

Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2288 through 2292.

From 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>  
Date Wed 5/6/2026 9:52 AM  
To Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.gov>  
Cc Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

5 attachments (21 MB)

5626COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-2289.pdf, 5626COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-2288.pdf, 5626COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-2290.pdf, 5626COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-2292.pdf, 5626COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-2291.pdf,

Håfa Adai Clerks Office,

Please see attached, **Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2288 through 2292** for processing:

✓	38GL-26-2288	Office of the Attorney General	FY2026 2nd Quarter Staffing Pattern.
✓	38GL-26-2289	Department of Public Health and Social Services	Guam Board of Nurse Examiners Regular Board Meeting Packet for April 9, 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2290	Department of Education	Guam Education Board Meeting Packet for April 28, 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2291	Department of Administration	FY2026 2nd Quarter Limited Gaming Fund Report*
✓	38GL-26-2292	Guam Memorial Hospital Authority	Notification of Temporary Assignment or Detail – Amee J. Fejeran, Personnel Assistant II, 4/1/26; Lee Ann N. Acfalle, Management Analyst II, 4/1/26.

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*

*38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

Disclaimer: The content of this email is intended for the person or entity to which it is addressed only. This email may contain confidential information. If you are not the person to whom this message is addressed, be aware that any use, reproduction, or distribution of this message is strictly prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender at [committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov) and immediately delete this email and any attachments.

**Messages and Communications 38GL-26-2290\***

2 messages

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

Mon, May 4, 2026 at 10:30 AM

To: 38th Committee On Rules &lt;committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov&gt;, Sabrina Salas Matanane &lt;office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov&gt;

*Håfa Adai,*

Please see attached M&amp;C Doc. No. 38GL-26-2290

38GL-26-2290	Department of Education	Guam Education Board Meeting Packet for April 28, 2026*
--------------	-------------------------	---

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'**Bernice Rivera*

Administrative Assistant

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

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

[speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov)

Electronic Privacy Notice: This e-mail and any attachment(s), contains information that is, or may be, covered by electronic communications privacy laws and legal privileges, and is also confidential and proprietary in nature. If you are not the intended recipient, please be advised that you are legally prohibited from retaining, using, copying, distributing, or otherwise disclosing the 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.

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

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

Date: Thu, Apr 30, 2026 at 5:14 PM

Subject: GEB April 28, 2026 Regular Meeting - Reporting Requirements

To: Jean S. Taitano &lt;jean.taitano@guam.gov&gt;, Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr. &lt;speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov&gt;

Cc: MaeRose A. Nauta &lt;manauta@gdoe.net&gt;, Dr. Judith T. Won Pat (Superintendent) &lt;jtwonpat@gdoe.net&gt;


*Hafa Adai!*

Please see the attached documents for the Guam Education Board's Regular Meeting held on April 28, 2026.

Thank you!

Warm regards,  
Kathleen Lamorena  
Guam Department of Education

Guam Department of Education 2026

**2 attachments** **GEB Reporting Requirements - April 28, 2026 Regular Meeting.pdf**  
3398K **38GL-26-2290.pdf**  
1118K**38th Committee On Rules** <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>

Mon, May 4, 2026 at 5:20 PM

To: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." &lt;speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov&gt;

*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*

*38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

Disclaimer: The content of this email is intended for the person or entity to which it is addressed only. This email may contain confidential information. If you are not the person to whom this message is addressed, be aware that any use, reproduction, or distribution of this message is strictly prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender at [committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov) and immediately delete this email and any attachments.

[Quoted text hidden]



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

## GEB April 28, 2026 Regular Meeting - Reporting Requirements

3 messages

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

Thu, Apr 30, 2026 at 5:14 PM

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

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

Hafa Adai!

Please see the attached documents for the Guam Education Board's Regular Meeting held on April 28, 2026.

Thank you!

Warm regards,  
Kathleen Lamorena  
Guam Department of Education

Doc Type: 38GL-26-2290  
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER  
FRANK F. BLAS, JR.  
April 30, 2026  
Time: 5:14 PM  
Received:

Guam Department of Education 2026



**GEB Reporting Requirements - April 28, 2026 Regular Meeting.pdf**  
3398K

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

Fri, May 1, 2026 at 9:13 AM

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

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

Hâfa 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 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

[speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov)

Electronic Privacy Notice: This e-mail and any attachment(s), contains information that is, or may be, covered by electronic communications privacy laws and legal privileges, and is also confidential and proprietary in nature. If you are not the intended recipient, please be advised that you are legally prohibited from retaining, using, copying, distributing, or otherwise disclosing the 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>

Fri, May 1, 2026 at 10:53 AM

Thank you, Ms. Bernice!

Thank you,  
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

April 30, 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 April 28, 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-26-2290**  
Messages and Communications

**RECEIVED**  
COMMITTEE ON RULES  
May 4, 2026  
10:30 a.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](http://www.gdoe.net/geb)



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

**Guam Education Board  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, April 28, 2026  
3 PM  
Gallery, Bldg. B, Tiyan  
AGENDA**

- |             |       |  |
|-------------|-------|--|
| INFO        | I.    | <b>Meeting Call to Order</b>   |
| INFO/ACTION | II.   | <b>Consent Calendar</b>  |
|             | a.    | March 17, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes   |
|             | b.    | February 12, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes  |
|             | c.    | January 27, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes   |
|             | III.  | <b>Communications</b>  |
| INFO        | a.    | Correspondence received by the Board after March 17, 2026                              |
| INFO        | IV.   | <b>Ex-Officio Member Reports</b>   |
|             | 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.    | <b>Unfinished Business/Committee Reports</b>   |
|             | 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.   | Financial Issues   |
|             | vii.  | Transition Updates   |
|             | viii. | JP Torres Success Academy  |
|             | ix.   | CCSSO Legislative Conference - Washington, D.C., March 22-24, 2026                     |
|             | x.    | Report on Typhoon Sinlaku  |
| INFO/ACTION | b.    | Executive Committee  |
|             | i.    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Amended Employment Agreement for Dr. Won Pat as Superintendent of GDOE |
|             | 1.    | \$210,000 contract   |
|             | 2.    | 4-year contract  |
|             | 3.    | Material Change (Indemnification) and minor change (Signature Block)                   |
| INFO/ACTION | ii.   | Adjustment of Meeting Times and Item Order for the Guam Education Board                |
| INFO/ACTION | c.    | Instructional & Academic Support Committee   |
|             | i.    | April Head Start Report  |

**VOTING MEMBERS:** Judith Guthertz, DPA, Chair, Mary A.Y. Okada, Ed.D., Vice-Chair, Peter Alecxis D. Ada, Felicitas B. Angel, Christine W. Baletto, 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/ACTION
- INFO/ACTION
- INFO
- INFO
- INFO
- INFO/ACTION
- INFO
- INFO
- INFO
- INFO/ACTION
- INFO/ACTION
- INFO/ACTION
- INFO/ACTION
- INFO/ACTION
- INFO
- INFO
- INFO/ACTION
- ii. Resolution 2026-04 Relative to Supporting the Guam Department of Education CHamoru Language and Cultural Immersion Program
  - iii. 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 Program
  - 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
    - ii. Legal Counsel for the Guam Education Board
- VI. **New Business**
- a. Textbook Audit
  - b. NASBE 2026 New Member Institute – July 7-8, 2026 Washington, D.C.
- 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
- VIII. **Celebrate Success**
- IX. **Public Participation** (Board Policy 125.6) Time Limit 3 minutes
- 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](mailto:krlamorena@gdoe.net).

This advertisement was paid by GDOE local funds.



JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA  
Chair

# GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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



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

## Guam Education Board REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 • 3PM • Gallery, Bldg. B, Tiyan

### AGENDA

- INFO I. **Meeting Call to Order**
- INFO/ACTION II. **Consent Calendar**
  - a. March 17, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
  - b. February 12, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes
  - c. January 27, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
- III. **Communications**
  - a. Correspondence received by the Board after March 17, 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
- V. **Unfinished Business/Committee Reports**
  - INFO/ACTION 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. Financial Issues
    - vii. Transition Updates
    - viii. JP Torres Success Academy
    - ix. CCSO Legislative Conference - Washington, D.C., March 22-24, 2026
    - x. Report on Typhoon Sinlaku
  - INFO/ACTION b. Executive Committee
    - i. 2nd Amended Employment Agreement for Dr. Won Pat as Superintendent of GDOE
      - 1. \$210,000 contract
      - 2. 4-year contract
      - 3. Material Change (Indemnification) and minor change (Signature Block)
    - ii. Adjustment of Meeting Times and Item Order for the Guam Education Board
  - INFO/ACTION c. Instructional & Academic Support Committee
    - INFO/ACTION i. March Head Start Report
    - INFO/ACTION ii. Resolution 2026-04 Relative to Supporting the Guam Department of Education CHamoru Language and Cultural Immersion Program
    - INFO/ACTION iii. 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 Program
  - INFO d. Safe & Healthy Schools Committee
    - INFO i. Security Concerns
  - INFO e. Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee
  - INFO f. Fiscal Management Committee
    - INFO 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
    - INFO ii. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report
    - INFO iii. FY 2025 Audit Update
    - INFO/ACTION iv. Management and Curriculum Audit
  - INFO/ACTION g. Legislative Committee
    - INFO/ACTION i. Legislative Proposals Introduced
    - INFO/ACTION ii. Legal Counsel for the Guam Education Board
- INFO/ACTION VI. **New Business**
  - INFO/ACTION a. Textbook Audit
  - INFO/ACTION b. NASBE 2026 New Member Institute - July 7-8, 2026 Washington, D.C.
- 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 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](mailto:krlamorena@gdoe.net).

This advertisement was paid by GDOE local funds.

## JOB OPENINGS

- 18 CARPENTERS \$18.34/HR.
- 07 CEMENT MASONS \$17.51/HR.
- 04 ELECTRICIAN \$21.02/HR.
- 04 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANICS \$21.77/HR.
- 20 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS \$18.97/HR.
- 03 PLUMBERS \$19.48/HR.
- 02 REINFORCING METAL WORKERS \$16.98/HR.
- 02 ACCOUNTING CLERK \$15.76/HR.

Benefits: Free round airfare. Food and lodging @\$80.00/week. Free local transportation to/from jobsite.

Apply at Giant Construction Corporation at [giantconst@gmail.com](mailto:giantconst@gmail.com) or P. O. Box 9578, Tamuning, Guam 96931

## NOW HIRING ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

2-YRS EXPERIENCE, MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS, AND TROUBLESHOOTING  
COMPANY BENEFITS: HEALTH INSURANCE, 401K SAVINGS  
FULL TIME ONLY  
OVERTIME WHEN NEEDED  
Please call/email: Dianne  
671-648-0030 • [fredridm@ussicorp.com](mailto:fredridm@ussicorp.com)

little type

# BIG RESULTS

use the classifieds whether you're buying • selling • hiring



## PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Guam Visitors Bureau will hold a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in GVB's main conference room and by Teleconference - Via Zoom. Anyone desiring to join the virtual meeting may enter the following link in a browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89090779984?pwd=aeQql0lPvQM0NDxc4fVc0fQlqBHNk.1> Meeting ID: 890 9077 9984. Password: visitguam. For meeting details, please visit [https://go.opengovguam.com/meetings\\_list/gvb](https://go.opengovguam.com/meetings_list/gvb). The Board of Directors hereby notifies the public that it will discuss the following:

### 2nd NOTICE: AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (March 27, 2026)
- IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (As needed)
  - Confidential regulatory matter, anticipated personnel litigation
- V. ACTION BY THE BOARD
- VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- VII. MANAGEMENT REPORT
- VIII. REPORT OF BOARD COMMITTEES
  - A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
  - B. ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNMENT
    - Approval of FY2026 Purchase Orders, Contracts, IFBs, and RFPs for Board Review and Disposition by the Board
    - GVB RFP 2025-015 Sella Bay Overlook Trail
    - GVB RFP 2025-018 Legal Services
  - C. DESTINATION MANAGEMENT/ VISTOR SAFETY & SATISFACTION
  - D. CULTURAL HERITAGE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH
    - Approval of FY2026 Sponsorships
      - Talofofo' Municipal Planning Council - 17th Annual Banana Festival and Talofofo' Fiesta
      - Inalahan Municipal Planning Council - St. Joseph Fiesta and San Jidro Fiesta
      - Santa Rita-Sumai Municipal Planning Council - Back to Sumay Day, Papaya Block Party, Liberation Memorial Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta and Santa Rita Festival
      - Agat Municipal Planning Council - 17th Annual Hagat Mango Festival, 2nd Annual Mt. Carmel Carnival, and Fena/Hagat Memorial
  - E. RESEARCH
  - F. SPORTS & EVENTS
    - Approval of FY2026 Sponsorships
      - University of Guam CIS and Sea Grant G3 - 2026 University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability
  - G. JAPAN
  - H. KOREA
  - I. TAIWAN
    - Meeting minutes dated April 2, 2026
  - J. NORTH AMERICA, PACIFIC, PHILIPPINES & NEW MARKETS
    - For Approval - Great American State Fair
  - K. MEMBERSHIP
  - L. RECOVERY COMMITTEE
- IX. OLD BUSINESS CORPORATION
- X. OTHER BUSINESS
- XI. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING
- XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - Upcoming Board Meetings: May 26, 2026 and June 25, 2026
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Information on individual committees is available at [www.guamvisitorsbureau.com](http://www.guamvisitorsbureau.com), along with other bureau meeting materials. Detailed materials, if applicable, will be available on the website one day before the meeting. Please call 671-646-5278 if you require additional detail about any agenda item. Individuals requiring special accommodations or information may contact GVB at 671-646-5278 for assistance.

GUAM VISITORS BUREAU | SETBISIBON BISITAN GUAHAN  
(671) 646-5278 (Voice) (671) 646-5279 (Fax) (671) 646-5278 (TDD)  
[www.visitguam.com](http://www.visitguam.com) | [www.visitguam.com](http://www.visitguam.com) | [www.visitguam.com](http://www.visitguam.com)



## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING ONLY \$16.00 A DAY/PER COLUMN INCH

Call us at 671.649.1924 or email: [krista@postguam.com](mailto:krista@postguam.com)



**ANGEL R. SABLAN**  
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](http://www.gdoe.net/geb)



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

### GUAM EDUCATION BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

4 pm

Gallery, GDOE Building B

MINUTES

#### VOTING MEMBERS

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

Mr. Sablan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

#### *Voting Members:*

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

#### *Non-Voting Members:*

Fedenko, Timothy – GFT Representative  
Colleen Concepcion – IBOGS Representative

#### *Legal Counsel:*

Nasis, Jesse  
Rudolph, Gloria

#### *Absent:*

Torres, Carl E. II

#### *Non-Voting Members:*

Terlaje, Brian Jess – MCOG Representative

The Acting Superintendent announced that six (6) members of the Board was present in person, and two (2) were present via Zoom, constituting a quorum.

Mr. Sablan acknowledged that the young adults, the most important people the Board works for, were in the crowd, wearing their uniforms, trying to serve the country and the island. He also acknowledged former Congressman Dr. Robert Underwood.

- II. Introduction of Deputies by Superintendent** - Dr. Won Pat introduced her deputies - Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services (DFAS), Dr. Julie Ulloa-Heath, Deputy Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability (DSAA), Dr. Rizalina Liwag, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction (DSCI), Jackie Quitugua, Deputy Superintendent of Educational Support and Community Learning (DESCL).

Mr. Sablan welcomed the new management team, praising them for their active engagement and strong start. He thanked them for their efforts and encouraged them to continue staying strong, especially in supporting those in the schools.

Mrs. Gutierrez disclosed that several female deputy superintendents are her relatives—Deputies Jackie and Julie are her nieces, and she is related to Deputy Riza through her late husband from her birthplace, Rota. She emphasized that, despite these family ties, she would still address any concerns professionally. She highlighted that her family values ethics, integrity, and professionalism. She clarified that Dr. Won Pat made the selections for the positions. She also mentioned knowing Deputy Franklin's siblings, Coletta and Patrick, in the CNMI. She welcomed all deputies, encouraged them to continue their good work, and noted that principals frequently report positive progress.

Mr. Sablan noted that everyone present is related in some way, including Dr. McNinch, despite differences in background. He emphasized that his long experience gives him perspective and that the most important thing is ensuring their actions are the right ones.

- III. Celebrate Success** - Mr. Sablan explained that the event involved deserving students, proud administrators, and proud parents, and he gave Mrs. Gutierrez the honor of announcing the honorees.

Mrs. Gutierrez shared that she recently watched the JROTC cadets and was impressed by their hard work and dedication, noting she would have been nervous in front of the judges. She thanked Principal Masnayon and then called the two Simon Sanchez High School (SSHS) IBOGS representatives.

LTC Ret. Kevin Yatar expressed gratitude on behalf of the instructors, cadets, and administration, especially thanking parents and guardians for their support. He praised the cadets' hard work, noting their nighttime practice builds skill and resilience. He explained the instructor's guide, but the cadets do the work. He shared that in April, they will compete in Denver, Colorado, representing their school, district, and Guam, aiming to win the Rocky Mountain Western Classic trophy.

Mr. Sablan congratulated the cadets and expressed pride in SSHS. He shared transparently that his daughter, Acie Jo Sablan Cruz—last year's Teacher of the Year—taught some of them and is always proud of SSHS students. He emphasized his and the Board's commitment to rebuilding SSHS and congratulated the cadets on their well-deserved achievements.

The following were recognized: SSHS – SY25-26 ISLAND WIDE DRILL Team Competition Champions; Okkodo High School Cadet Robielle Carlos – Legion of Valor Bronze Cross recipient; JPTSA Matthew Santos – for completing all requirements to enlist in the Guam Army National Guard and for earning a Platinum badge on the WorkKeys Assessment, the highest level attainable.

Mrs. Gutierrez called Sergeant Major Santiago, the principal, and the honoree, Robielle Carlos.

Sergeant Major Vince Santiago, OHS Senior Marines JROTC Instructor, highlighted the achievements of Cadet Robielle Carlos, Battalion Commander of the Marine Corps JROTC. He noted that out of over 3,000 cadets worldwide, only 14 received the Legion of Valor, and Carlos was the sole recipient from Guam, joining the prestigious ranks of Medal of Honor and Service Cross recipients. Her accomplishments, including promotion to lieutenant colonel, a 4.50 GPA in the top 5% of her class, and acceptance to the U.S. Air Force and Naval Academies, reflect her exceptional commitment and leadership. Santiago thanked the Board, Dr. Won Pat, and deputies for celebrating her achievements.

Mrs. Gutierrez said representing her is the OHS IBOGS Vice Chair Colleen Concepcion.

Mr. Sablan highlighted reasons to be proud of Guam's education system, including the JROTC students, and encouraged applause for everyone involved. He also congratulated JPTSA Matthew Santos for enlisting in the Guam Army National Guard and earning a Platinum WorkKeys badge, saying he will make Guam and his family proud.

Mr. Ada, former director of the Department of Youth Affairs, praised JPTSA students' success, noting that none had previously reached DYA. He affectionately called them "little rascals" and commended Mr. Santos as one of them.

#### **IV. Consent Calendar**

**Dr. Guthertz motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to accept the consent calendar items. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

- 1) **Minutes of December 16, 2025 Regular Meeting**
- 2) **Minutes of December 23, 2025 Emergency Meeting**
- 3) **Minutes of December 30, 2025 Emergency Meeting**

**Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Dr. Guthertz, to move section 9 (New Business), Section b. Revised CHamoru Language & Culture Program Standards/Performance Indicators out of order. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0.**

Dr. Okada stated that the committee reviewed the CHamoru Division's presentation and recommended that the Board approve the updated standard.

Mr. Sablan asked if anyone listed under public participation wanted to speak, but there were no responses.

#### **V. Public Participation**

**Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez, to nominate Guam Police Officer Isiah Ibanez for the Government of Guam Service Star Award. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

Dr. McNinch recognized Mr. Ibanez's exceptional service and bravery in going above and beyond to protect students, highlighting his courage and personal sacrifice.

Mr. Sablan mentioned a few people from Faniyakan CHamoru and asked Dr. Won Pat if she had spoken with Mr. Jimmy Teria.

Dr. Won Pat shared that she and Deputy Riza met with Mr. Teria to discuss the processes of building, designing, and budgeting a school. They received a \$2.9 million proposal for Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary School (LBJES) and are working on the department's budget to accommodate this. They explored alternatives, such as finding a suitable facility and ensuring the finances for a school with the necessary staff and utilities. They also discussed the possibility of using existing department facilities or requesting additional funding from the legislature to support 10 classrooms.

Mr. Sablan emphasized that Faniyakan CHamoru's request to use an underutilized school is aimed at promoting the island's CHamoru language and identity. He noted that while the Board cannot control GDOE operations, it supports giving Faniyakan CHamoru a permanent home to expand and be a source of pride for CHamoru-speaking islanders. He expressed confidence that legislators will support the initiative once the assessment is complete and reiterated his full support as chair, urging the Board to protect, promote, and preserve the CHamoru language for the future.

Mr. Ada reiterated that the CHamoru language program is requesting to occupy LBJES and emphasized that they are fully responsible for maintaining the entire campus, whether it's used or not. He also wanted to confirm that the restroom facilities will be retrofitted to meet the needs of students by grade level, ensuring that nothing has changed from previous discussions.

Pika Fejeran - Ms. Fejeran shared that her son Cole is a 5th grader at Faniyakan CHamoru. She then read her letter for the record.

Mr. Sablan informed Ms. Fejeran that her letter was included in the Board's packets. He explained that no action has occurred yet because it's an operational matter and a new law requires a specific process. They are reviewing whether the law affects schools still under GDOE control, since Faniyakan CHamoru will not be leasing the school. He emphasized that the school and program belong to the department, and the necessary steps should be taken to make it happen. He then asked if any Board member would make a motion to draft a resolution supporting the request and submit it to the GDOE Acting Superintendent.

Dr. Guthertz reiterated her support for the CHamoru language program, which she had moved for approval a month or two ago. She acknowledged the significant costs involved but remained committed to proceeding. She urged the Superintendent, senators, and the private sector to support funding for the program, emphasizing its importance for Guam's future, culture, and identity. She stressed the need to preserve the CHamoru language and culture, especially amid challenges in the country. She also called on the legislature to fund initiatives with long-lasting impacts on Guam's education and cultural preservation, and encouraged the Board to advocate for the program with policymakers. She expressed confidence that they would continue to make progress.

Dr. Guthertz motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to draft a resolution in support of Faniyakan to utilize Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary School. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she supports the idea behind the resolution but believes it should be handled by the new superintendent, as the Board decided previously to allow her and her management team to lead. She noted that the superintendent and her team have only been on board for 27 days and are working long hours, preparing the budget due January 31st. She emphasized respecting the superintendent's approach, including reviewing the facility and coordinating with Deputy Franklin Leon Guerrero on funding. Mrs. Gutierrez urged the Board to give the new superintendent the opportunity to manage this matter before taking further action.

Mr. Sablan stressed the importance of including funding for Faniyakan CHamoru in the FY27 budget, urging the Board to fight for it at the Guam legislature. He called for a vote to support Faniyakan CHamoru using LBJES, contingent on the superintendent's assessment, and requested an update at the next meeting. After the vote passed unanimously, he asked Dr. Guthertz to collaborate with Dr. Underwood and Mrs. Fejeran to draft a resolution.

Dr. Guthertz said she would be honored to help and would use her CHamoru dictionary to try writing the resolution herself.

Dr. Robert Underwood - Dr. Underwood spoke in CHamoru, emphasizing that preserving the language is more than symbolic—it's an act of love, care, and self-understanding. He said education should help students understand who they are and build a life from a position of strength, rooted in belonging and community, which he tied to the 4,000-year history of the CHamoru people. He praised the Board for being a "Board of action" that actively passes resolutions. While the Board may not control budgeting, he stressed its influential role in supporting parents, students, and schools. He also mentioned two historical projects he wanted to highlight—one for a cemetery and one for a camp.

Mr. Sablan told Mr. Fedenko, Dr. McNinch, and Dr. Guthertz that even if they didn't fully understand his CHamoru remarks, his passion shows the importance of preserving the CHamoru language. He emphasized that the Board, together with the superintendent and deputies, is committed to keeping the language alive. Noting the presence of several doctors in the room, he expressed confidence in addressing the issue. He asked Mr. Teria to compile input from others into a report so that the Board can present a resolution at the next meeting and allow supporters to participate.

Mr. Ada said he and Dr. Won Pat discussed the CHamoru Language program using LBJES, which falls under the Safe & Healthy Schools Committee. They plan to meet in the next two weeks with the relevant deputy and aim to make a decision by February, stressing the need to move forward promptly as the LBJES facility requires significant time.

Ellen "Baila" Camacho - Baila read her report for the record.

Mr. Sablan instructed supporters of Faniyakan CHamoru to compile their letters for the Board's review. He asked Dr. Guthertz to place the resolution and committee report, chaired by Mr. Ada, on the next meeting agenda for Board action. He thanked everyone and wished them safe travels. Noting that some items require discussion with the court reporter, he asked the Board to move into executive session to review the status of a lawsuit filed against the Board and GDOE, aiming to return in about 15 minutes.

**Dr. Guthertz motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez, to go into Executive session. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

The Board went into executive session at 5:06 pm.

**Mr. Ada motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to get out of Executive Session. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

The Board went out of executive session at 5:44 pm.

## **VI. Communications**

- 1) Correspondence received by the Board after December 16, 2025 - Dr. Won Pat shared that the Board received a letter from the Attorney General's Office addressed to Mr. Sablan regarding non-compliance with the Open Government Law. She explained that a letter was also sent to the Governor and the Speaker, showing that the Board had provided all required documents—agenda, ads, and reports—for the December 30, 2025, emergency Board meeting, which were also posted in the GDOE gallery.

Mr. Sablan said the Board should respond to the Attorney General, emphasizing that they acted appropriately to hold the emergency meeting. He explained the emergency was necessary to maintain stability in the department and make a key appointment. He requested that legal counsel draft a response and provide the Board with copies of what was sent to the Governor and Speaker.

Mrs. Gutierrez expressed frustration over the AG's letter regarding the Board's appointment of an acting superintendent on December 30th, calling it ironic and unfortunate since the Board was in compliance. She emphasized that this was the first time they had been cited for non-compliance and mentioned a senator's remark about the Board not following open government law. She reassured her colleagues that they do follow the law, as reflected in the minutes, and suggested that the issue stemmed from a complaint.

## **VII. Ex-Officio Member Reports**

- 1) Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report - Colleen Concepcion read her report for the record.

Mrs. Gutierrez expressed pride that Colleen is the first student from their school to join the NASBE Student Advisory Council. She noted that NASBE is currently focused on high school transformation and said Colleen will work closely with Deputy Riza and Deputy

Jackie. She thanked Colleen for dedicating class time to participate, and also thanked her principal, Dr. Flores, and teachers for supporting her. She praised Colleen's hard work and recognized her as one of the top students at OHS.

Mr. Sablan thanked Colleen and Mrs. Gutierrez for always supporting IBOGS.

- 2) **Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report** - Mr. Fedenko said he hasn't met with the new superintendent and missed the last meeting due to vacation. He noted that things seem to be status quo and stressed that the Budget Committee must ensure no funds are taken from CBA positions, which are essential for students' education and school safety. He emphasized that unfilled positions keep schools behind and expressed hope that expanding school aides will help. He looks forward to meeting the superintendent in February and hopes the good work continues.

Mr. Sablan instructed DEPUTY Mr. Franklin to ensure that funds for CBA positions are fully protected and not reallocated to accommodate other needs. He emphasized that if the budget needs to be increased, they will pursue it, but the CBA positions remain the top priority. He urged Dr. Won Pat, Dr. Okada, and the Budget Committee to fully support funding these positions.

Deputy Franklin said he understood and stated that that's been the guidance from the superintendent.

Mrs. Gutierrez emphasized that CBA positions must be filled at the schools rather than downtown. She assured that, under the leadership of Dr. Won Pat and her management team, school-based staffing will be prioritized, noting issues like a lack of substitutes and missing librarians at some schools. She promised that all positions would be filled before her term ends and noted that these are contractual obligations. She also mentioned that past resolutions reflect CBA compliance and that Deputy Franklin is aware of the finance committee's expectations.

Dr. Won Pat assured Mr. Fedenko that the current budget prioritizes filling all CBA positions, including new and vacant ones. She mentioned that they are collaborating with HR to explore various ways to encourage community members to apply for these positions.

- 3) **Mayor's Council of Guam (MCOG) Report** – Not discussed.

#### **VIII. Unfinished Business/Committee Reports**

- 1) **Superintendent's Report** - Mr. Sablan announced that the Superintendent's report would be postponed since she has only been in the role for 27 days and hasn't prepared one yet. It will be addressed at the next meeting, and they moved on with the agenda to accommodate members who needed to leave.
  - a) JFKHS/SSHS Double Session Status Report
  - b) FEMA Projects Status Report
  - c) FBLG Renovation Status Report
  - d) Mold Mitigation/Fencing Status Report
  - e) Dashboard Status Report

**Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez, to take things out of order on the agenda and go to item 9a) Election of Officers because he has to leave the meeting early.**

Mr. Sablan said this is why he dispensed with the superintendent's report.

Dr. McNinch said he apologies he should have mentioned it during the break.

Mr. Sablan said they would address Dr. McNinch's request later, as there was a prior request from Mr. Ada, the chair of the Safe & Healthy Schools Committee.

- 2) **Executive Committee** – Mr. Sablan said there was nothing to report.
  - a) National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)
- 3) **Instructional & Academic Support Committee**
  - a) January Head Start Report - Mr. Sablan mentioned that Ms. Angelina Lape was present for the Instructional and Academic Support Committee and had asked if there were any action items. He noted that the report is in the Board packet and encouraged members to email her with any new questions.
  - b) Faniyakan CHamoru use of LBJ School Facility – Mr. Sablan stated that they had already heard from Faniyakan CHamoru and that Dr. Guthertz would work on the resolution and present it at the next Board meeting.
- 4) **Safe & Healthy Schools Committee**
  - a) Security Concerns - Mr. Ada said that over the past three weeks, the committee—including Dr. McNinch, Mr. Torres, Deputy Julie, and himself—met twice to discuss three main issues. He reported that while every elevator in the district is operational, seven elevators at Southern High School are still not working. One elevator is functioning, but the administration is determining how to repair the others. He noted that some SHS elevators have been deemed obsolete, with no parts available, and invited Dr. Ulloa-Heath to clarify if needed.

Dr. Ulloa-Heath confirmed that some elevators may need revitalization, possibly due to hydraulic issues. She stated that SHS has eight elevators, but only one is currently working, and that each school with an elevator has at least one functioning elevator.

Mr. Ada reported that, according to Dr. Ulloa-Heath, one of the elevators has its flooring (tiles) being replaced. He also mentioned a topic previously raised by Dr. McNinch or Dr. Guthertz regarding GDOE schools as community schools. He said they are exploring the possibility of renting school facilities to the community, which would require a Board policy and careful consideration of liabilities and other details.

Dr. Guthertz recalled that when she was in high school, village residents could rent school facilities like cafeterias and gyms for events such as sweet sixteen parties, Elk's Club dances, senior citizen birthdays, and other community activities. She noted that fees were reasonable and helped schools cover costs and fund repairs. She suggested revisiting this approach to strengthen schools' connections with the community. She also proposed leasing facilities to UOG for evening classes or GCC for special village classes as a revenue source, with each school potentially maintaining its own non-appropriated account. Costs for janitorial services and any required security would be included.

Mr. Ada said liability is very important.

Dr. Guthertz agreed and said they should try it out.

Mr. Ada said they will meet with the administration soon to resolve the issue.

Mrs. Gutierrez mentioned that there is a Board policy regarding schools renting out their gyms, and she believes the funds from these rentals go toward supporting the school's administrators. She wanted to clarify this point.

Mr. Ada recalled a third topic of discussion: SHS's auditorium is deteriorating, and other facilities like the gym and swimming pool could generate revenue if leased, with earnings potentially applied to repair costs. He said they also plan to include the CHamoru process at LBJES and need to determine rental costs for Chief Brodie Memorial Elementary School (CBMES). Additionally, two

CBMES classrooms are funded by GHURA, so any rental approval would exclude those rooms until the funding issue is resolved.

Dr. Guthertz asked if the decision to rent out CBMES had been made, as it is being considered as a middle school in the Board's plans, and should be factored into the decision.

Mr. Ada noted two issues under consideration: establishing it as a middle school and having SIFA rent the facility. He mentioned a caveat for SIFA—that students from Tamuning be given enrollment priority, as many currently travel to Piti despite preferring a closer school. He said these details are still being worked out and praised Dr. Ulloa-Heath for being cooperative and knowledgeable, noting her expertise despite being new in her role.

Dr. Guthertz suggested to Mr. Ada that schools consider hosting community non-profit bingo as a way to generate additional income. She emphasized that it must be run by genuine non-profit groups, such as school PTAs, with proper fiscal oversight to ensure integrity, accountability, and compliance—not by professional gambling groups. She believes this could be feasible at schools and reiterated that only bona fide non-profits should be involved.

Mr. Ada emphasized that the money generated from renting a school should remain with the school and that there must be accountability for its use.

Dr. Guthertz acknowledged.

Dr. Won Pat explained that during her time in the legislature, laws were passed allowing schools to rent facilities like gyms, cafeterias, libraries, and some classrooms, as well as to advertise on school buses and fences, with all revenue going directly to the school. She noted that the Board's current policy on this is outdated and may need updating, including the pricing for facility use.

Mr. Sablan stated that there's a request by Dr. McNinch that they go to 9 New Business a Election of Officers.

#### 5) Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee -

**Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Dr. Okada, to approve the amended Board Policies 105, 105.10, 115, 120.2, 120.4, 125.3, 125.12, and 130. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

Mrs. Gutierrez mentioned that the policies in the Board packet have already been reviewed by the committee. The amendments involve changing "Guam Education Policy Board" to "Guam Education Board." She listed the policies to be amended: 105, 105.10, 115, 120.2, 120.4, 125.3, 125.12, and 130, and confirmed they are ready for finalization.

- a) Amended Board Policies
  - i) 105 – Board Officers – Election
  - ii) 105.10 – Duties of the Board Officers
  - iii) 115 – Committees
  - iv) 120.2 Board Policy Dissemination
  - v) 120.4 – Administration in the Absence of Board Policy
  - vi) 125.3 – Distribution of Board Meeting Materials
  - vii) 125.12 – Executive Sessions at Board Meetings
  - viii) 130 – Board Work Sessions
- b) BRIP Review and Recommendations

**Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to table the BRIP Review and Recommendations. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

Mrs. Gutierrez stated that the submitted recommendations have not yet been reviewed by the committee and that Dr. Won Pat and her team should have the opportunity to examine them. She also noted a similar bill on incentive pay has been introduced, and they want to assess how it affects current Board policy and the law.

**Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez, to go to Item 9a Election of Officers I) Chair II) Vice Chair.**

Mrs. Gutierrez said there was no discussion; they can proceed with nominating the chair for the Board.

**6) Fiscal Management Committee**

**a) GDOE Financial Report**

- i) Accounts Payable Aging Report - Deputy Franklin emphasized the importance of closely monitoring payables, noting that significant progress has been made in the past two weeks. He reported that approximately 77% of outstanding payables are actively being addressed and expressed confidence that they will be paid soon. He explained that one payable involves a food service company awaiting a USDA drawdown, which is forthcoming, and that large payments to the University of Guam are pending due to minor grant compliance requirements that are being resolved. While some smaller payables face compliance or timing challenges, he said those issues are now being prioritized. He said that as the new DFAS, he has implemented a policy requiring invoices to be processed within 3-5 working days unless an exception is approved by him. He stressed that extended delays will no longer occur and shared his goal of eliminating 30-, 60, and 90-day outstanding payables. He reiterated that 77% of payables are underway and will be cleared.

Ms. Baeto shared that although she was appointed by the governor and has served on the Board for a couple of years, financial management and reporting have been ongoing challenges. After reviewing the fiscal report, she said she was extremely pleased, describing it as a clear and comprehensive outline of the department's obligations and financial issues at both the local and federal levels. She thanked Franklin for preparing the report and called it a positive step in keeping the Board informed about the department's financial position. She asked that, at the next meeting, he provide plans to address expired grants, funds owed to vendors, and other funding concerns. She also expressed relief that many federal grants were still active with timelines in place. Finally, she thanked Deputy Franklin, saying she appreciated the new reporting format and looked forward to continued updates as he settles into his role.

Deputy Franklin thanked Ms. Baeto on behalf of his team. He said to trust him that resources are being applied to look at it. He said what they're looking at now is not accidental, it's a concerted effort, and they're going to see more of that. He said as far as some of the federal grants, he wants them to know that \$1.4 million shows that it's about to expire in July, but what he found out today is that they have an extension for a year, and the reason for this is because it's the program that tracks children from kindergarten or from birth now through job assignments. He said they needed more money and that it was a recurring grant. He said they need more money that's going to pay for the system. He said that was the holdup, and the federal

grantee understands that, so the next grant year that's going out and that would give enough money that they can apply all these grants, that's why they extended the grant, so they're not going to lose that grant money at all. He said each one of those was being dissected and looked at that has to be answered. He said some of it was because President Trump came in and he did a strategic pause. He said that the pause affected grant money because grant money stopped for a while, and when it got turned on eventually, some of the contracts timed out, or the contractors said the amount of money to be charged had gone up because their supply chains had gone up, so they charged more. He said they couldn't do that because the grant liquidation period ended - they couldn't go back again. He said there are some reasons why some of it was out of their control, but they're on it in every way possible that they can liquidate any of the grant money. He said that was his number one priority. He thanked them for recognizing their efforts. He said it's going to be the same concerted efforts going forward.

Mr. Ada asked if the school's grass cutting contracts have been approved or if they're still under protest.

Deputy Franklin replied that it's not in protest anymore. He said it's freed up at the Attorney General's Office. He said they had something contractually in place now, so they're getting along, but they're waiting for the new procurement to come out, and it's shaking loose. He said it was tied up in reviews with the attorneys.

Mr. Ada asked if all the schools and GDOE facilities should be mowed, especially during classroom hours.

Deputy Julie explained that they have a contract in place for those services and that all schools have been prioritized. While grass cutting is primarily handled contractually, she noted that staff may assist when needed, particularly at the two schools that were deactivated.

Mr. Ada acknowledged.

Mrs. Gutierrez told Deputy Franklin that she no longer has to review the Aging Report as she once did. She joked that it used to be her favorite document, but not since he took over. She said she has heard from principals and appreciates his strict approach—especially that if invoices are not submitted on time and grant funds lapse, he will send a payroll deduction notice. She added that she recently met someone who confirmed that he truly means business.

Deputy Franklin said they got their attention. He said it's not done until the final paperwork, and the final paperwork has due dates, and if a lackadaisical attitude on somebody's part includes them losing money, then there should be some consequences. He said they got their attention.

Mrs. Gutierrez replied that she doesn't have to look at the Aging Report because she'll be seeing a decrease in accounts payable.

- ii) Declaration of Financial Status Designation - Deputy Franklin explained that the Financial Commission was created by then-Senator Won Pat in response to challenges within GDOE's financial

operations. He added that the finance oversight committee recently met and decided to table the designation.

Mr. Sablan acknowledged.

- iii) Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2026 - Deputy Franklin. He noted that while funds from BBMR, DOA, and federal grants are coming in, spending has sometimes outpaced reimbursements. To address this, they are developing a master tracking system to monitor all funds, deadlines, and milestones, ensuring that even if key staff are absent, nothing is overlooked. He emphasized that this system will strengthen cash management, reduce errors, and improve communication, with positive outcomes expected in the future.

Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2026 - Deputy Franklin explained that most grants have time to be liquidated, and his team's priority is ensuring funds are spent effectively for students. He acknowledged some delays due to contractual issues predating their tenure but emphasized they are addressing them and monitoring all grants closely, particularly ARP funds nearing expiration. He noted that proper paperwork and invoice entry are essential for drawing down funds, and they plan to train grant managers on deadlines and procedures. He stressed that DFAS staff are focused on helping students and teachers, scrutinizing and prioritizing grants to maximize spending and prevent loss.

- iv) US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report- Mr. Sablan said this can be moved to the February meeting.
- b) FY 2024 Audit Report - Mr. Sablan stated that, with no objections from his colleagues, the matter would be moved to the February meeting. He directed Deputy Franklin and Management Analyst Jordan Bukikosa to prepare it for the next Board meeting.
- c) Management and Curriculum Audit - Mr. Sablan stated that the Board still needs to formally decide whether to accept or reject the report. He acknowledged that Dr. Okada has been gathering feedback from Board members and incorporating any responses she received. If no feedback was submitted, she would only include what was provided. He then asked Dr. Okada if she had anything further to add.

Dr. Okada stated that since the report has already been released publicly, she is asking what action the Board wishes to take. She noted that the Board was not given an opportunity to request factual corrections before publication. As a result, the Board must now decide whether to accept or reject the audit, even if it contains inaccuracies.

Mr. Sablan asked if the Board could take no action, emphasizing that the audit report's release was due to a FOIA request, not the Board, and occurred before Dr. Won Pat's tenure. He clarified that any response he gave in an interview reflected his personal views, not the Board's. He noted that Board members can respond at the February 4th GDOE oversight meeting, where the audit report will be discussed, and told Dr. Guthertz she will need to serve as the Board's spokesperson for that meeting.

Dr. Okada requested a meeting with Dr. Won Pat and the Internal Audit Office to resolve the issue by correcting factual errors, such as Board member titles,

without changing the content of the audit. She noted that the IAO typically handles audit resolutions and sought the Board's approval to hold this meeting.

Mr. Sablan agreed with the point but noted that a legislative meeting is scheduled for February 4th. He suggested the Board meet with Dr. Won Pat beforehand to correct any factual inaccuracies, emphasizing that this may not be the time to accept or reject matters, but rather to ensure accurate information is presented.

Ms. Baleto stated that individual Board members should not communicate with the media about Board or department matters. She emphasized that the chairman represents the Board's position and that any comments or responses, such as regarding the audit report, should be made collectively as a Board to avoid conflicting opinions.

Mr. Sablan agreed with Ms. Baleto but noted that Board members can choose how to respond when personally contacted by the media. He clarified that his own comments were personal, not the Board's official reaction, since the Board had not yet met or made corrections, and said he understands her position.

Ms. Baleto emphasized that the Board should present a unified response rather than individual opinions to avoid public disappointment. She supported briefing the vice chair, superintendent, and new chair on the situation and suggested Board members refrain from speaking to the media, instead citing "no comment" or directing inquiries to a message from the department or chairman.

Dr. Guthertz emphasized the importance of the Board having a prepared written statement for the February 4th hearing. She suggested drafting it with Dr. Okada and the superintendent's help, highlighting the Board's concerns about the report's inaccuracies, lack of consultation, and opportunity to respond before release. The statement should document errors, clarify the Board's position without necessarily rejecting or endorsing the report, and end positively by showing the Board's collaboration with the new superintendent and management team while requesting legislative support. She recommended that the Board agree on a single statement to present at the hearing without deviations.

Mr. Sablan stated that no decisions would be made today; they will wait to receive the information, contact the vendor, and allow the Board to make the necessary corrections. He asked if Dr. Okada agreed.

Dr. Okada agreed.

Mr. Sablan said the Board will not be able to address the matter before February 4th, as they were not going to be in the meeting.

Ms. Baleto said the Board can issue a statement, with the chair and vice chair meeting with the superintendent before February 4th to draft a recommended statement.

Mr. Sablan said that's correct.

Ms. Baleto said the statement could be circulated via email or as the Board prefers. She expressed confidence that the three women could draft something acceptable and presentable to the legislature, noting that the Board was united on this approach.

Mr. Sablan informed Dr. Guthertz that she is the chair of the legislative committee and asked whether she had reviewed any legislative proposals or preferred to address them at the February meeting.

Dr. Guthertz reported that the legislative committee held a robust meeting before the regular session, with Dr. McNinch, Dr. Okada, Mrs. Angel, and herself. With the superintendent's support, they identified about eight legislative proposals affecting the Department of Education. She highlighted a few: Bill 218 by Senator Calvo to standardize the Chamorro spelling as "CHamoru"; Bill 62-38 by William Parkinson to prohibit the pari pari system, though a prior law already addresses this; and a proposal from Senator Borja to increase funding for qualified educator expenses under Public Law 2003-38. She explained that Senator Borja's Bill 195 would rename the George Washington High School football field after Coach Cruz, though a law already gives the school Board authority over naming school facilities. She noted that the legislature may not be aware of existing laws. Another Borja bill, 201, proposes staggered terms for governor-appointed school Board members, but technical details about term expiration need clarification. Senator Taitague's Bill 210 seeks fair workplace treatment for pregnant women, supplementing federal laws, while Borja's Bill 215-38 would waive sanitary permits and fees for student-led fundraisers. Senator Duenas introduced a bill concerning the pre-development stage of the Simon-Sanchez Construction Project, which could create challenges for contractors. She said these eight bills could potentially impact the Guam Department of Education.

Mr. Sablan explained that the proposals are still under review by the superintendent and her staff, with some already scheduled for a vote, likely on Friday. Regarding the New Business item about sending a letter to the Attorney General on contractual review delays affecting GDOE operations, he noted that the Deputy has already addressed many issues with the AG's office, so sending the letter may not be necessary at this time, but it can be done if needed.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked if Dr. Okada would be back on the second.

Dr. Okada confirmed she will return on February 2nd and asked what time tomorrow's meeting is.

Dr. Won Pat said they are aiming to schedule the meeting for the afternoon, but is unsure of Dr. Okada's location and the resulting time difference.

Dr. Okada mentioned that she was flying tomorrow.

Dr. Won Pat said they won't be able to meet tomorrow, then.

Dr. Okada asked to have the information sent to her so she can review it and provide comments.

Dr. Guthertz reminded the Board that they had requested the AG appoint an assistant AG as the Board's legal counsel, but had not received a response. She expressed concern about lacking legal guidance, emphasized the Board's need for its own attorney, and proposed including on the next meeting's agenda a temporary six-month legal hire while awaiting the AG's response, along with a public search for candidates to fill the role.

Mr. Sablan said he is unsure if the current budget allows for it, but asked whether they could issue a public notice requesting proposals.

Deputy Franklin said they can issue a request for information to gauge interest, clarifying that it does not commit them to a contract.

Mr. Sablan asked if it was an RFI or RFP.

Deputy Franklin clarified that it is an RFI (Request for Information) to gauge interest, and they will address the funding issue afterward.

Mr. Sablan said they need to allow time for interested parties to respond. He asked if he could make sure that the staff put it out.

Dr. Okada asked if they could just verify first with the AG if we are allowed to hire their own attorney before they go out for an RFP.

Mr. Sablan said he's sure that when they put out the RFI, the AG will question what they were doing.

Dr. Guthertz explained that this was the reason the Board initially reached out to the AG.

Mr. Sablan said he does not believe the AG has responded to that letter.

Dr. Okada said they likely need to confirm whether the Board is authorized to hire independently, since the AG would need to review any contract.

Mr. Sablan said the acting superintendent will draft a letter for the new Board chair to sign, requesting confirmation on whether the Board can proceed. He suggested waiting for the AG's response before Deputy Franklin issues a notice to avoid spending money on something the Board may not be authorized to do.

Mrs. Angel thanked Mr. Sablan for his service on the Board.

Mr. Sablan said he'll still be on the Board.

Mrs. Angel thanked Mr. Sablan for his service and guidance as Board chair, highlighting his initiative to celebrate successes by recognizing both outstanding students and retiring GDOE employees as a very positive gesture.

Mr. Sablan expressed confidence that the new Board chair will continue celebrating achievements and jokingly noted that their roles are now reversed, with her as GEB Chair.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she does not know why the Board stopped recognizing students for interscholastic achievements and emphasized that the Board should resume honoring both students and long-serving employees. She asked Deputy Franklin to have HR provide information on retirees and requested that principals also share student achievements. She noted recent ISA Sports MVP recognitions from Agueda Johnston, Astumbo, and Luis P. Untalan Middle Schools and stressed the importance of acknowledging students as well as employees with 30 to 35 years of service. She asked that HR send the information to Administrative Officer Kathleen so they can be formally recognized at Board meetings.

Mr. Sablan confirmed that Dr. Guthertz would continue in her role and congratulated Ms. Christine Baleto on her nomination as Business Executive of the Year, praising her generosity and contributions to the island and GDOE. He said he would raise concerns at the next meeting, particularly about improving school security and allocating budget funds for it, and asked that the issue be placed on the Safe and Health Committee agenda. He thanked the Board for their collective efforts in supporting GDOE staff and students, acknowledged progress made, and noted there is still more to accomplish. He assured the incoming Board chair of his continued support and stated he would remain involved as long as legally permitted, adding that if elected to the 39th Guam Legislature, he would continue advocating for GDOE.

**7) Legislative Committee**

**a) Legislative Proposals Introduced**

**IX. New Business**

**1) Election of Officers**

- a) Chair
- b) Vice Chair

**Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Ms. Baleto, to nominate Dr. Guthertz to be the Guam Education Board chair. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

Mrs. Gutierrez asked if she could confirm with Dr. Guthertz whether she accepts the nomination.

Mr. Sablan said personally, this is something he tried to call Dr. Guthertz about earlier today. He said he had mentioned that to her. He said he also had a small talk with the current vice chair, Dr. Okada. He said no one knows yet, he is seeking a position in the 39th Guam Legislature as a senator, and he will not be running for the school Board this year. He said that although his term expires in January 2027, he feels that he cannot serve two masters. He said that running for senator is going to require quite a bit of time. He said devoting time to be the Guam Education Board chair, he said, he already experienced and knows requires a whole lot of time and energy. He said even now, he's wearing another hat as the director of an agency in the government of Guam, he has to split his time. He said he's enjoyed his time being their chair, but he's not selfish. He said he doesn't think he can do justice to his campaign to run for the legislature and at the same time devote his total efforts to helping the Guam Education Board. He said he'll be completely satisfied with being a member of the Board. He said he and Dr. Okada are both in communication with the civil service commission because there has to be some clarification regarding their positions with the GEB. He said he doesn't know if Dr. Okada has received any feedback, but he hasn't, on him running for senator, going into a partisan position, and his GEB position being a non-partisan position. He reiterated that he cannot serve two masters. He told his colleagues that the reason he was calling Dr. Guthertz this morning was to tell her that he would nominate her to be the new GEB chair, since he will not be asking to be chair or vice chair; he just wants to be back to a regular member of the Board. He said he will give whatever he can, whenever he can, however he can, to continue to support the Board. He said this Board has asked him to continue as chair, but he thought it over, and he thinks that's the best decision for him, so he hopes that his colleagues will honor him in his decision. He said he's had supporters from his colleagues to continue as chair, but it was something he prayed over, and he thinks it's the best decision for him and the Board, and asks they accept the decision he's made.

Ms. Baleto expressed her appreciation. She said all of them know how hard it is to take on the position and what kind of time he had to commit to being the chair. She said they already made a motion and a second on the nomination, and if Dr. Guthertz accepts, she said they can vote on the matter. She acknowledged that Dr. McNinch needed to leave, and they wanted to make sure that his vote counts.

Mr. Sablan said that his vote will count; they were just in discussion. He said there was another member who wanted to say something and would call for the vote. He then asked Dr. Guthertz if she accepted the nomination. He told her that she had told him that if she had to, she would accept.

Dr. Guthertz said that she did not anticipate it. She said that she was very pleased being a member, and she's been on the school Board before as chair during Mrs. Nelson's period as director of education, and also during an earlier period. She said she's comfortable doing the work. She said she wants everyone to know that she respects the role of the Board and the role of the management. She said she will not dictate to management if she is the chairperson. She said she will follow the guardrails expected under the law, and she will work with the superintendent if there's an issue or problem; she will give the superintendent the opportunity to research the issue or problem and get back to her. She said she also encouraged that to the rest of the Board. She shared that she teaches the Ethics class at the School of Business and Public Administration (SBPA), and personally, she doesn't think there's a need for an opinion from the civil service commission or anybody else. She said members of the Board were elected by the people of Guam. She said members of the Board have values that guide their conduct. She said they have a code of ethics. She told

Mr. Sablan that if they go back in the record, she had written a code of ethics for the GEB during Mrs. Nelson's tenure. She said that it's pretty much the way it was then as it is now. She said she's sure Mrs. Gutierrez remembers that. She told Mr. Sablan that she had no problem with him or Dr. Okada or anybody who is a candidate for a public office who is also an elected member of the Board. She said they are supposed to complete their term as an elected member of the Board, whether or not as an officer or as a regular member, should not be an issue because it's up to them to respect the code of ethics and the already existing laws. She said she believes they are professional people. She told Mr. Sablan that he's done a good job and appreciates his chairmanship and Dr. Okada's past efforts as the past chairman and as the vice chair. She said each of them was working to contribute to a successful school system, not an adequate school system. She said she recommends the title of that law be changed so that every student is entitled to an adequate education. She said that's not good enough for her. She said she wants it to say excellent education because that's what they were all after, that's what they all want for GDOE and the students, not an adequate bit an excellent education. She said they may not be there yet with every category they deal with at the department, but they're moving in that direction. She encouraged everybody to work with the Board. She said that the Board was not the enemy, the Board's there to help the schools, the teachers, the administrators, the staff, and most of all the children, Guam's future. She said she's willing to do that. She said she's not perfect, but she always tries hard for the island and the people. She said she will accept the nomination.

**Mr. Ada motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to close the nominations.**

Mr. Sablan asked if they really need a roll or if they can't just do it through affirmations. He said she was the only one. He said hopefully, everybody present would raise their hand. He said Dr. Okada and Ms. Baleto's hands were up. He said the vote was unanimous. He said let the records show that Dr. Judith Guthertz is the next GEB chair. He welcomed Dr. Guthertz and thanked her for stepping up.

Ms. Baleto asked if they ask the current chairman, or if they address the new chairwoman when they vote for the new vice chair. She asked how it works. She said she wants to open up nominations for the vice chair position on the Board.

**Ms. Baleto motioned, seconded by Dr. McNinch, to nominate Dr. Okada as the Guam Education Board vice chair. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

Mr. Sablan asked Dr. Okada if she accepted the nomination.

Dr. Okada accepted

Mr. Ada motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to close the nomination.

Mr. Sablan announced that the vote was unanimous and congratulated Dr. Okada and Dr. Guthertz. He acknowledged Dr. Guthertz's comment about serving their term while still needing guidance. He then introduced Michelle Santos, describing her as the head of Guam Education Certification and a regular attendee. He thanked her for being present, invited her to send the Board an open invitation to attend their meetings, and said they would see her at the next meeting.

Mrs. Gutierrez said on the Board member assignments, the Board has a representative. She said Mrs. Angel was the representative and told her she hopes to attend and bring the Board back information.

Mr. Ada said he remembers hearing or reading that if legislation to make certifications lifetime has been approved.

Mr. Sablan said it's already a law.

Dr. McNinch left at 6:28 pm.

Mr. Ada said there were now sufficient certified teachers to apply for vacant positions.

Ms. Santos said that was correct. She said teachers with 25 years in the classroom can apply for the lifetime certification. She said it's to honor those who have had their boots on the ground in the classroom for 25 years.

2) Revised CHamoru Language & Culture Program Standards/Performance Indicators

Mrs. Angel motioned, seconded by Dr. McNinch, to accept the revised CHamoru Language & Cultural Standards/Performance Indicators. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.

3) Letter to AG: re: concerns of Contractual Agreement review delays an effects on GDOE Operations

- X. Executive Session
- XI. Announcements & Adjournment

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.


MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KATHLEEN LAMORENA  
Administrative Officer

Date: February 22, 2026

MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2026, REGULAR MEETING:

- Approved as submitted
- Approved subject to corrections
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ANGEL R. SABLAN  
GEB Chair  
Date: 4.30.26

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.  
Executive Secretary/Acting GDOE Superintendent  
Date: 4-30-26



**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](http://www.gdoe.net/geb)



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

**GUAM EDUCATION BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Thursday, February 12, 2026  
3 pm  
Gallery, GDOE Building B  
MINUTES**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

Judith Guthertz, DPA, Chair  
Mary A.Y. Okada, EdD, Vice-Chair  
Peter Alecxis 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 3:09 p.m.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

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

***Voting Members:***

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

***Absent:***

***Non-Voting Members:***

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

***Legal Counsel***

The Superintendent announced that seven (7) member of the Board was present in person, and two (2) were present via Zoom, constituting a quorum. Dr. Guthertz acknowledged that Mrs. Gutierrez and Dr. McNinch were attending via Zoom, with Dr. McNinch on his way to join in person.

- II. New Business – Resolution 2026-02 Relative to Adopting the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request for the Guam Department of Education - She asked Vice Chair Dr. Okada to lead the discussion on the FY 2027 budget request in collaboration with the superintendent, her management team, and Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services (DFAS) Mr. Leon Guerrero and his staff.

Dr. Okada reported on the FY 2027 budget, noting that the budget and finance committee, along with the deputy for finance, the superintendent, and her team, discussed the submission. The budget includes an updated staffing pattern as of October 6, with a reduced retirement contribution rate of 30.7%, saving 3.15%. It covers 2,962 Department of Education employees, including 60 substitutes, and adds 267 new positions for collective bargaining compliance. Personnel services, including benefits, total \$259,266,157.81, with a request for \$6,750 in local mileage reimbursement. The budget also allocates \$18,330,491 for contractual services, \$4,933,262.45 for school supplies, \$4,088,039.24 for equipment, and \$1,000,000 for workers' compensation. Other expenses include \$1,000 for drug testing, \$748,234.25 for miscellaneous costs like coach stipends, \$18,010,066 for utilities, and \$643,564 for capital outlay, including special education buses. The total request is \$307,027,564.82. Dr. Okada confirmed that the budget has been submitted to the Budget committee, all questions have been addressed, and she welcomed further questions from her colleagues.

Mr. Sablan noted media reports that the Appropriations Committee chair stated FY27 will be a performance-based budget and asked whether GDOE has received any official communication requiring their budget submission to be performance-based.

Dr. Guthertz referred the question to the superintendent and the vice chair, asking if the budget submission meets the legislature's performance-based requirements in terms of forms and rubrics.

Dr. Won Pat explained that during the oversight hearing, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Senator Duenas (not the oversight chair, Senator Borja), expressed satisfaction with reports from Franklin Cooper-Nurse and Franklin Leon Guerrero, as well as Dr. Riza's update on academic achievement. Although the Department of Education (DOE) was initially considered for performance-based budgeting, the legislature ultimately decided to include other agencies instead. However, based on GDOE's report, Senator Duenas commented that GDOE appeared nearly ready for performance-based budgeting, though he did not state it would be implemented for the current budget year.

Mr. Sablan said it is good that GDOE is not being required to submit a performance-based budget, noting that departments selected for it must first undergo training since performance budgeting requires a clear, shared understanding of how funding is tied to results. He also raised concerns about funding lapses, stating he saw a Department of Administration memo indicating that FY25 local fund lapses are no longer available for departments to use. He questioned whether GDOE had been formally notified and warned that if those local lapse funds are indeed unavailable, GDOE cannot rely on them for FY26 budgeting.

Dr. Won Pat said she understood and clarified that when she told the governor there were no lapses, she meant no paper lapses, but GDOE does have lapses in its bank account.

Dr. Okada explained that GDOE needs to review FY2025 appropriations and the allotment schedule. If all appropriated funds were received, there would be no lapses with DOA, meaning the cash would have already been released to GDOE.

Dr. Guthertz asked whether that is still the case.

Ms. Baleto confirmed that GDOE's authority to use funding lapses comes from a recurring provision in each Budget Act. As long as GDOE has received the funds, it may use the lapses; if the funds have not been released by DOA, their availability could be questioned. She added that GDOE is typically prioritized for fund releases due to this ongoing authorization, which few departments have. She also praised the department's budget submission, saying it reflects elements of performance-based budgeting. She noted that the budget aligns funding with the 14 adequate education requirements and commended DFAS Mr. Leon Guerrero for helping create a framework that holds management accountable for meeting those mandates.

Dr. Guthertz asked whether the legislature would be responsible if funding for those standards is not provided.

Dr. Okada confirmed that the superintendent's approach emphasizes data-driven decision-making to support departmental performance based on assessments. She said the collected data will help guide updates to the strategic plan, which is nearing expiration. She added that several documents support this performance-based approach: education mandates and funding authorizations outlined by the deputy superintendent for finance, the strategic plan, and assessment data used to guide funding allocations and priority-setting when the superintendent submits the budget to the Board for review.

Mr. Sablan said he did not hear any mention of funding for security and wondered if it might be buried under contractual expenses. Emphasizing that security is a major concern for him, he asked whether it was included in the budget.

Dr. Won Pat said there isn't a specific plan yet, but her task force is developing ideas to improve school security and address vandalism or break-ins. They identified two schools most affected and plan to install solar lights campus-wide and strategically place cameras with guidance from GPD. Instead of outsourcing monitoring, GDOE staff will manage the cameras. They are also coordinating with another agency to ensure schools have broadband access. Other security measures are being considered, but these two are the primary recommendations for now.

Mr. Sablan said he wants assurance that school security is being actively addressed, including proper staffing, cameras, and alarm systems to prevent break-ins. He expressed concern that FY26 is nearly over without allocated funding for these measures and urged that any related study be completed well before FY27 so concrete action can be taken. He stressed that security efforts cannot remain ideas without implementation, noting that focusing on only two schools could shift break-ins to others. He emphasized that ensuring a safe environment for students, teachers, and staff is part of the 14 mandated requirements and must be addressed.

Dr. Won Pat said the budget addresses the 14 required points, and by shifting expenses from local to federal funds, they were able to significantly reduce the overall budget. She said they were doing that already. She said they obtained solar streetlight specifications and photos from GVB for Facilities and Maintenance (F&M) to prepare the RFP, and F&M staff are also checking stores for cameras to purchase and install. She then said that she communicated with the Governor's Office regarding the WiFi.

Mr. Ada said he heard the earlier discussion on security but wanted to emphasize the lack of personnel stationed at school entrances. He shared that he passes by B.P. Carbullido Elementary School daily and has never seen anyone manning the entrance. He suggested that coverage could

rotate among school aides, even though he acknowledged it would be difficult to staff throughout the entire school day. He cautioned against waiting for a serious incident to occur, such as someone entering campus looking for a student or staff member, and referenced a past incident at a Seventh-day Adventist school as an example of what they must prevent.

Dr. McNinch asked Dr. Guthertz and Dr. Won Pat whether there is anything the Board can do to assist with the budget process. He encouraged them to inform the Board of any support needed, even outside formal meetings, so members can help in any way possible.

Dr. Won Pat suggested that the security/safety committee review at least ten alternatives, consider Mr. Ada's input, and consult legal counsel to ensure all points are covered. She requested the committee meet with GDOE to discuss options that provide the best security for schools and staff, while addressing the major challenge of hiring one hundred sixty (160) aides for one-to-one support within the current budget, without requesting an additional \$4 million.

Mr. Sablan recalled that during the last Board meeting, the CHamoru Studies Division discussed matters concerning **Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary School** (LBJES). He noted that relocating the Faniyakan CHamoru program would require funding, as would the various options being considered by the Superintendent and staff. He reminded everyone that he had previously urged GDOE to allocate funds in the FY27 budget for this purpose and asked whether that had been done.

Mr. Ada told Mr. Sablan that the committee has been discussing the topic and is awaiting guidance from Dr. Won Pat and her staff on options that minimize school disruption and require minimal modifications. He said Dr. Won Pat's report will be released very soon, allowing the Safe & Healthy Schools Committee to address the issue.

Mr. Sablan emphasized the importance of proactively allocating funds for the Faniyakan CHamoru program. He said it's better to have the money and not need it than to need it and not have it. Regardless of which option is chosen, some funding will be required, so setting aside a dedicated amount in the budget is the right thing to do.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the administrator was supposed to provide a revised budget for LBJES, but the original request was around \$2.9 million, reflecting full operations. Currently, the plan is for 50 students and 8–13 staff, including a principal, guidance counselor, nurse, librarian, food services, and utilities, which still pushes costs over \$2 million. She emphasized that the Board had originally approved the Faniyakan CHamoru program for K–5 at PC Lujan Elementary School (PCLES), with no directive to extend beyond fifth grade. Teachers and principals raised concerns about staffing, noting that existing Chamorro language teachers handle large student loads (1:120) compared to Faniyakan's 1:1 to 1:5 ratio. She said she contacted the university to see if new graduates could fill the five current GDOE Chamoru teacher vacancies. She noted that using existing school facilities minimizes additional costs, but retrofitting LBJES would be expensive due to its poor condition (falling roof tiles, damaged walls) and would require government intervention to be ready in time. She also explained that legislative funding typically comes as a lump sum, and GDOE prioritizes hiring budgeted staff and fulfilling contracts to keep schools open. Any expansion of the program would significantly increase costs.

Mr. Sablan said that, while this was a budget meeting for the resolution, he was playing devil's advocate to ensure the \$307 million request covers everything and won't be questioned later by downtown officials for missing items. He acknowledged that Dr. Won Pat, her team, and DFAS worked hard to compile a comprehensive budget, noting previous requests were higher but only

partially funded. He appreciated that everything was openly discussed so Dr. Won Pat and her staff would be prepared to answer any future questions.

Dr. Guthertz asked Dr. Won Pat if she could provide the Board with a decision and final plan for next school year regarding the immersion school and ending double sessions at Simon Sanchez High School (SSHS) during the February 24 Board meeting. She emphasized that, since Senator Borja is holding a town hall at JFK on February 18—likely focused on double sessions—it would be better for the Department and Dr. Won Pat to announce the plan **before** that date. She noted progress has been made on ending double sessions and recommended a public announcement, even a press conference, to inform the community, address concerns, and reduce negativity. Dr. Guthertz offered Board support and asked if Dr. Won Pat could make this early communication.

Dr. Won Pat said announcing on the 18th is generally fine, but the schools need to first consult faculty, staff, and other stakeholders. This includes Simon Sanchez and FB Leon Guerrero Middle School. The plan is ready, but stakeholder input is needed. She noted it's not a major issue for DPW, and potential locations, including central office, have been identified. Once stakeholders are informed, she's eager to make the announcement and asked if the Board wants her to report back, which she could do by the 24th.

Dr. Guthertz emphasized that the department should not appear reactionary—making decisions just in response to complaints from a town hall meeting. She said the department needs to clearly communicate its plans, explain the reasoning, and show that it is consulting faculty, school administrators, and the community. She advised Dr. Won Pat to convey this approach to ensure decisions are seen as deliberate and not driven by political pressures.

Dr. Won Pat said she will coordinate with the principals, other staff, and the school readiness team to ensure students are prepared. She acknowledged the urgency and noted that they are moving quickly on purchasing collateral, instructional, and classroom equipment. She confirmed that the RFP, scope of work, and delivery timeline are in place so everything will be ready before the children move and the school year begins.

Dr. Guthertz asked if there was further discussion on the budget and praised the effort of Mr. Leon Guerrero, his team, and the superintendent. She noted the department is requesting slightly less funding than last year and said the budget document is well-prepared, informative, and easy to read. She cautioned that legislative hearings may include questions unrelated to the budget and encouraged the department to be ready with up-to-date information, including issues like SSHS's double sessions and the audit. She also inquired about the status of the audit draft response for the legislature.

Mr. Sablan told Dr. Guthertz that the topic might be out of order since it's not on the current agenda and noted that it will be addressed at the next Board meeting.

Dr. Guthertz said she's excited and eager to take action.

Mr. Sablan said he likes the idea, as it would only require canceling it from the next meeting, but since the agenda lists the FY27 budget, they will continue with that.

Mr. Ada told Dr. Guthertz he will try to attend the February 24th meeting via Zoom but is uncertain if he can. If he cannot attend, he supports ending double sessions. He is also concerned about temporary arrangements for the Simon Sanchez High School (SSHS) students while their school is under construction and wants to ensure proper plans are in place.

Dr. Guthertz said she agreed.

**Ms. Baleto motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez to adopt GEB Resolution 2026-02 Relative to Adopting the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request for the Guam Department of Education with corrections. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-1. The motion passed.**

Ms. Baleto stated that two paragraphs in the resolution—one on page two referencing last year's superintendent findings and one on page three about a compensation proposal—are not relevant to the current budget. She proposed removing them and then moved to adopt the FY 2027 Guam Department of Education budget resolution.

Mr. Sablan called for discussion.

Dr. Guthertz asked if they were ready to vote on the motion.

Mr. Sablan repeated the call for discussion.

Dr. Guthertz called for a discussion.

Mr. Sablan acknowledged the proposed removal of the salary adjustment language in the resolution and asked whether it specifically applies to the accounting division.

Ms. Baleto clarified it was for last year.

Mr. Sablan noted that there was a compensation issue and mentioned that work is ongoing on the OPA audit recommendation regarding their accountants.

Ms. Baleto noted that it had been approved two years ago.

Mr. Sablan asked whether removing it means it will no longer be considered.

Ms. Baleto stated that it had already passed.

Mr. Sablan said he wants to ensure that removing it now won't require revisiting the issue later.

Dr. Okada explained that compensation for accountants is usually handled by the DOA, since it affects more than just the Guam Department of Education, and that DOA also identifies the funding needed for implementation.

Dr. Guthertz told Mr. Sablan that she recalls it was handled as a separate bill and expects it will be the same this time.

Mrs. Gutierrez inquired whether the budget includes the auditor's pay adjustment.

Dr. Guthertz asked for clarification on which audit was being referred to.

Mrs. Gutierrez replied that she was referring to the Internal Audit Office.

Dr. Won Pat stated that the item is not included in the current budget and that their decision is primarily based on a letter from the DOA director. She said that, as a precaution, they could freeze a position in the future to fund the pay change, but for now it is not included.

Mrs. Gutierrez expressed concern that the Board approved the decision before Superintendent Jon Fernandez and later reviewed and concurred by acting superintendent Francis Santos. She noted the DOA did not support it and feels it is unfair to the Internal Audit Office, which completed the audit work instead of the business office.

Dr. Won Pat told Mrs. Gutierrez she would take her concerns under advisement and consult her finance team when finalizing the budget for submission to the legislature.

Mr. Torres requested that the motion be updated to correct the spelling of the requested amount on page one, as the written amount does not match the numerical figure.

Dr. Won Pat apologized, explaining that the amount had been rounded off.

Dr. Guthertz said they will correct it.

Dr. Guthertz called for any final comments on the motion before proceeding to a vote.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked for a roll call.

Mr. Ada voted yes.

Mrs. Angel voted yes.

Mrs. Baleto voted yes.

Mrs. Gutierrez voted no because the budget did not include a pay adjustment for internal audit.

Dr. McNinch voted yes.

Mr. Sablan voted yes.

Mr. Torres voted yes.

Dr. Okada voted yes.

Dr. Won Pat informed Dr. Guthertz that the vote was eight in favor and one against.

- ii. **Announcements & Adjournment** - Dr. Guthertz announced that the motion passed, the next Board meeting is on February 24 at 3 p.m., and a finance committee meeting will be held tomorrow. She also noted a vote will be taken on setting 3 p.m. as the standard time for future Board and committee meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm.


**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:**


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**KATHLEEN LAMORENA**  
**Administrative Officer**

**Date:** February 18, 2026

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2026, SPECIAL MEETING:**

- Approved as submitted
- Approved subject to corrections
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA**  
**GEB Chair**  
**Date:** 04.28.26

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.**  
**Executive Secretary/Acting GDOE Superintendent**  
**Date:** 4-30-26



**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](http://www.gdoe.net/geb)



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

**GUAM EDUCATION BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, March 17, 2026  
3 pm  
Gallery, GDOE Building B  
MINUTES**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

Judith Guthertz, DPA, Chair  
Mary A.Y. Okada, EdD, Vice-Chair  
Peter Alecxis D. Ada  
Felicitas B. Angel  
Judith Guthertz, Dr. PA  
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**

Mr. Sablan, called the meeting to order at 3:06 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:***

Okada, Dr. Mary A.Y. – Vice-Chair\*  
Ada, Peter Alecxis D.  
Angel, Felicitas B.  
Gutierrez, Maria A.  
McNinch, Dr. Ron L.\*  
Sablan, Angel R.  
Torres, Carl E. II

***Non-Voting Members:***

Fedenko, Timothy – GFT Representative

***Legal Counsel:***

Wolff, Matthew

***Absent:***

***Voting Members:***

Guthertz, Judith, DPA – Chair (Excused)

***Non-Voting Members:***

IBOGS Representative  
Terlaje, Brian Jess – MCOG Representative

\*arrived late

The Acting Superintendent announced that five (5) members of the Board were present, constituting a quorum.

## II. CONSENT CALENDAR –

- 1) February 24, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

**Mrs. Angel motioned, seconded by Mr. Torres, to accept the February 24, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 5-0.**

- 2) February 24, 2026 Superintendent’s Report

**Mrs. Angel motioned, seconded by Mr. Torres, to accept the February 24, 2026, Superintendent’s Report. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 5-0.**

Dr. Okada arrived at 3:08 pm.

- ### III. COMMUNICATIONS –
- Dr. Okada apologized for being late. She noted for the record that the Board received correspondence after February 24, 2026, including a March 10 email from Mr. Eric Toves and a March 9 email from Ms. Pika Fejeran, which contained a letter from the Board of Inetnon Manaina Faniyakan CHamoru, Inc., addressed to Dr. Won Pat and the Guam Education Board.

Dr. McNinch arrived at 3:12 pm.

## IV. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

- 1) Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report – Dr. Okada said Ms. Gutierrez is noting that there is no IBOGS report at this time because the students are not available.
- 2) Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report – Mr. Fedenko shared several concerns from his meeting with the superintendent. A major issue is a bill from Senator Borja, which he feels could divide the paraprofessionals (school aides) by offering a 10% pay increase for those qualifying as one-to-one aides. He sees the bill as divisive, especially since paraprofessionals have varied roles (e.g., nine-month vs. twelve-month positions) and some are working as substitute teachers without proper compensation. He emphasized that the bill could create inequity and confusion, especially if aides are asked to take on duties outside their role, like substituting for teachers, without receiving adequate compensation. He also raised concerns about paraprofessionals being tasked with guarding school gates, a role outside their qualifications. He believes this issue has persisted for years and that paraprofessionals are vital to the school system, performing crucial work alongside teachers. He further noted that paraprofessionals are often pushed aside and need better recognition. On the topic of the merger of Simon Sanchez High School (SSHS) and Tiyan High School (THS) to form the new Megalodon school, he expressed concern about how it would affect DPW bus routes. Bus drivers are worried that the new route will be difficult due to traffic and geography, and there are safety concerns related to driving near a gas pipeline. He urged for meetings with DPW to address these concerns before any changes are made. Lastly, he mentioned potential changes in working conditions for ESL teachers and school nurses, stressing that any such changes must be negotiated, as required by labor law (GCA 17), to prevent an unfair labor practice.
- 3) Mayor’s Council of Guam (MCOG) Report – N/A

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) Superintendent’s Report - Dr. Won Pat read her report for the record.

**Mrs. Angel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez, to approve the Superintendent’s Report. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.**

- a. JFKHS/SSHS Double Session Status Report –

- b. FEMA Project Status Report –
- c. FBLG Renovation Status Report –
- d. Mold Mitigation/Fencing Status Report –
- e. Dashboard Status Report –
- f. Student Behavior Infractions
- g. Financial Issues
- h. Transition Updates
- i. Micronesia Leadership Summit – Saipan, CNMI April 20-23, 2026

Mr. Ada expressed that it's encouraging FBLGMS is 95% complete and asked whether it will be finished by July in time for the school's opening.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the completion of FBLGMS depends on whether Senator Borja can amend the law, which currently allocates department lapses for sports facilities. She mentioned that last Friday, the senator requested a list of needed repairs for FBLGMS, totaling \$10.22 million, which will be submitted to him to include in the bill.

Mr. Ada asked if the school would still open on schedule, even if the gym is not used until its full renovation is complete.

Dr. Won Pat confirmed that the school can still open without using the gym until it is fully renovated. She mentioned that a precedent was set by Superintendent Swanson for Southern High School, where a similar waiver was granted.

Mr. Ada asked if TinyEye has expressed interest in continuing their service despite the outstanding balance of \$1.41 million.

Dr. Won Pat said they are in communication with the company and have taken three steps to address service needs: issuing a small purchase order with TinyEye for a specific child, releasing an RFP for providers (including TinyEye and other therapy companies) through the end of the fiscal year, and exploring a professional services option to hire licensed therapists (occupational, physical, and speech) on an hourly basis.

Mr. Ada asked if TinyEye was willing to continue providing services despite the \$1 million debt the department still owes them.

Dr. Won Pat said yes.

Mr. Ada asked if they indicated they will do it.

DFAS Franklin Leon Guerrero said he has been working with TinyEye to reconcile past due invoices. He noted the company's CEO is open to various procurement options and wants to be included in future requests to continue supporting the department. He confirmed TinyEye remains interested, is on the procurement list, and will be paid. He said it's a matter of navigating the money.

Mr. Ada said it sounds quite encouraging.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said it was very encouraging and that the brother and sister who own TinyEye have expressed interest in continuing the service.

Mr. Ada said that they still have \$1 million to pay.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said absolutely, it should never have come to this. He acknowledged that the issue had come to their attention, and they are now taking steps to address it.

Mr. Ada told him that he was not at fault; he was simply a recipient of a situation he wasn't aware of and got caught up in it.

Deputy Leon Guerrero acknowledged this and stated that they were going to take care of it.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked Deputy Leon Guerrero if, during his review, he found anything in the Easter basket that was still outstanding or owed back.

Deputy Leon Guerrero asked if it was on TinyEye.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she regularly reviews TinyEye invoices at each meeting and asked if there are any additional unpaid invoices that have not yet been processed for payment.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said multiple TinyEye invoices have surfaced, including about \$729,000 in previously unknown prior-year charges discovered recently, along with current unpaid invoices. He explained the issue stems from procurement failures—not TinyEye—since the company simply provided services. He noted that rules were not followed, overspending occurred, and warnings from TinyEye were ignored, leading to service disruption. Despite this, TinyEye remains willing to continue supporting GDOE and is interested in bidding on future contracts.

Mrs. Gutierrez urged Dr. Won Pat to fully investigate the issue and hold responsible staff accountable, stressing that unpaid TinyEye invoices led to students being denied services. She said the Board had repeatedly raised concerns about overdue payments, some exceeding 90 days, and criticized the lack of action. She thanked the parent who brought the issue forward and acknowledged leadership for identifying the problem, but questioned why staff failed to process payments.

Dr. McNinch expressed appreciation for GDOE's collaboration with CNMI and the innovations taking place, praising Lawrence Camacho's work. Although he cannot attend due to scheduling conflicts, he encouraged others to visit Saipan and pursue partnerships, noting shared opportunities and that some of his best students at the University of Guam come from CNMI. He also commended the collaborative spirit in Dr. Won Pat's report and apologized for being late.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she attended a CNMI planning meeting, invited by the former CNMI chair, and was impressed by their organization. She noted about 25 participants from Guam and 40 from FSM will attend, mentioned a registration fee, and encouraged everyone to participate.

Mr. Sablan expressed frustration after the superintendent's report, noting repeated references to "millions" but missing information from previous agendas. He also asked about the status of her contract.

Dr. Won Pat replied that there is no update yet; they are waiting for a response after Administrative Officer Kathleen provided the requested minutes last week.

Mr. Sablan expressed serious concerns about leadership and decision-making at GDOE. He noted that the superintendent's 90-day acting appointment ends at the end of March, creating a potential leadership gap since the Board does not meet until April, and suggested taking steps to ensure continuity. He criticized the failure to implement a previously approved Board resolution to use LBJ Elementary School for Faniyakan CHamoru, insisting it must be honored and arguing that excuses about funding or space are unacceptable. He emphasized that scattering students across classrooms undermines their importance and called for a permanent solution. He also strongly opposed the announced merger of Simon Sanchez High School (SSHS) and Tiyan High School (THS) into the "Tiyan Sharks," saying the Board was never consulted and stakeholders were not properly involved. He argued both schools are successful individually, and merging them risks identity conflicts, student opposition, and operational challenges. He criticized the leadership for treating THS, which started as a temporary school, as expendable, despite its current success and community support. He warned that merging 2,000 students in one school would create confusion, safety concerns, and a sense of lost identity for students. He urged that any decisions be properly vetted and announced at the appropriate time, expressing hope that if inaccurate information was reported at a legislative hearing, it would be corrected to avoid putting the Board in a bad light. He stressed that the superintendent must consult the Board before making major decisions, ensure options are carefully considered, and follow proper procedures in communicating with the public. He questioned whether the superintendent had responded to GWHS student Genesis Babauta, stressing that the student's concerns about the damaged road are legitimate and deserve a clear answer, including a proper repair plan rather than temporary fixes. He also raised issues with the FBLGMS refurbishment, noting that while the facility construction is nearly complete, it lacks the necessary equipment and materials, making it effectively unusable, and that completion may now be delayed until December. He questioned whether the 20 temporary classrooms funded for FBLGMS are actually intended for SSHS, asking if any waivers or changes to the FEMA grant are needed to avoid repayment. He concluded by noting the upcoming FY27 GDOE budget hearing with the Office of Finance and Budget, highlighting that it will be performance-based.

Deputy Leon Guerrero clarified that the budget follows the normal process and noted that his support for performance-based management evaluation criteria at the oversight hearing may have been misinterpreted as applying to the budget.

Mr. Sablan stated that the Board has already approved the FY27 budget and noted that Deputy Leon Guerrero likely has all the budget details.

Deputy Leon Guerrero confirmed.

Mr. Sablan noted that significant funding needs—\$10.7 million for F.B. Leong-Guerrero, \$5.2 million for security, and other millions—are not included in the FY27 budget. He asked whether the Board would be informed that the approved budget may be insufficient to meet the requirements before they open school year 27 and mentioned that Senator Borja is likely aware of these additional needs.

Deputy Leon Guerrero explained that the FY27 budget was approved and submitted to the legislature on schedule, but the additional millions Mr. Sablan mentioned come from

previously unknown invoices. Many arose as federal grants ended, prompting contractors to submit outstanding invoices for work done months or even a year ago. These were not included in the approved budget because they were unknown at the time, and the department now wants the Board to be aware of the new spending challenges they face.

Mr. Sablan suggested to Deputy Leon Guerrero that it would be wiser to request a supplemental budget for the current fiscal year to pay the outstanding invoices, rather than pushing them into FY27, which would reduce that year's funds and merely kick the can down the road.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said that Senator Borja has already reached out for information, such as regarding FBLGMS, and is exploring ways to help. He agreed that they can follow Mr. Sablan's suggestion to request a supplemental budget now, noting they have the necessary numbers and are ready to proceed.

Mr. Sablan stated that this depends on the legislature's willingness, because if they refuse, the unpaid invoices and debts will keep accumulating indefinitely.

Deputy Leon Guerrero noted that delaying payment will result in accumulating interest.

Mr. Sablan noted that the superintendent had reported the total amount of interest.

Deputy Leon Guerrero confirmed that it is significant and will not go away.

Mr. Sablan raised two additional items for discussion. He confirmed that they were following the previous superintendent's memo regarding excess annual leave. Acknowledging Legal Counsel's presence, he asked for clarification on an opinion from the Attorney General (AG). Specifically, he inquired whether the AG's opinion stated that starting fiscal year 2027, excess annual leave above 320 hours—up to 100 hours—would be transferred to sick leave, and if this policy would take effect at the end of the current fiscal year, rather than immediately.

Attorney Wolff clarified that, based on the follow-up memo or circular, the policy is intended to be effective immediately. He added that they are working to come into compliance with the directive.

Mr. Sablan raised concerns about millions of dollars in excess annual leave that GDOE staff may lose if the issue isn't addressed. He questioned how teachers could take leave while still teaching and whether employees who have accumulated leave could potentially sue if they lose it. While acknowledging that the superintendent is following the law, he emphasized the need to find a solution to prevent staff from forfeiting their leave. He also posed the question of whether employees would be entitled to their 320 hours of annual leave if they quit and returned later, suggesting that it could result in millions of dollars in payouts. He then acknowledged Senator Borja and his efforts to support GDOE through the bills he's introduced. He expressed appreciation for Senator Borja's initiative but raised a concern that public hearings on these bills often don't allow the Board enough time to meet and form an official stance or provide testimony. He requested that if Senator Borja introduces a bill, the Board be given prior notice so they can convene and present a unified opinion or testimony, rather than individuals speaking solely on personal views.

Attorney Wolff said the SSHS–THS merger is temporary and both schools will regain their identities when they return to their campuses. He emphasized that the Board hired Dr. Won Pat to make operational decisions, so she should be allowed to do so without interference. While some questioned why the merger wasn't brought before the Board, he argued that it falls under administrative operations, not Board policy. Citing 17 GCA § 3102.1, he noted the Board is responsible for policy but should not micromanage the Department, and directing how to handle the merger appears to be operational interference.

Dr. Okada said there are still questions from the Board, but since some students and representatives need to leave, she proposed moving to the "Celebrate Success" agenda item first with the Board's agreement, and then returning to the superintendent's report afterward.

**Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel to move Celebrate Success up on the agenda.**

Mrs. Gutierrez said the Board wants to recognize the students first, before the Legislature, congratulated JFKHS and OHS, and noted that certificates were also prepared for the Internal Audit Office.

The following were recognized: Adacao Elementary School, Agueda Johnston Middle School, Oceanview Middle School - earned an A grade in the Department of Public Health and Social Services Sanitary Inspection; JFKHS winners of NASA's TechRise Student Challenge: Jonathan Bacani, Reika Blanco, Kent De La Cruz, Chagman Lee, Christopher Mantononia, Steven Medrano, Deonora Jade Mendoza, Alyssa Faye Tagawa, Ryder Torres, and Jonas Wallace; OHS Marine Corps JROTC Bulldog Battalion - earned a perfect score during Marine Corps Compliance Inspection; JFKHS Air Force JROTC - exceeded standards rating during unit assessment; Leanna Willis, Justin Castro, and Franklin Cooper-Nurse - Guam Department of Education Certified Government Financial Managers in recognition during the Association of Government Accountants Certified Government Financial Manager Month; Haani Lee, Edward Calvo, Christopher Tamayo, Alia Lahato, Giselle Ambravo, Charisse Kamba, Gracie Serrano, Jeremy Hu, Mina Buntin, Renee Kambuek, Charisse Kamba, Mikayla Harrington, Janae Blas, Tess Santos, Nora Santos - record wins at the 2026 Musical Theater Competitions of America, MTCA, Musical Festival, and National Performing Arts Festival. Ernest Ochoco was also recognized.

Dr. Okada informed her colleagues that the meeting would continue and that they would complete the superintendent's report.

Mrs. Gutierrez expressed appreciation for Dr. Won Pat and her management team, acknowledging their efforts to move GDOE forward. She raised concerns about the data presented, emphasizing the importance of having school-specific data to understand what principals are doing and how they should be evaluated for merit bonuses. She also noted inconsistencies in the data regarding student infractions, questioning whether action was taken by the schools but not captured in the analysis. She asked who was responsible for ensuring that the data inputted into the system was accurate, particularly by the principals and computer operators. She expressed concern over incidents like bullying and student absences, asking what actions the schools had taken to address these issues. She also stressed the importance of holding parents accountable for their children's behavior and suggested that a bill be introduced to make parents more responsible for their parenting style, especially concerning vandalism and graffiti. She

questioned why public schools were charging fees and why parents were still expected to provide school supplies if GDOE had promised to provide them. She requested that the data be cleaned up and made available by school, so that the public can see what's happening in each school. She also wanted to know if the training for computer operators who input data into the system had been completed, as it was part of a travel condition for some staff members. She raised concerns about mental health support in schools, asking how mental health issues, such as those arising from family problems or suicide, are being addressed. She inquired about the action's schools take when students are referred to the counselor and how issues are followed up. Additionally, she raised concerns about the lack of parental involvement and the impact of students' dirty uniforms on attendance. She also requested to know the status of the 41 washers and dryers purchased by GDOE for cleaning uniforms and asked where they were, as she had heard the previous administration planned to give them to the school nurse for this purpose. Lastly, she emphasized the importance of holding principals accountable for the data they submit and ensuring that everything is accurate before being sent to Mr. Anderson's office. She also expressed a desire to compare current data with records from 2014 and 2019 to see if there has been improvement. She thanked Dr. Won Pat, Deputy Quitugua, and Mr. Anderson for their efforts.

Mr. Fedenko said he recently received the CBA and is reviewing the nurses' section, which specifies that a clerk should be assigned for each nurse to assist with washing clothes. In the total column, there are 24 filled positions, 10 vacancies, some blanks, and entries with minus ones. He is unsure if a "minus one" or a blank indicates an unfilled position. He wanted to clarify why the numbers don't match up with the totals of 24 filled and 10 vacant.

Dr. Okada asked Dr. Won Pat to have someone review the report and update Mr. Fedenko. She also called Deputy Leon Guerrero to provide answers if needed. She then asked Dr. Won Pat whether her report indicates that the department must find local funds to cover \$19.705 million for unprocessed invoices and unfunded change orders related to 12 school refurbishments, given that ARP funding has already been used, seeking a clear yes or no answer.

Deputy Leon Guerrero replied that's correct.

Dr. Okada explained that the first issue means work began without the proper documentation. The second issue concerns the HVAC system, and she clarified that the \$4.08 million cost is separate from the \$9 million estimated to install 286 package units, asking for confirmation if that is correct.

Deputy Leon Guerrero clarified that the \$9 million Dr. Okada mentioned refers to the current contractor billing the department to install the 286 units.

Dr. Okada noted that the air conditioners have not been put out to bid for installation yet, so they are currently sitting unused.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said that is correct.

Dr. Okada asked if the estimated \$10.2 million for the FBLG refurbishment is the amount needed to begin the bidding process for the required purchases.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said that is correct.

Dr. Okada asked how long the project would take—six months, nine months, or a year—once the bids are issued.

Deputy Leon Guerrero explained that the procurement process is lengthy due to the four phases required by the Attorney General's office under Guam law. He said it won't happen quickly—30 days would be optimistic—and estimated it could take three to six months, depending on how smoothly the process goes.

Dr. Okada asked maybe a minimum six months.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said he thinks that's a more positive estimate.

Dr. Okada said the project may take at least six months after issuing the bid. She also asked for clarification on the \$700,000 for TinyEye, questioning whether it is an allowable cost under the special education grant.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said that was correct.

Dr. Okada asked whether the invoices tied to these grant funds have now lapsed, expired, been liquidated, or had their liquidation deadlines extended—all of which have already passed.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said that was correct.

Dr. Okada stated that \$729,000 in local funds must be found because the grant money previously available for payment is no longer available.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said that's correct.

Dr. Okada asked whether the \$680,000 procurement is currently being funded with federal funds.

Deputy Leon Guerrero explained that the \$680,000 will come from local funds for now, but the amount is not yet obligated—it is only an estimate. He said they plan to address the issue permanently through a multi-year procurement, with a base year and four option years, and that this estimated amount reflects that plan.

Dr. Okada asked whether it might be possible to use federal funds for it.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said that federal funds could be used if the timing aligns with the grants, since it is an allowable expense.

Dr. Okada noted that the refurbishment estimates are not currently covered by local funds. She acknowledged Dr. Won Pat's earlier review of FEMA reimbursements, including the gym refurbishment, which could be modified to include these costs. She expressed concern that many past-due expenses, which might have been covered by federal funds, now require local funds not available in the FY26 budget. The department plans to use lapse funding—pending an adjustment to the current budget law—to fund school facilities and playgrounds, advance ARP cash flow to cover payments, and then

seek reimbursement. Ultimately, these funds will support refurbishing and upgrading GDOE school sports facilities and playgrounds, with the proposed amendment authorizing payment for some of these bills.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said that was correct.

Dr. Okada emphasized that the issue is that the proper process to obligate these funds was not followed. She asked whether any additional invoices from last year or prior years might still be uncovered.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said that while the work—including TinyEye—was necessary, completed, and documented, the department failed to follow strict procurement and contractual processes, leading to federal fund issues. He remains cautiously optimistic but noted new problems may still surface, and not all invoices can be confirmed.

Dr. Okada asked whether the pending \$51 million from the U.S. Department of Education and DOI could provide relief to cover outstanding bills and the funding needed for FBLGMS.

Deputy Leon Guerrero confirmed that the \$51 million could be used, provided everyone approves the spending priorities and plan.

Dr. Okada acknowledged.

Mr. Sablan asked Deputy Leon Guerrero about the air conditioners from the original contract, noting that many did not fit the schools where they were intended to be installed.

Deputy Leon Guerrero explained that the original \$10 million contract for 2,500 air conditioners allowed bidders to inspect all school sites, but the winning contractor did not, through no fault of GDOE. When the equipment arrived, it didn't match, and the contractor requested \$9 million to install just 286 units, which the department could not approve. With ARP funds expiring, GDOE purchased the air conditioners, plans to have the contractor lower the installation cost, and will competitively rebid the project to complete installation.

Mr. Sablan asked if the air cons had already been paid for.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said that GDOE has used ARP funds to pay for the air conditioners themselves, but not for their installation.

Mr. Sablan noted that Deputy Leon Guerrero was not with the department at the time and asked whether there was a scope of work for each school that the vendors bid on.

Deputy Leon Guerrero explained that there was initially one overarching scope of work for the entire district, but it was later split into four smaller contracts to encourage more bids. Despite this, one contractor ultimately won all four contracts.

Mr. Sablan asked if they are now stuck with air conditioners that cannot be installed.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said the air conditioners can be installed, but they are unwilling to pay the contractor's requested \$9 million for installation.

Mr. Sablan asked if the original contract included installation.

Deputy Leon Guerrero explained that they involved lawyers and auditors, but the pressing issue was that ARP funds were expiring, so action was needed quickly. If they had waited too long for legal or audit reviews, they risked losing \$2.4 million in ARP funding. To avoid this, they used the funds to purchase the air conditioners, knowing they would not pay the contractor's \$9 million installation request. Installation will be competitively rebid, and the units can still be used depending on how much they choose to spend on installing them.

Mr. Sablan said the bottom line is they've lost. He added that if rats in the Piti warehouse get into the air conditioners and chew the wires, it could result in even greater losses.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said that while the air conditioners are stored in the Piti warehouse, Dr. Won Pat is exploring all possible options for them. He mentioned that other Guam agencies have inquired about the units and that the media attention—both positive and negative—has prompted calls suggesting the department could sell some air conditioners for future replacements. He added that there are other “outside-the-box” ideas being considered, but as of now, all the air conditioners are brand-new, operational, and ready for use.

Mr. Sablan said that, so far, they do not know when the air conditioners will be installed—it could be next year or even two years from now—and expressed that they have already lost.

Deputy Leon Guerrero stated that they will need to competitively bid for the project, but the necessary funds are not in the current budget. He added that they do not have a dollar value for it yet.

Mr. Sablan mentioned that there are still schools without complete air conditioning. He expressed concern that during the next re-inspection by Public Health, the schools would be penalized for not meeting the required classroom temperature standards for adequate education.

Deputy Leon Guerrero explained that the classroom air conditioning was easier to address with split units, which have been installed in most classrooms. However, the larger package units, stored at the Piti warehouse, are meant for bigger spaces like cafeterias and libraries, with capacities ranging from 5 to 30 tons.

Mr. Sablan expressed frustration about the situation, saying it's difficult to justify asking for more money to install air conditioners that aren't suitable for the schools. He acknowledged that GDOE may be at fault for not properly checking the specifications before purchasing the units. He pointed out the irony of ARP funds being spent on unusable air conditioners while there's insufficient funding to fill CBA positions, which he felt didn't make sense.

Deputy Leon Guerrero acknowledged Mr. Sablan's concerns and explained that there were multiple variables involved. He mentioned that the contractor had pointed out that

some air conditioner units were not properly specified in GDOE's statement of work. Although the management team at the time decided to address the issue later, it was never fully dealt with, leading to the current situation. He emphasized that there were warning signs and complexities, which is why lawyers and auditors were involved. However, he assured the Board that they had navigated the situation to the best of their ability, aiming to use available funds appropriately for the air conditioning project.

Mr. Sablan expressed that the issue would likely continue to arise over the next few months. He clarified to Attorney Wolff that he wasn't asking for Board approval of actions but simply wanted the Board to be informed and respected by being made aware of what the GDOE team is doing. He mentioned it doesn't look good when the community questions the Board about approvals the Board not been involved in. He emphasized that he was only trying to highlight that the Board was told no plan would be presented until the end of March or early April.

Dr. Won Pat confirmed that Mr. Sablan was correct. She explained that the plan was to announce the details at the end of March or beginning of April, but during their time at the legislature, after being sworn in, the question came up, and they couldn't withhold the information. She shared that the principals have been working diligently, including over weekends, and collaborating with DPW. While many details are still not fully available, she reassured the Board that the leadership of both schools is working hard, and management will do everything possible to ensure a smooth transition and opening.

2) Executive Committee

- a. 2026 GEB Standing Committee Assignments - Dr. Okada announced that the 2026 GEB Standing Committee assignments have been distributed to the Board and asked if there were any questions regarding the assignments.

**Mr. Sablan motioned, seconded by Mr. Torres to approve the 2026 GEB Standing Committee assignments. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.**

Mr. Sablan explained that, since the Executive Committee is now under Dr. Guthertz and Dr. Okada, he had joined the decommissioning committee but did not feel the need to elaborate on his status. He then recommended Mr. Carl Torres to chair the decommissioning committee and, if there were no objections from the Board, he would like to formally nominate him for the position.

Dr. Okada said the committee can decide who chairs it and doesn't believe the Board needs to take any action on the matter.

Mr. Sablan said that was his recommendation and expressed confidence that Mr. Torres would accept the role.

3) Instructional & Academic Support Committee

- a. March Head Start Report – Ms. Lape apologized for arriving late to the meeting last month, explaining that she was in the middle of a federal review and being interviewed when the Board meeting began. She then read highlights from her report for the record.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked if the recommendation to convert the half-day to a full-day was for the upcoming school year.

Ms. Lape explained that if the change in scope application is approved, Head Start would recommend making all programs full-day for the upcoming school year. She added that although they have a 12-month period to improve enrollment, the program specialist believes they can get approval in time to implement it in the fall if the application is submitted close to the continuation application deadline.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked about the nurse for Head Start.

Ms. Lape explained that there was a shortage of nurses, as mentioned in a previous board meeting. To address this, she had their locally funded nurse transferred to one of the schools and placed their social worker, who meets the Head Start health coordinator requirements, in charge of the area. The social worker works closely with Julieta and the school nurses at each site. While the school nurses provide the health services, Head Start is tracking to ensure the children meet the program's health requirements. All screenings and support services are provided by the school nurses.

Mrs. Gutierrez mentioned that, if she recalls correctly, Head Start had come over and was given a listing.

Ms. Lape clarified that it was the findings.

Mrs. Gutierrez confirmed and mentioned that Dr. Won Pat was the acting superintendent at that time. She then asked if everything had been corrected.

Ms. Lape replied that, as far as she knows, everything has been corrected since they cleared the corrective period and were notified some time ago. She explained that the focus of the current review is on their systems—whether they have the correct systems in place and if any improvements are needed. The next federal review will focus on the quality and comprehensiveness of their services. According to the monitoring lead, there were no potential findings noted.

Mrs. Gutierrez shared that during the Zoom meeting with Dr. Okada and the two Head Start representatives, they had spoken positively about her and her team at Head Start. She expressed hope that their report would come back positively. She also mentioned listening to the CNMI board meeting, where they were having issues with Head Start teachers, noting that their requirements are no different from those in Guam.

Ms. Angelina said that their Head Start requirement is the same.

Mr. Sablan asked Ms. Lape if they were still facing issues with GHURA regarding the two classrooms at Chief Brodie Memorial Elementary School (CBMES).

Ms. Lape explained that GHURA had told her when Dr. Swanson was here, that the issue was at the superintendent level, but there was no further

communication after that. Once the new superintendent started, she included the issue in her updates, but has not heard anything since. She mentioned that it would be the superintendent's responsibility to follow up on the matter. She also noted that since site closures are being recommended, they made sure that anything built by GHURA or the Office of Head Start is not being considered for closure.

Mr. Sablan asked if the playground equipment was still at CBMES.

Ms. Lape replied that there is no playground equipment at CBMES. The old playground equipment was removed because it did not meet ADA accessibility standards. F&M took the equipment and installed it at TAMES, donating it there due to lack of funds for proper padding. Additionally, the playground equipment that was originally intended for CBMES was also installed at TAMES after working with procurement. The fence was also removed and relocated by the Head Start staff from CBMES to TAMES.

Mr. Sablan asked Dr. Won Pat if she had received any updates from GHURA or if she had communicated with them regarding the two classrooms that GHURA claims belong to them in perpetuity.

Dr. Won Pat replied that she has not heard anything new from GHURA. She said GHURA still maintains that the classrooms are "on the books," meaning that if GDOE does not use them for educational purposes, GDOE would be required to pay for them. She mentioned a request from Public Health's Child Wellness Program, which wants to lease the facility. The conversation with GHURA will focus on whether the Child Wellness Program's use of the classrooms for parent training would qualify them to avoid paying for it. However, Dr. Won Pat acknowledged that they would still need to bid to use the facility. She also pointed out an unresolved issue regarding GEDA reaching out to CapFA to divide the property between JFK and CBMES, which has not yet been done despite her attempts to contact the director.

Mr. Sablan sought clarification, recalling his experience with GHURA regarding a paid facility at the Asan Mayor's office. He explained that when he was with the Mayor's Council, GHURA insisted that the building, paid for by HUD, had to be used by Head Start. He responded by pointing out that Head Start had not used the office for over a year and questioned if they were expected to let the building deteriorate. After some negotiation, GHURA agreed to release the building to the Mayor's Council if Head Start found another location for meetings. Mr. Sablan expressed disbelief that HUD's funding should restrict the building's use in perpetuity, suggesting that if Head Start no longer needed the facility, it could be repurposed for other educational uses.

Ms. Lape explained that the facility is currently being used for Head Start storage, as they have no other storage spaces available and their containers are full. When they need access to items, they work with the facilities and maintenance staff. She mentioned that if the facility were to be reused, as Dr. Won Pat suggested, it could be used for training or similar purposes, but for now, it is solely used for storage.

Mr. Ada asked Ms. Lape if she was aware that a group from GDOE had started reviewing decommissioning plans and evaluating all possibilities. He emphasized his hope that GDOE will communicate with her if a school with Head Start classes is affected, as he doesn't want Head Start to spend money only to later discover that the school is being closed.

Ms. Lape explained that she was previously part of a committee reviewing the decommissioning of CBMES and other schools, but has not been notified if she is still on the task force. She added that the recommendations for classrooms to be closed will be submitted to Deputy Dr. Riza and the superintendent, and she believes that Head Start will be consulted before any final decision is made on which schools will be closed.

**Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel to approve the Head Start Selection Criteria for School Year 2026-2027. The Board vote by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.**

**Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Mr. Torres, to approve the Head Start Non-Competing Continuation Grant application for Year 3 of the Grant Cycle 2024-2029. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.**

**Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to approve the Head Start Change in Scope application for an enrollment reduction for Year 3 of the Grant Cycle 2024-2029. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.**

- b. 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 Program - Dr. Okada noted that the resolution from Dr. Guthertz has not yet been reviewed by the instructional committee. She asked Dr. Won Pat to have her deputy start the discussion before it goes to the committee and suggested keeping it on the agenda for now.

4) Safe & Healthy Schools Committee

- a. Security Concerns - Mr. Ada said he has been in touch with Dr. Ulloa-Heath, who is returning to Guam after a family emergency. They discussed repairing elevators at one school, preventing future damages, and managing community rentals of school common areas. He hopes a report will be ready for the next Board meeting. He also emphasized, following former Chairman Angel Sablan's repeated concerns, that school entrances must be monitored to ensure safety, suggesting that staff be scheduled to supervise even on an hourly basis

Mrs. Gutierrez agreed with Mr. Ada's concern, emphasizing that schools lack enough supervisory aides. She explained that with large enrollments (500-600 students) and only a few aides, it's difficult to assign someone to gate duty without additional staff. She clarified she was not referring to one-on-one aides, who already have responsibilities. She also raised safety and liability concerns, noting that requiring aides to monitor entrances could put them at risk, as they might be the first exposed to danger. She questioned whether extra compensation would be provided and emphasized that the shortage of supervisory staff is a big problem.

Mr. Fedenko argued that assigning aides to gate duty changes their working conditions and isn't part of their role, so it cannot be imposed unilaterally. He recommended hiring security guards instead and called placing aides at the front gate unsafe, reckless, and negligent.

- 5) Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee – Dr. Okada said there is no report for the policy review committee.
- 6) Fiscal Management Committee
  - a. GDOE Financial Report - Dr. Okada told her colleagues that there are three documents: one is the aging report, the other is the grant status report and the final one is the unaudited statement of appropriation expenditures and encumbrances for fiscal year 2026.
    - i) Accounts Payable Aging Report -
    - ii) Declaration of Financial Status Designation
    - iii) Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2026
    - iv) Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2026 -
  - b. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report – Dr. Okada said that this is still pending and asked Dr. Won Pat whether she had received a response.

Dr. Won Pat shared that she is working with Franklin Cooper Nurse on a draft letter to the Bruman Group to request the removal of GDOE's high-risk designation and address specific conditions. They aim to have the letter printed and signed by tomorrow. During her upcoming trip to DC, she plans to meet with Tiffany from the Bruman Group and discuss the ARP status with DOI. She explained that US Ed officials who used to work with GDOE have left, and the division overseeing grant risk management has been eliminated. As a result, the IAO is collaborating with high-risk consultants to ensure ARP progress in case US Ed reinstates review protocols. Regarding the \$51 million for ARP, the IAO has repeatedly followed up with US Ed to expedite the determination on the single audit findings, especially concerning questioned costs. As of March 16, there has been no response, so the IAO plans to seek further guidance from the consultants to expedite the process. She emphasized that the program determination letter should come from DOI, not US Ed, and she is working to schedule a meeting with DOI. She hopes the formal submission of the letter will lead to a reconsideration of the high-risk designation. If there are no changes, the specific conditions letter will typically be issued to DOE in June.

- c. FY 2025 Audit Update - Dr. Okada said that this is still ongoing.
- d. Management and Curriculum Audit - Dr. Okada mentioned that there is a document in the packet, a response dated February 16 from Mary Lee, the executive director of the Pacific Policy Research Center. She noted that this communication relates to the GDOE and the contractor involved with the management and curriculum audit. She then asked Dr. Won Pat if there were any updates on this matter.

Dr. Won Pat nodded no.

Dr. Okada stated that there hasn't been an update yet and they are still waiting for the update, which is pending based on the submitted request for corrections.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked if they would be receiving an update soon regarding the textbook audit by the OPA.

Dr. Okada stated that tomorrow, the audit committee will receive a brief on the OPA's textbook audit, and the findings will be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Sablan asked Dr. Won Pat if they would send a letter to the legislature explaining the delay in submitting approval or rejection for the management and curriculum audit, as discussed in their last meeting. He mentioned that a motion had been made.

Dr. Won Pat said they were waiting for the Board to decide before sending the letter to the legislature.

Mr. Sablan said it's not about the Board's action but about communicating with the Chairperson of the Committee on Education to explain why the Board did not submit the approval or rejection prior to December 31st.

Dr. Won Pat said they'll put that out next month.

Dr. Okada said that it will be included as part of the communication for the next board meeting.

## 7) Legislative Committee

- a. Legislative Proposals Introduced - Dr. Okada mentioned that legislative proposals have been introduced and asked Dr. Won Pat to briefly review the bills.

Dr. Won Pat shared that two bills were introduced by Senator Vincent Borja. The first, Bill 226-38, aims to establish incentive pay for GDOE employees who obtain specialized certifications or training in critical shortage areas like special education, language access, and disability services. She mentioned that a comparative analysis of Public Law 28-85, which discusses BRIP, was sent to the GFT union rep, along with written testimonies. Some department members voiced concerns about certain positions being left out and requested their inclusion. Since then, there has been no further action. The second bill, Bill 286, addresses the composition of the Guam Education Board. It proposes that the board members be appointed by the next governor.

Mr. Sablan asked if there had been a public hearing on the proposals.

Dr. Won Pat replied that a public hearing was held for Bill 226-38.

Mr. Sablan stated that, as he had told Senator Borja, the board cannot testify on the bills until they have met to discuss them. Regarding the bill on the composition of the school board, he noted that Board member Dr. McNinch

had already shared his views in an oversight meeting. However, Mr. Sablan believed the board still needed to come together to form a unified position before testifying, or if individual members prefer to testify separately, that's fine too. He emphasized the need for the board to have a clear stance.

Dr. Won Pat replied that after a bill is heard, there is typically a two-week period to submit additional written testimonies. Since Bill 226-38 has already been heard, the Board can schedule a work session to discuss and prepare their own testimony. She mentioned that they can share the analysis and testimonies that were already prepared, including those from employees who attended, to help the Board formulate its stance on the bill.

Mr. Sablan asked if the ten-day period for Bill 226-38 had passed.

Dr. Won Pat replied that ten days from March 13 will be the 26.

Mr. Sablan said he would leave it to the Board to decide who wants to make a motion to schedule a work session to discuss the bill.

Dr. Okada clarified that no motion was needed; they could simply ask the superintendent to schedule a work session for the Board to discuss the legislation.

Mr. Sablan suggested scheduling a meeting to discuss both bills together, so they don't have to meet again separately.

Dr. Okada asked AO Kathleen to schedule the meeting.

Mrs. Gutierrez agreed with Mr. Fedenko that there are issues that need addressing, particularly the potential income disparity among employees. She referenced a concern raised by a teacher at SSHS about whether school aides would receive differential pay if they take on additional responsibilities. She emphasized the need to revisit the BRIP (Bonus Recruitment Incentive Program) and consult with the department and GFT before introducing any bills, especially regarding school aides. She questioned whether school aides would receive differential pay or incentives under the proposed bill. She expressed that she cannot support the bill without further review and that the Board still needs to discuss the BRIP. She pointed out that the full context of the bill must be understood before taking a position, especially regarding its potential impact on employees, including one-to-one school aides.

Dr. Okada stated that the Board needs to approve the travel for the Micronesia Islands Forum Regional Education Committee, scheduled from April 20th to 23rd, as previously mentioned by Dr. McNinch.

**Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez, to approve Dr. Won Pat and the Board's participation in the Micronesia Islands Forum that will be held in Saipan, CNMI from April 20-23, 2026. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.**

Mrs. Gutierrez shared that she attended the summit planning meeting in the CNMI, where she was invited by the former CNMI Board chair. She asked if the

Board needs to approve travel expenses when individuals are covering their own fare and hotel costs. She stated that she doesn't think the Board should approve such expenses.

Dr. Okada suggested that if a board member is attending an event, even if paying their own expenses, it should be reflected in the minutes as part of the Board's professional development to address issues identified in the management audit.

Mrs. Gutierrez acknowledged Dr. Okada's suggestion and said she has no problem with it. She mentioned that she will be paying her own way and covering the \$100 registration fee.

Dr. Okada mentioned that the superintendent only has 25 invitations available for the summit.

Mr. Fedenko pointed out that, according to GCA Chapter 3, Section 3102.1(e), the decommissioning of schools must be approved by the Board. This section mandates that the Superintendent manage responsibilities and that the Board adopts attendance areas and school boundaries. He believes this applies to school decommissioning. He also mentioned that the Board now has a newly appointed decommissioning chairman. Mr. Fedenko then asked whether the decommissioning of JPTSA had been approved by the Board and if JPTSA was being closed.

Dr. Okada said no, the Board has not approved any decommissioning since the last two schools.

Mr. Fedenko acknowledged.

Dr. Okada stated they're still in discussion.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS – N/A**

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A**

**VIII. CELEBRATE SUCCESS** – The following were recognized: John F. Kennedy High School's Raeka Blanco, Keant Dela Cruz, Chagmin Lee, Christopher Mantanona, Stephen Medrano, Dayonara Jade Mendoza, Alyssa-Faith Togawa, Ryder Torres, and Jonas Wallace – winners of NASA's TechRise Student Challenge, Adacao Elementary School, Agueda Johnston Middle School, and Oceanview Middle School for earning an "A" grade in their DPHSS Sanitation Inspection,

**IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mariana Hernandez (THS) - Ms. Hernandez introduced her colleagues, explaining that they are all teachers from THS or members of the THS community referenced by Senator Duenas in the previous oversight hearing. She made two main requests: to stop the false claim that THS is temporary, and to explain the data and reasoning behind combining the schools, noting there was no prior communication or input from stakeholders. While concerned, she said they are willing to support the decision and emphasized the need to address key areas—student safety, facilities and space,

logistics, staff working conditions, and clear timelines and communication—to ensure a smooth transition and protect student learning.

Dylan Taitano (THS) - Mr. Taitano warned that merging THS and SSSH could create safety risks due to potential conflicts and limited campus space, making supervision difficult. He called for added security measures—more staff and officers, cameras, and a working intercom system—to protect students and staff.

Marlene Quintanilla (THS) - Ms. Quintanilla highlighted that combining both schools requires major facility and infrastructure upgrades to safely support a larger population. She raised concerns about plumbing issues, unreliable water and power, outdated restrooms, and the need for improvements to athletic spaces, water fountains, and student areas. She also emphasized the need to upgrade technology, expand classroom and storage capacity, improve transportation and traffic flow, and ensure health and safety compliance. Additional requests included safer walkways, repairs to damaged campus areas, and more support from GDOE and government agencies to maintain a safe, functional learning environment.

Megan Borja (THS) - Ms. Borja addressed logistics and teacher/staff working conditions, highlighting challenges if THS and SSSH share a campus. She noted that teachers would lose dedicated workspaces and requested the creation of new work areas. She also asked for expanded technical support hours to accommodate increased system demands. She raised concerns about parking and traffic, recommending relocation of special education buses, removal of the main entrance guard post, adjustments to traffic lights, and additional access points to improve flow. She emphasized the need to plan for SSSH students commuting from distant villages, especially during peak hours, and to ensure early dismissal procedures are well-organized during power or water outages. Finally, she called for transparency, requesting access to studies justifying THS as the best location to accommodate roughly 2,300 students, to help the community understand and trust the decision-making process.

Mr. Taitano said that since the decision to combine the schools is final, they want the transition to be as smooth as possible and ensure success for all students and staff. He emphasized the need for a transparent, collaborative process with GDOE leadership, including opportunities for future input from students, parents, and teachers. He also requested clarity on contingency plans, timelines, and alternative options so stakeholders are informed in advance rather than unexpectedly.

Ms. Hernandez acknowledged that the needs they outlined may seem extensive but stressed they reflect the realities of operating two schools on one campus. She emphasized that addressing safety, facilities, staffing, and operational needs is essential for the success of both THS and SSSH and for upholding GDOE's mission and legal standards. She called for open communication and meaningful collaboration with all stakeholders and expressed hope that, moving forward, teachers, students, and families will be included in planning. Her main goal is to ensure that the transition is thoughtful, transparent, student-centered, and that both school communities can function safely and effectively.

Dr. Okada requested that the speakers leave their testimony to be included in the public record. She noted that this was not for further discussion and that it would be referred to Dr. Won Pat for appropriate action. She thanked the speakers for their public participation.

Ms. Hernandez said that was their draft and asked if she can email their testimony.

Dr. Okada said they can email it to AO Kathleen.

Mr. Sablan noted that this topic is not on the agenda but suggested that legal counsel might provide clarification. He stated that, technically, Dr. Won Pat's acting superintendent appointment is limited to 90 days.

Mr. Sablan noted that this topic is not on the agenda but suggested that legal counsel might provide clarification. He stated that, technically, Dr. Won Pat's acting superintendent appointment is limited to 90 days.

Dr. Okada explained that document 26-001, dated December 31, which he signed January 6 (effective January 1, 2026), appoints Dr. Won Pat as acting superintendent until further notice. She clarified that the 90-day period applies only to detailed appointments and noted that Dr. Won Pat is not a detailed appointment. She asked legal counsel to review the document to determine if any Board action or a special meeting is needed, otherwise she stated that document 26-001 should be sufficient.

Mr. Sablan said if that's fine but emphasized ensuring there are no legal issues and that both she and the system are protected.

Dr. Okada acknowledged.

Dr. McNinch told Dr. Won Pat that the board members are available to support her in the interim and can provide assistance through their committees between meetings.

#### X. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sablan motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 pm.

#### MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KATHLEEN LAMORENA  
Administrative Officer


Date: March 30, 2026

#### MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2026 REGULAR MEETING:

- Approved as submitted
- Approved subject to corrections
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

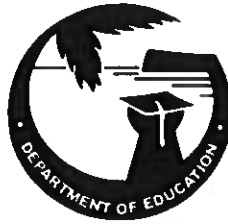
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA  
GEB Chair

Date: 04.28.26

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

Date: 4-30-26

**GUAM EDUCATION BOARD  
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-04**



Introduced by:

Guam Education Board Members

**RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
CHAMORU LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the preservation, promotion, and perpetuation of the CHamoru language and culture are essential priorities for the people of Guam and critical to the island's identity and heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) CHamoru Language and Cultural Studies provide a unique educational program that fosters CHamoru language fluency and cultural knowledge by using the indigenous language as the primary medium of instruction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Guam Board of Education (the "Board") recognizes the importance of sustaining and expanding the CHamoru Studies Program through immersion or other innovative strategies to ensure students achieve long-term language retention and cultural competence as they progress through higher grade levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board acknowledges that adequate space and facilities are essential to support and expand curricular offerings, and enhanced community engagement in CHamoru language and cultural programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the availability of additional GDOE school facilities will strengthen the CHamoru Studies and Immersion Program's capacity to fulfill its mission of revitalizing the CHamoru language and preserving cultural heritage for current and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to see this transition occur as expeditiously as possible to maximize the educational benefits for current and future students.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Guam Board of Education hereby supports the expansion of the Guam Department of Education CHamoru Language and Cultural Immersion Program to accommodate program growth and enhanced educational opportunities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent shall evaluate the program to ensure the continued success, sustainability, and expansion of the CHamoru Language and Cultural Immersion Program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Speaker Frank Blas Jr., *I Mina' Trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, the Honorable Vincent Anthony V. Borja, Chairman of the 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislative Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting, the Honorable Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Magá hágan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED THIS 28th DAY OF APRIL 2026**



**JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.**  
**Executive Secretary**



**JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA**  
**Chair, Guam Education Board**