 12, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 9-0. The motion passed.

Mrs. Gutierrez said that on page 7 of 8, line 272, there's a correction. She said instead of "before," Superintendent John Fernandez's term," it should be "during' Superintendent John Fernandez's term.

IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Senator Sabina Perez - Senator Perez presented the amended Bill 126-38 to the Board following a recent public hearing where the legislature received positive feedback and incorporated recommendations from the Guam Department of Education (GDOE). The amended bill was shared with the Board for review. She explained that the current law allocates 20% of use tax revenue each to Customs and Quarantine, the Department of Public Works, and Guam EPA, leaving 40% unallocated. The bill was originally drafted about a year ago when Head Start funding was at risk, but it has since been revised to avoid violating the supplement vs. supplant rule and to reflect GDOE's input. She noted that the 20% share currently generates about \$1.3 million, based on \$6.8 million in collected use tax, but the Public Auditor estimates potential collections could reach about \$60 million, indicating significant under collection. She said automation—especially for goods entering through the airport or mail, where tax payment largely relies on an honor system—could improve tracking and increase revenue. While the funding would not fully meet GDOE's estimated \$100 million or more in facility needs, it could support capital improvement projects, facility maintenance, and prevention of deferred maintenance, which are not covered by operational budgets. The bill prioritizes maintenance, includes maintenance of effort for SPED and Head Start programs, and addresses ADA compliance. She asked the Board to consider issuing a resolution of support to include in the committee report. She also distributed GDOE's comments and drafts of Resolution 126 and Resolution 127 for review and offered to provide a presentation with supporting evidence at a future meeting.

Dr. Guthertz asked Dr. Won Pat for her view on whether the bills would benefit the school system.

Dr. Won Pat explained that during their discussion with the senator, the main concern was preventing the supplanting of existing GDOE programs, particularly those funded by federal dollars like Pre-K and Head Start. She emphasized that aligning new programs too closely with Head Start could restrict GDOE's ability to continue accessing federal funds. They also discussed how funds should be allocated, with GDOE prioritizing capital improvement projects (CIP) since they do not receive separate CIP funding. Additionally, they wanted to avoid competition between different early childhood programs like universal Pre-K, Gate Pre-K, and Head Start. She also highlighted the importance of "maintenance of effort," ensuring GDOE continues

contributing its own resources when using federal funds. The senator agreed not to introduce any bill that would supplant or undermine GDOE's existing programs.

Dr. Guthertz said she was initially excited about the bill because she saw it as one of the first efforts by the legislature to help the school system financially beyond normal appropriations. She thanked the senator for accepting input from Dr. Won Pat and expressed the Board's interest in working closely with senators on legislation affecting the school system. She also encouraged Board members to provide written suggestions to assist with the initiatives and thanked Senator Sabina Perez for attending and for her willingness to collaborate on future legislation.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked Senator Sabina Perez to encourage her legislative colleagues to consult with GDOE and the Board before drafting bills. She explained that introducing bills without Board input puts them in a tough spot, particularly when some legislators may only be aware of negative public opinions about GDOE. She stressed the importance of collaboration, suggesting the Board's Policy and Legislative Committee be involved early on. She highlighted past instances where bills were introduced without proper research, causing issues with existing laws or federal funding. She urged Senator Perez to work with the superintendent or the Board before sponsoring bills, and emphasized the need for the Board and legislature to work together as equal partners.

Senator Perez said she worked with Superintendent Dr. Swanson when the measure was introduced and that he supported it. She added that times have changed and noted that bills can be amended.

Mr. Sablan thanked Senator Perez for introducing the bill and noted that no bill is perfect, which is why public hearings and amendments are part of the process. He said the bill has already sparked discussion on how best to support schools and expects further amendments. However, he raised concerns about where within GDOE the funds would be allocated and suggested the bill include more specific language to ensure the funds go to the intended division or entity.

Senator Perez explained that the bill simply appropriates funding to GDOE, while the detailed breakdown of how the money is spent should be itemized in the budget bill. She noted that the amended bill prioritizes capital improvement projects and maintenance, but also allows for other components. She emphasized the importance of flexibility in budgeting over time and said the bill mainly creates the opportunity for funding, with allocation decisions to be determined through GDOE's budget process.

Mr. Sablan said the FY27 budget has been submitted and would take effect at the start of the fiscal year if approved.

Senator Perez explained that the effective date for the bill would be after the current budget cycle, as the funds for this fiscal year have already been appropriated. Therefore, it will take effect in the next budget cycle. Initially, the effective date was set for October 2025 when the bill was introduced in February 2025, but it had to be pushed further because now they're in 2026.

Mr. Sablan asked that even though it has passed, it will be effective October 1, 2026, but they may not be able to see the money until 2027.

Senator Perez confirmed, saying the funds wouldn't be available until the next budget cycle to avoid affecting the current budget.

Mr. Sablan noted that funding could only be accessed earlier if an amendment were made.

Senator Perez said the amendment could address that issue and noted the current version is a proposed amended bill. She expressed openness to making changes if the Board wants funding sooner and encouraged them to discuss and develop a plan. She added that she is open to hearing amendments.

Dr. Won Pat asked Senator Perez whether, after markup and amendments, the bill would be scheduled for the next legislative session.

Senator Perez replied that, as a minority party member, she must submit the committee report to Appropriations Chairman Duenas, and its scheduling depends on his decision.

Dr. Won Pat suggested that if the budget is voted on and signed into law during the next session, she would ask Senator Perez to incorporate language that would allow the Department of Education to allocate funds for specific purposes. She explained that, like in previous budgets, the lump sum budget could be earmarked for various categories, such as capital improvement projects or other programs, based on specified percentages. This would ensure that funding is directed where it's needed most, with clear guidelines in the budget law.

Senator Perez said she appreciates that and said it's a good comment.

V. COMMUNICATIONS – None

VI. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

- 1) Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report – N/A
- 2) Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report - Mr. Fedenko mentioned that he would refer to the HR report in the packet, which highlights ongoing vacancies. He believes the superintendent is addressing the issue as quickly as possible following their meeting last month.
- 3) Mayor's Council of Guam (MCOG) Report - Mayor Terlaje mentioned two concerns during the meeting. First, he referred to a previous discussion about utilizing abandoned structures in the community, specifically the old J.P. Torres Success Academy in Santa Rita Sumay. He pointed out that Board Policy 620 does not address how such facilities could be used by the community, particularly by a mayor's office, and requested more information on this matter. Second, he brought up the issue of grass cutting at schools, noting that he had requested a meeting with the superintendent but also proposed scheduling a meeting with all the mayors to discuss a plan of action for moving forward and offering assistance.

Dr. Won Pat responded that she took Mayor Terlaje's request regarding Board Policy 620 seriously and set up a task force to evaluate decommissioned facilities, such as J.P. Torres and F.Q. Sanchez Elementary School. The task force has already submitted a report on potential decommissioned schools. She also addressed the grass-cutting issue, noting that the contract had been delayed due to legal consultations with the AG, but it is now out. If there are any ongoing issues, they will have F&M check on them. Additionally, she mentioned coordinating a meeting with Mayor Alig to meet with the mayors.

Ms. Baleto shared that she was approached by someone from the Guam Football Association and a member of the mayor's council about the possibility of refurbishing or

building an indoor football facility. They suggested using abandoned or underutilized DOE facilities for this project, potentially under the mayor's office or a nonprofit organization. She emphasized that this could significantly benefit the communities and asked if the idea could be explored further.

Dr. Okada asked Dr. Won Pat to ensure that the task force has received the legislation regarding how decommissioned facilities can be utilized. She noted that the Board policy has not been updated to reflect the current law, and emphasized the need for legal counsel to review the information before it is shared to ensure it is accurate and up-to-date.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the positions recommended by the law for the commission have been filled, and the Board members selected to sit on it. The only outstanding issue is the lack of a Statement of Work (SOW) to request an RFP for appraising the schools. She confirmed that the committee has been set up and the task force is actively working on the various matters, and everything is on track.

Mr. Sablan mentioned that the law specifies three members of the Board for the committee, which are Mrs. Gutierrez, Dr. Guthertz, and Mr. Ada. He reminded Dr. Won Pat that when initiating meetings, there are several factors to consider, not just decommissioned facilities, but also those that are not currently in use.

Dr. Guthertz emphasized that it's important to remember that the Board is obligated to follow the new law when making decisions regarding the facilities.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Superintendent's Report

- a. JFKHS/SSHS Double Session Status Report – Dr. Won Pat shared that the principals of the four schools operating on double sessions are currently working with their teams to evaluate three different options for addressing the situation. The most important factor in their evaluation is ensuring minimal disruption for students, staff, and families. The options are being assessed based on feasibility, available resources (including equipment and furniture), classroom space, funding sources, and transportation logistics. The committee is very close to finalizing a solution, but emphasized the need for stakeholder buy-in. They plan to present the recommended option to teachers, staff, students, and families for feedback. The goal is to make an announcement by the end of March or the first week of April, so they can begin preparations, including any necessary adjustments to classrooms, with the help of facilities and maintenance.

Dr. Okada suggested that since the Board has a parent representative, Mr. Carl Torres II, it would be appropriate for him to participate in discussions so he can hear and address concerns from parents.

Dr. Won Pat confirmed that they had previously discussed including Mr. Carl Torres II in the discussions and expressed their intention to have him be a part of it.

- b. FEMA Project Status Report – Dr. Won Pat provided an update on the FEMA report, highlighting that the sections in blue represent the updates received from FEMA. The report, provided by the governor's office staff from the Guam

Recovery Office, is broken down by school. It includes estimates for each project, detailing the federal cost, GDOE's cost, and the reimbursement rate (90%). The report also includes anticipated dates for the completion of these projects at the schools.

Ms. Baletto asked Dr. Won Pat about the 5th item, 730363 for GDOE-EPM-OT, which shows a completion date of November 2023. She questioned whether it was a typo or if the project is now complete, as the report indicates it is obligated, not completed.

Dr. Won Pat explained that while the Board has already set its spending plan, any updates from the recovery office regarding funding sources for certain projects will require an amendment to the plan. She also discussed fiscal year lapses with Senator Borja, focusing on fiscal years 24 and 25 (excluding the \$51 million, which has not yet been approved for GDOE to start the drawdown). Senator Borja intends to amend the law to allow funds originally earmarked for sports facilities to be redirected for capital improvement projects, with the amendment potentially happening by April, when the legislature reconvenes.

- c. FBLG Renovation Status Report – Mr. Sablan inquired about the completion date for FBLGMS.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the FBLGMS renovation has encountered several challenges. Initially, the renovation was only intended for the classrooms, not the gym. After the storm, the gym suffered more damage, raising concerns about its structural integrity. Despite reaching out to various agencies, including DPW, the University of Guam, and private engineers, they have struggled to find a structural engineer on the island to assess the gym. A proposal was submitted by Northern Construction Company, but it included a request for tax credits, which Dr. Won Pat stated she has no control over. She emphasized that any modification to the contract should go through another RFP process. Additionally, the renovation plan includes collateral equipment, a fire suppressant system, cafeteria equipment, internet infrastructure, and gym repairs, all of which will require new RFPs.

Mrs. Gutierrez explained that the FBLGMS renovation project began with a classroom repair, but several change orders were added, leading to confusion. She raised concerns about the frequent changes and questioned what happened to the original scope of work. She mentioned that the gym, though reported, was never included in the renovations. She and Dr. Okada had questioned this, and after consulting with legal, they were informed that a new RFP needed to be issued. She specifically asked about the details of change orders, particularly number two, which was unclear, and number three, which covered cafeteria equipment and internet infrastructure.

Dr. Won Pat acknowledged Mrs. Gutierrez's concerns, stating that the Board is taking the same approach. She explained that in such matters, they always involve legal counsel, the chief financial auditor, the business office, and the procurement office. Since they weren't involved when the original contract was written, they now have to review all relevant contracts thoroughly to understand what can and cannot be done. This process is why they rely on the guidance of the auditor and legal counsel.

Dr. Okada inquired if the gym repair listed in the obligated FEMA project (730752) was part of the \$2.3 million already awarded, as shown on page two of the report.

Dr. Won Pat clarified that the \$2.3 million is only for the buildings and the classrooms.

Dr. Okada suggested that if the gym was indeed damaged by Typhoon Mawar, it should be in the report, and funding should not be an issue except for the 10%. She questioned whether the damage was properly documented. She then asked about the timeline for addressing the situation.

Dr. Won Pat responded that it was a very good question.

Mr. Sablan stated that the timeline for FBLGMS renovations is uncertain, and he doesn't expect it to be completed by the end of this school year or the start of the next. He emphasized the importance of honesty with students and parents, noting that double sessions for FBLGMS and using the facility for Simon Sanchez High School will affect both schools. He pointed out that even if the renovation were finished now, essential items like desks haven't been ordered or funded. While an additional gym is desired, it isn't FEMA-funded and would need local funding, which would take a long time. He concluded that it is unlikely the project will be completed this school year or by the start of the next school year in August.

Dr. Won Pat confirmed that the principals working on the issue have three potential options, with one possibly aligning with Mr. Sablan's suggestion. However, she emphasized that there are other options being explored. The primary goal is to eliminate double sessions and have the students attend full-time starting next school year.

Ms. Baleto expressed concern about the repeated change orders, highlighting the need for careful financial oversight to avoid delays and improper spending. She acknowledged Dr. Won Pat's efforts to involve legal counsel and auditors, stressing that proper funding is necessary before spending government money. She urged the Board to stay vigilant about potential issues with change orders as they move forward.

Mr. Sablan asked whether they had even half of the nearly \$10 million in combined amounts—\$3.4 million for collateral, \$2.9 million for another item, and additional funding for internet services—available anywhere.

Dr. Okada explained that during the budget meeting, funds were redirected from personnel to cover expenses for collateral and the fire suppression system, which were not initially part of the spending plan. The superintendent was asked to resubmit the spending plan to accurately reflect these changes, ensuring the sources of the funds (salaries) are properly documented.

Dr. Won Pat asked whether they had account numbers to proceed.

Dr. Okada said there were no account numbers available, but they recently identified some lapsed funding from before December that could be used to fund the two highlighted components in their budget. She mentioned this was discovered during their last budget meeting.

Mr. Sablan asked if those change orders were signed.

Dr. Okada said these were not change orders.

Mr. Sablan asked if the change orders were signed for the collateral equipment.

Dr. Okada replied no, these were new RFPs that are pending.

Dr. Won Pat confirmed that they were new.

Dr. Okada said that the funding source was identified.

Mr. Sablan said that he remembers back then that they were talking about collateral equipment.

Dr. Okada said correct.

Mr. Sablan said it was 2.4.

Dr. Okada said yes.

Mr. Sablan said they were going to ask FEMA to include it in the funding and noted that if a change order was signed earlier, it was not by Dr. Won Pat or her current Dr. R.

Dr. Okada clarified that it is not a change order yet. She explained that the funding was identified through an accounting transaction to allow them to bid out the two components, since they are not part of the original contract.

Mr. Sablan said there were discussions about using part of the \$51 million for FBLGMS, but he is unsure of its current status. He noted the funds had already been allocated and warned the project could reflect poorly if the completed school cannot be used by students.

Dr. Guthertz said the current system is awful and asked if a new one could be obtained.

Dr. Won Pat said she was looking into it.

Dr. Guthertz said that if the spending plan were changed without Board participation, it would be inappropriate and should be reversed. She urged following the proper process and asked her colleagues to support the superintendent in reversing the changes and bringing them to the Board for approval.

Dr. Okada told Dr. Guthertz that when the FY'26 spending plan was approved, the Board included language allowing the new superintendent to review and reprioritize the plan, which permits Dr. Won Pat to make those changes.

Dr. Guthertz asked Dr. Won Pat to do that as soon as possible.

Dr. Won Pat reported that FEMA awarded \$8 million for 20 temporary classrooms for Simon Sanchez, targeting a key handover by June 30. The governor's office will fund renovations of 24 Guam Housing Corporation units for additional classrooms, to be ready by July 30, 2026. She also secured FEMA approval for \$497,000 in collateral equipment, including Promethean smart boards.

- d. Mold Mitigation/Fencing Status Report – Dr. Won Pat said that of the \$20 million appropriated after Mawar, \$6 million went to debris removal, and the remaining \$14 million is for mold mitigation and fencing. She noted 38 schools were approved for mold mitigation, and fencing work by Wang Brothers Construction is currently in progress.
- e. Dashboard Status Report – Dr. Won Pat said the K-12 data analytics dashboard is now available online, enabling users to view school work requests, GDOE staffing patterns, student demographics, enrollment trends, discipline data, assessment results, and participation in special projects.

Mrs. Gutierrez expressed her ongoing push for a dashboard since Mr. Robert Crisostomo joined the Board, emphasizing that the presentation of the dashboard to the Board raised many questions. She was dissatisfied with the information provided, which she considered incomplete and "sloppy." She pointed out that the Board had asked for data on the number of students, but no relevant information was available. She criticized the GDOE staff for claiming the Board didn't know what it wanted from the dashboard, questioning why they didn't ask for clarification before preparing it. She also noted that tracking wouldn't begin until the next school year, which added to the Board's dissatisfaction. She reminded the Board that she had been following up on this issue since former Superintendent Dr. Swanson's tenure and voiced concerns that the new deputies might be stalling. She reiterated that the Board was not satisfied with the presentation and insisted on receiving the dashboard that was shown in December 2025.

Dr. Won Pat explained that after the meeting, they could review the dashboard on one of their computers. She mentioned that Dr. Julie had added a new feature to the dashboard, which includes staffing patterns, allowing them to view staff by position and by school. This was a new addition to the dashboard.

- f. CCSSO Legislative Conference – Washington, D.C., March 22-24, 2026 – Dr. Won Pat informed the Board about the upcoming CCSSO legislative conference in Washington, D.C., scheduled from the 22nd to the 24th. As a member, her travel expenses, including airfare and hotel, are being covered. She mentioned that she had submitted her travel request to the Board chair for approval.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked DFAS Mr. Leon Guerrero to review the aging report, pointing out an outstanding amount of \$995 owed to CCSSO, which she

believed was for the Superintendent's membership. She noted that she had previously questioned this issue and was told it would be resolved, yet the current aging report still showed the unpaid amount, which was now over 90 days overdue.

Dr. Guthertz suggested that the superintendent could bring the check with her.

Mrs. Angel motioned, seconded by Mr. Torres, to approve Dr. Won Pat's participation at the CCSSO Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., on March 22-24, 2026. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 9-0. The motion passed.

2) Executive Committee

- a. Legal Counsel for the Guam Education Board - Dr. Guthertz emphasized the importance of having legal representation for the Board at certain times, to avoid conflicts with the legal counsel for the Guam Department of Education. She stated that there are occasions when the Board needs its own attorney, and currently, they do not have one. She believed having legal counsel would help expedite actions on various issues. She then asked the Board for their opinion on the best course of action moving forward.

Mrs. Gutierrez expressed her support for having legal representation for the Board, but raised a concern about 17GCA, which states that the attorney for the Board has been repealed. She asked for clarification on the current legal standing and emphasized the need for legal guidance on this matter, even if the arrangement involves a retainer.

Dr. Guthertz asked GDOE Legal Counsel Matthew Wolff if he was familiar with that section of the law.

Attorney Wolff acknowledged that Mrs. Gutierrez's concern about the repeal of legal counsel for the Board sounded familiar. He confirmed that while legal counsel for the superintendent is allowed, the provision for legal counsel for the Board was repealed. He expressed uncertainty about whether the Board can retain its own counsel, given that it may not be permitted by statute. However, he suggested the Board could explore the possibility of the Attorney General's office representing them, as they have assisted the Board in the past. He clarified that having independent legal counsel for the Board, who does not represent other agencies, might not be authorized by law.

Dr. Guthertz reminded the Board that, at their request, she wrote a letter to the Attorney General asking him to appoint an assistant attorney general to work with the Board. However, they had not received a response from the Attorney General. She praised the letter as being well-written and expressed disappointment that they hadn't heard back. Dr. Guthertz suggested that if there were a fee involved, the Board could reimburse the Attorney General's office, but the intention was to use government resources rather than seek external bids for legal counsel. She then asked the Board for their input on the next steps.

Mrs. Gutierrez explained that §3108 is repealed and that under §3110, the Attorney General serves as Special Assistant to assist the Board or DOE in all litigation.

Ms. Baletto said since the AG cannot represent the Board and hasn't responded, their only option is to work with senators to reintroduce legislation allowing the Board to have legal counsel.

Dr. Guthertz proposed that the superintendent draft a letter on behalf of the Board to the Chairperson of the Committee on Education at the Guam Legislature, requesting legislation that would allow the Board to recruit an attorney as needed. She suggested hiring an attorney on a contract basis rather than a full-time position, with the attorney available to assist the Board when specific legal needs arise. Dr. Guthertz emphasized that this would be a prudent approach and noted that the Board would need to budget for it. She argued that it is unfair for a Board responsible for such a large department to lack legal representation, as it places them in a difficult and potentially dangerous position. She stressed the importance of having legal support when needed.

Mr. Ada motioned, seconded by Mr. Torres, for the Board to write a letter to the Chairperson of the Committee of Education requesting that they authorize the GEB to provide contractual services. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 9-0. The motion passed.

Mr. Ada suggested writing a letter to request legal counsel for the Board on an as-needed basis, noting that while existing counsel are cooperative, they work for the superintendent and such support can be costly.

Dr. Okada requested that the letter to Senators include all relevant information from the Attorney General to explain why the Board is requesting legal counsel.

Dr. Guthertz agreed to attach the letter sent to the AG, noting it was a good idea.

Dr. Okada suggested including the documentation identified by Ms. Baletto.

Dr. Guthertz said that it was very prudent and commented that the letter was a beautiful.

- b. 2nd Amended Employment Agreement for Dr. Won Pat as Superintendent of GDOE - Dr. Guthertz noted that only one item needed revision per the Attorney General and that the updated agreement is in the packet; if approved, she will sign and return it for final AG endorsement.

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez, to approve the 2nd Amended Employment Agreement for Dr. Won Pat as Superintendent of GDOE. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 9-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Guthertz said the amendment is simple and ensures the Board complies with existing government agreements. She said the signed agreement will be sent to the Attorney General for further inquiries.

Mr. Sablan noted that the superintendent was appointed acting effective December 31st and raised that if the 90-day acting rule applies, the period is ending. He said they either need the contract signed by the AG and Governor or the Board must reconvene to reappoint her as acting.

Dr. Guthertz suggested delivering the agreement to the Attorney General in person tomorrow morning and following up to check when it will be signed.

Mrs. Gutierrez explained that when the Board appointed Francis Santos as acting superintendent, it was a temporary appointment for about five to six months after Jon Fernandez left, ending in December. Later, the Board appointed Dr. Won Pat as acting superintendent again from January through June 30. She noted that this was an acting, unclassified appointment rather than a detailed one. She added that the Board had already agreed in December that Dr. Won Pat would serve as acting superintendent until her contract is signed by Attorney General Moylan, and that the AG is just waiting for this document and will likely approve it.

Mr. Sablan asked Legal to clarify whether the superintendent's contract, which starts January 1, means her pay should be retroactive if the contract isn't signed until March, and whether she is owed the \$40,000 difference between her current pay and the contracted \$210,000.

Dr. Guthertz said they would discuss it.

3) Instructional & Academic Support Committee

- a. February Head Start Report - Ms. Lape apologized for the delay, explaining it was the first day of their three-day federal review and she had just completed her last interview. She then read her report for the record. She updated the system with the new Board chair and superintendent, so they will receive invitations and calendar reminders to attend monthly check-ins with program specialists.

Dr. Guthertz thanked Ms. Lape for her report and asked for her insight into why student enrollment and attendance are declining.

Ms. Lape explained that it is difficult to determine the reasons for the low enrollment in Head Start, but as part of their community assessment, they reviewed census data. She pointed out that the 2009 census numbers significantly differ from those in 2019, partly due to changes in how the census was conducted and the impact of COVID-19. She mentioned that in villages with low enrollment, Head Start staff had gone door-to-door, particularly in low-income areas and public housing, to reach potential families. They also worked with food services to distribute flyers to those receiving SNAP or welfare benefits. Despite these efforts, she expressed uncertainty about why they are not seeing more families. She speculated that smaller family sizes might be a factor, but noted that last year, Finegayan Elementary School had more children than they could accommodate, yet this year the situation has changed. With new housing developments underway, she hopes that once these open, they can resume their door-to-door efforts to find eligible families. She acknowledged that something needs to be done and mentioned that, due to staffing struggles, closing some centers might help improve the situation by allowing them to convert to full-time, permanent positions and alleviate staffing issues.

Dr. Guthertz asked whether the children in the program are transported by bus or brought by their parents.

Ms. Lape said transportation is usually a personal choice, with district children using the regular school bus. For areas without a nearby Head Start center, DPW shuttles children, but some shuttles were paused this year due to low enrollment. She said DPW assured them that they will resume shuttling if more children enroll.

Dr. Guthertz expressed appreciation for Public Works providing busing for Head Start children.

4) Safe & Healthy Schools Committee

- a. Security Concerns - Dr. Guthertz addressed a recent school break-in, highlighting the need for stronger community support and more proactive efforts to prevent such incidents. She urged the community to stay aware of their children's whereabouts after hours and immediately report any suspicious activity around schools to 911. She expressed frustration over break-ins happening in secure buildings without anyone noticing and emphasized the importance of police involvement. She questioned the effectiveness of current security measures, like cameras, and supported Dr. Won Pat's suggestion to have a security presence on campuses at night, particularly at frequently targeted schools. She mentioned past initiatives, such as using modular homes for on-site security and reassigning janitors to evening shifts, which helped reduce break-ins. She asked the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee to explore alternatives like converting classrooms into temporary residences for security staff. While janitorial services are still contracted out, she suggested reassessing the costs and benefits of having GDOE personnel work night shifts. She believes that maintaining schools after hours could help reduce break-ins.

Mrs. Gutierrez inquired about the status of the Chief Brodie Head Start building.

Ms. Lape said she hasn't followed up directly but has informed Dr. Riza, Head Start's supervisor, to share previous letters with the superintendent. She noted that discussions with GHURA are handled at the department head level.

Mrs. Gutierrez raised concerns about Head Start enrollment, asking whether students from FES were being moved to ASTES, noting the increase in enrollment despite a waiting list, and inquiring if students transferred to FES's Universal Pre-K program.

Ms. Lape said pre-K enrollment is uncertain because attendance isn't mandatory, and schools like FES struggle with daily attendance. Head Start maintains an 85% attendance rate and supports needy families, even if attendance is lower. ASTES and MACHES are fully enrolled with local children. Door-to-door outreach at new housing areas hasn't started due to staffing shortages, but with two schools closed, some staff may now be available to help.

Mrs. Gutierrez referenced Ms. Lape's email about Head Start governance training and said she would like to join by Zoom to ask a question. She explained that Head Start policy involves parents in interview panels when there is a vacancy, and she wants to confirm whether there is any policy

requiring Board members to be part of those panels. She raised the issue because Head Start teachers questioned why a Board member participated in the Head Start director interview, and she wants to verify if that is allowed, since she believes the Board should not be involved in Head Start interviews.

Ms. Lape explained that the policy council participates in interviews due to required standards, designating one representative to attend and make recommendations to maintain confidentiality. She noted the Board has no such regulatory role in operations, unlike Head Start, which involves Board members in interviews.

Mrs. Gutierrez said Head Start teachers asked whether the Board should be involved in interviews. She told them the Board only interviews the superintendent and wants to confirm there is nothing written requiring the Board's involvement. She added that she does not think the Board should have a role and raised the issue because teachers asked her about it.

Ms. Lape said she can provide the Board with feedback on the review this week.

- 5) Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee - Dr. Guthertz mentioned that she believes she's the chairperson of the policy review and strategic planning committee, but had asked Dr. McNinch to take over. She stated that the committee had nothing to report this session, except for their interest in new legislation being introduced. She noted that Ms. Gutierrez had informed them about proposed legislation to increase the number of charter schools. She planned to ask Dr. McNinch to evaluate the legislation and share his thoughts with the Board before they take a position.
- 6) Fiscal Management Committee
 - a. GDOE Financial Report
 - i) Accounts Payable Aging Report - Dr. Okada informed her colleagues that the accounts payable aging report, as of February 9th, was included in their packet. She explained that the report showed local accounts payable at approximately \$241,000 and federal accounts payable at around \$4.1 million, with \$632,000 being over 90 days old. She mentioned that they had met with DFAS Mr. Leon Guerrero, who is investigating the outstanding bills. She noted that the report is improving, and the committee is pleased with the progress, as people are being paid.
 - ii) Declaration of Financial Status Designation - Dr. Okada said they can skip the declaration of financial status designation since there's nothing to discuss.
 - iii) Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2026 - Dr. Okada noted that the unaudited statement of appropriation, expenditures, and encumbrances for fiscal year 2026, dated February 12, is included in the Board's packet. She mentioned that since they are still early in the fiscal year, there is an available budget balance. However, she indicated that they may begin to see budget constraints later in the fiscal year, particularly with special revenues.

- iv) Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2026 - Dr. Okada explained that the Board receives this report every month and noted that some of the listed grants have already expired. She requested clarification on the next steps for these funds, particularly regarding the consolidated grant 22, a \$3.4 million grant that expired in December. She emphasized the need for an update on whether late liquidation requests for several grants have been submitted and approved. She mentioned that DFAS Mr. Leon Guerrero is currently working on this issue.
- b. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report – Dr. Okada asked Dr. Won Pat to get an update on the issue, especially since she had been authorized to travel to Washington, D.C. She instructed Dr. Won Pat to introduce herself to the U.S. Department of Education and seek a resolution, as the matter had been pending for quite some time.
- c. FY 2024 Audit Report - Dr. Okada confirmed that the FY 2024 audit report had been finalized and issued. She mentioned that at the next meeting, the Board would receive an update on the FY 2025 audit. She noted that the FY 2024 audit had already been submitted and released, and the superintendent was addressing areas of non-compliance and questioning costs related to FY 2024. She also highlighted that Internal Audit was working on resolving the \$51 million issue mentioned in the audit. She emphasized that the Board needed a resolution on this matter before approving the spend plan, as there was no current plan for that amount. She said DFAS Mr. Leon Guerrero, Dr. Won Pat, and the Internal Audit Office were collaborating on this issue.
- d. Management and Curriculum Audit - Dr. Okada explained that the superintendent assigned the IAO to work with the contractor on the management and curriculum audit. Comments were submitted on the 19th, and they are now waiting for the consultants to review the requested corrections. She suggested the Board should wait for the consultants' response before taking any action.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she reviewed the entire 273-page management audit report and submitted comments identifying multiple inaccuracies. She disputed claims that the Board had not held retreats, explaining that retreats, ethics training, and Board training were conducted during Superintendent John Fernandez's tenure. She criticized the auditors for failing to verify information and questioned why the Board should have to provide evidence to correct errors despite the \$400,000 cost of the audit. She also raised concerns that the Board was not given a draft version of the report for review and said the version provided lacked proper validation. She argued that several findings—regarding meeting lengths, training participation, and the number of Board members interviewed—were inaccurate or unsupported. She maintained that the auditors did not perform adequate research, described the report as inaccurate and not worth its cost, and stated she would not support or vote on the audit report unless the errors were corrected.

Ms. Baleto raised concerns about the release of the audit report, stating that if it was still a draft and not approved or accepted, it should not have been made

available through a FOIA request. She questioned the procedures, noting that the report was released before the Board had received a copy or there was an official receipt from the superintendent's office. She asked Dr. Won Pat to remind the management team that documents should not be released prematurely for these reasons. Ms. Baleto described the situation as a media circus, as the Board had no chance to review or respond to the report before its release. She expressed the need to ensure that something like this does not happen again.

Dr. Guthertz expressed that there is a right and wrong way to handle things, and something went wrong in the audit process. While she is open to valid criticism and willing to support corrective actions, she cannot accept an audit that contains questionable information without addressing it. She pointed out that the Board was not given the opportunity to review the draft audit before it was finalized, which is a standard procedure in accounting practices. The audit company had apologized for not allowing the Board to comment on the draft, which the Board had been raising concerns about all along. She noted that the department and the Board have taken the initiative to review the audit, clarify inaccuracies, and identify areas for improvement. They are not against addressing the audit's shortcomings but want to correct factual errors and improve where necessary. She emphasized that policymakers should be aware of the audit's flaws and that the department is actively working to correct them. She also proposed creating a chronology of events surrounding the audit's transmission to the Department of Education (DOE) and the Board. She wants to understand how the report arrived, who received it, why it lacked names, and why it was discussed at DOE but not with the Board. She believes these details are important and should be documented. Once the review and corrections are complete, the Board plans to release its comments on the audit publicly, along with the chronology, so the people of Guam will understand the full process of how the audit was received and handled.

Dr. McNinch agreed with Dr. Guthertz's comments and added that when public agencies receive reports like this, there is usually an internal review process referred to as "due process" before publication. He acknowledged that the failure to provide that process is a concern, but he emphasized that the Board should have had the opportunity to suggest corrections and point out deficiencies in the document. He affirmed that everything Dr. Guthertz said was valid.

Dr. Okada explained that the Board had held two retreats to discuss the audit. The document before her was compiled by internal audit and submitted to the consultants on the 19th of the previous week. She assumed the consultants were currently reviewing the list of corrections and clarifications. She noted that the internal audit office and superintendent would provide an update from the consultants. She also noted that comments had been received, and emphasized that under former Chair Mr. Sablan, the Board had two separate retreats to discuss the audit with the superintendent. She clarified that the document the Board received was not marked as a draft and that they had been given the opportunity to review it.

Mr. Sablan addressed the management audit report, noting that it was supposed to be submitted by December 31st, but that deadline was missed.

He suggested that as Chair, it is her responsibility to send a letter to the Chairperson of the Education Committee at the Guam Legislature explaining why the Board has neither accepted nor rejected the report yet. He acknowledged that this wouldn't be resolved in the current meeting, as Board members need time to respond to the audit. He highlighted the positive aspects of the audit that should be recognized, but also expressed frustration with the delay. He stated that he is open to criticism and uses it to improve, but he doesn't want the issue to drag on. He asked if the auditors were given a timeline to respond to their concerns, warning that if they don't respond within six months, the issue would remain unresolved. He questioned whether the author of the legislation would accept such a delay. He pointed out that, in his experience with audits, even if he responds, auditors often don't change their findings. He emphasized that if corrections need to be made, they should be addressed, but if the auditors don't correct them, the Board will have no choice but to decide on the report. He concluded by asking when the process would be completed.

Dr. Guthertz mentioned that she would ask the superintendent to help draft a letter to Chairman Borja's committee, as recommended. She expressed confidence that no one on the Board objects to anything in the audit that could help improve the school system. She emphasized that they don't need to wait for the auditors' responses to begin implementing improvements, as their proactive management team is ready to act immediately. She also stated that the Board is prepared to address the audit's accuracy and documentation issues while moving forward with changes that can benefit the system. She stressed the importance of using recommendations to improve the school system and making the public aware of both the useful recommendations and the Board's concerns, including why some aspects of the audit were problematic. She expressed that the Board is committed to supporting the school system and making necessary changes or approvals. However, she pointed out that they expect to be represented fairly in the audit process, especially when some comments appeared to be personal rather than substantive, which she felt was inappropriate for an audit. She also noted that there is resistance to change in GDOE, which she discovered during her time on the Board, and she urged that the organization must remain flexible and willing to adapt for improvement. She concluded that the Board is focused on moving forward with solid recommendations for change, not personal grievances or innuendo.

Mr. Sablan thanked her for her comments but asked when a decision on the audit would be made, noting the next regular meeting is on Tuesday, March 17th.

Dr. Guthertz said they will write to the education committee chairman as recommended to help move forward, noted they've given input to the company, and asked Dr. Won Pat to confirm.

Dr. Won Pat confirmed and added that they received an email stating they will follow up shortly.

Dr. Guthertz said they look forward to receiving a response and will finalize things and take a position afterward. She expressed comfort with how the

situation has been handled, though she acknowledged it was unfortunate that the process didn't begin with proper input from the Board on the draft. However, she emphasized that they are moving forward and will continue making important changes to the school system, including incorporating helpful recommendations they've received.

Dr. Okada said that this item would remain on the agenda for the next meeting and could be voted on if ready. She also asked Dr. Won Pat to include all financial issues she is addressing in her report so they are properly documented and so the Board is aware of the fiscal issues she is working to resolve, even if some are not yet ready for full discussion.

Mrs. Gutierrez told Dr. Guthertz that although the Board did not accept Evergreen at the time, it still implemented several of the recommendations. She explained that the Board previously had 15 standing committees but later reduced them to five, and it also followed Evergreen's recommendation not to hire an assistant personnel services administrator because the position was unnecessary. She also said that a Board member's request for the Attorney General's opinion on whether a Board member could apply to be a superintendent was nonsense and not relevant to the audit, and she asked that the auditors correct that. In addition, she mentioned comments from school sites about teacher professional development being scheduled during instructional days, which requires teachers to leave their classrooms and leaves students supervised only by aides. She said the Board has been saying that training should not be held on instructional days, although some sessions are mandatory, and noted that this is something the superintendent could review.

Dr. Guthertz said they won't act on the audit yet, as they're still communicating with the company, but will write the recommended letter to Senator Borja.

7) Legislative Committee

- a. Legislative Proposals Introduced - Dr. Won Pat summarized several bills: Bill 126 supports preschool early education and allocates 20% of use tax to DOE; Resolution 127 promotes drug-free facilities, mental health support, and early childhood programs; Bill 226-38 provides incentive pay for specialized certifications in special education, language access, and disability services; and Bill 264-38 raises the charter school cap from seven to eight to support early intervention and inclusive education.

Dr. Guthertz asked about the scheduled hearing dates for the bills.

Dr. Won Pat said Bills 126 and 127 have been heard, Bill 226's hearing was postponed from March 3rd with a new date pending, and Bill 264 has no hearing date yet.

Dr. Guthertz asked Vice Chair Dr. Okada to serve as acting chair from March 10th to 19th while she is off-island, and to represent the Board at any legislative hearings alongside other Board members who wish to attend.

Dr. Okada said she can serve as acting chair on March 10th and 15th–19th, but will be unavailable from the 11th to 14th, and told Dr. Guthertz they can work something out.

Mr. Sablan told Dr. Guthertz that, since she won't be at the regular meeting, they rescheduled it to a day when the chair is available, as they did for this month's meeting.

Mr. Fedenko asked for clarification on bills related to increasing charter schools, noting multiple bill numbers (264-38, 252-38, 256-38) and expressing confusion about whether the increase is from seven to eight or to three, and asked Dr. Won Pat for clarification, given her legislative experience.

Dr. Won Pat explained that charter schools are currently capped at seven, and the bill proposes increasing the cap to eight. She noted that the bill's language supporting early intervention and inclusive education for children with developmental conditions expresses intent, but the enforcement section only addresses the numerical increase. She said she needs to clarify this with the bill's author.

Mr. Fedenko said there is a bill to promote tourism and hospitality career and technical education.

Dr. Won Pat said that was a different one.

Mr. Fedenko said there's a bill to advance career and technical education in partnership with Guam Community College. He noted that while only one charter school increase was requested, the bill could allow up to three, and he questioned whether this was an error or intentional.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Adjustment of Meeting Times for the Guam Education Board - Dr. Guthertz recommended moving the meeting time to 3 pm to finish earlier, before dark, benefiting attendees and helping to expedite the meetings.

Mr. Sablan questioned the 3 pm start, suggesting moving it earlier by an hour so the meeting could end by 5 pm.

Mr. Sablan motioned to move the Guam Education Board meetings to 2 pm.

Dr. Guthertz explained that some members are in classes until 2 pm.

Mr. Sablan suggested changing the meeting date, but starting at 2 pm to accommodate her teaching schedule as chair.

Dr. Guthertz said they also have to consider the other members.

Dr. Guthertz said the simplest solution is to move the meeting from 4 pm to 3 pm on the same date, advancing it by one hour without disrupting the schedule. She asked about alternative meeting days, noting that some members teach in the afternoons.

Dr. Guthertz said that on Tuesdays and Thursdays, her classes run until 2 pm.

Mr. Sablan said teachers are still in school at 2 pm, so the meeting will be moved to 3 pm, with the alternative being to limit the meeting's duration.

Mr. Fedenko said meetings could be shortened by only discussing items after a motion and a second, to avoid running late. He expressed concern that late meetings could prevent teachers and other constituents, including those honored for achievements or in double sessions, from participating in public participation.

Dr. Guthertz said that was not their intent.

Mr. Fedenko said that, although unintentional, moving the meeting time could exclude people.

Ms. Baleto suggested revising the agenda to move public participation and recognitions to the end of the meeting.

Dr. Guthertz said that meetings would be much longer if they did that.

Ms. Baleto said beginning with business and approving minutes first would keep meetings shorter.

Dr. Guthertz asked her colleagues what they desired.

Mr. Sablan withdrew his motion.

Ms. Baleto said it was her last meeting, so she shouldn't have a vote.

Mrs. Angel suggested that they keep the 3:00 pm time.

Dr. Guthertz said it will be the same day, but the time is one hour earlier.

Mrs. Angel motioned, seconded by Dr. Okada, to move the GEB Meeting time to 2:00 pm. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 9-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Guthertz suggested that any additional meeting could be held on a Thursday.

Ms. Baleto motioned, seconded by Mr. Torres, to switch public participation and recognition to the end of the meeting rather than the beginning. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 9-0. The motion passed.

- 2) Resolution 2026-03 Relative to Urging the Guam Department of Education to Consider Reintroducing and Requiring Civics Education at the Middle School and High School Levels and to Establish a GDOE Civics Recognition - Dr. Okada recommended referring this to the committee.

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Ms. Baleto, to refer Resolution 2026-03 Relative to Urging the Guam Department of Education to Consider Reintroducing and Requiring Civics Education at the Middle School and High School Levels and to Establish a GDOE Civics Recognition to the Instructional Committee. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 9-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Guthertz asked who was in charge of the curriculum committee.

Mrs. Gutierrez pointed to Dr. Guthertz.

Dr. Guthertz said she was the chairman - she doesn't want to be head of a committee.

Dr. Guthertz said the resolution should be referred to the policy committee. She supports the resolution, which she wrote, and plans to update the committee and refer it to the new curriculum members. She explained the resolution aims to address misbehavior by teaching youth about Guam's laws, expected behavior, community service, and civic participation, fostering pride and respect. She noted that current government and civics classes don't sufficiently cover these topics and suggested the committee consider integrating them.

Mrs. Gutierrez suggested referencing Board Policy 380 on Character Education, established in 2007, and possibly tying it into the resolution.

Dr. Guthertz said they will look at it in the committee.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked Dr. Won Pat to provide a report at the March meeting—and every other month thereafter—on all school infractions, including fighting, vaping, and smoking. She emphasized the need for data on the number of incidents, how students are supported, and referrals to counselors or mental health services, so the Board can understand what's happening in the schools.

Dr. Guthertz said it aligns well with civics education to help reduce bad behavior.

- 3) 2026 GEB Standing Committee Assignments - Dr. Guthertz asked colleagues to review the list and contact Administrative Officer Kathleen to revise it for the committees they wish to join, noting that the chair is ex officio on all committees but does not have to chair them. She said she'd like to finalize these assignments by the March meeting, which was on Tuesday, the 24th.

Mr. Sablan said it's on the third Tuesday, March 17.

Dr. Guthertz said she will be off-island on the 17th, and the superintendent will be off-island on the 24th.

Dr. Okada said the superintendent will be present at the 17th meeting, be off-island from the 22nd to 24th, and that she herself can chair the 17th meeting in Dr. Guthertz's absence.

Mr. Sablan said he didn't want it to seem like the item was removed from the agenda and noted that Dr. Guthertz had volunteered to draft a Faneyakan CHamoru resolution for LBJES and translate it into CHamoru.

Dr. Guthertz said she was going to work on it.

Mr. Sablan said they need to decide on BRIP and can't keep leaving it unresolved.

Dr. Guthertz said BRIP will be on the March meeting agenda, but she wants input from the superintendent first.

Mr. Sablan said they are waiting for a response from the BRIP and have requested recommendations from both the previous and current superintendents.

Dr. Guthertz said she'll write the resolution and insisted the sound system must be changed, noting her frustration.

Mr. Sablan said it was a new sound system.

Dr. Guthertz said the room's acoustics are terrible, suggesting maintenance address it with carpeting or a sound system fix, and urged Dr. Won Pat to personally take charge and resolve the issue.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked Dr. Won Pat to have her staff examine the Tamuning Mayor's office, noting its clear sound system, and criticized their own system as frustrating and terrible, comparing it to the CNMI PSS Board meeting.

Dr. Guthertz said the sound reminded her of a karaoke microphone, with the echoes bouncing around, and noted that it's not healthy for anyone. Before adjourning, she invited any Board member interested in serving as acting chair to volunteer, suggesting they could take turns, and asked her colleagues to let her know.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 9-0. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:



KATHLEEN LAMORENA
Administrative Officer

Date: March 11, 2026

MINUTES OF RESCHEDULED 2/17 REGULAR MEETING:

- Approved as submitted
- Approved subject to corrections
- Other: _____



for **JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA**
GEB Chair

Date: 03.17.2026



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary/Acting GDOE Superintendent

Date: 3-18-26