

Re: Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2759 through 2768.

From Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.gov>
Date Fri 8/21/2026 1:42 PM
To 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>

Håfa Adai,

Received, and thank you.



Elijah Untalan
Clerks Office

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan

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

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

guamlegislature.gov

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Thank you

From: 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2026 12:25 PM
To: Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc: Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>
Subject: Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2759 through 2768.

Håfa Adai Clerks Office,

Please see attached, **Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2759 through 2768** for processing:

✓	38GL-26-2759	Office of the Mayor - Municipality of Agaña Heights	FY2026 Typhoon Bavi Emergency and Recovery Expenditure Report*
✓	38GL-26-2760	Office of the Governor of Guam	On Behalf of Department of Public Works: Notice of Cancellation Request for Proposal (RFP) for New Simon Sanchez High School: FDDBLM Project No. 730-5-1059-L-YIG*
✓	38GL-26-2761	Office of the Mayor - Municipality of Tamuning-Tumon and Harmon	FY2026 Typhoon Bavi Emergency and Recovery Expenditure Report*
✓	38GL-26-2762	University of Guam	FY2025 Citizen-Centric Report*
✓	38GL-26-2763	Department of Public Health and Social Services	Prior Year Obligation to pay Government of Guam Retirement Fund in the total amount of \$26,198.89*
✓	38GL-26-2764	Department of Public Health and Social Services	Guam Board of Barbering and Cosmetology Board Meeting Packet for August 17, 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2765	Guam Power Authority	Notification of Temporary Assignment or Detail – Eric J. Sanchez, Personnel Specialist III, 8/28/26*
✓	38GL-26-2766	Office of Public Accountability - Guam	OPA Report No. 26-08 August 2026, Department of Agriculture Guam Invasive Species Inspection Fee Fund Performance Audit for October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2025*
✓	38GL-26-2767	Guam Economic Development Authority	FY2026 3rd Quarter Travel Report for period ending June 30, 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2768	Department of Education	Guam Education Board Regular Board Meeting Packet for August 18, 2026*

Kindly reply to this email.



Si Yu'os ma'åse',

Marie Crisostomo

Committee on Rules Assistant

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

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Messages and Communications 38GL-26-2768*

2 messages

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

Wed, Aug 19, 2026 at 4:06 PM

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

Håfa adai,

Please see attached M&C Doc. No. 38GL-26-2768

38GL-26-2768	Department of Education	Guam Education Board Regular Board Meeting Packet for August 18, 2026*
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*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'**Bernice Rivera*

Administrative Assistant

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

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

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

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

Date: Wed, Aug 19, 2026 at 11:33 AM

Subject: GEB August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting - Reporting Requirements

To: Jean S. Taitano <jean.taitano@guam.gov>, Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, <central.files@guam.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 August 18, 2026.

Thank you!

Warm regards,
Kathleen Lamorena
Guam Department of Education

Guam Department of Education 2026

2 attachments**GEB Reporting Requirements August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting.pdf**

2147K

**38GL-26-2768.pdf**

1140K

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

Thu, Aug 20, 2026 at 9:09 AM

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

Håfa Adai,

Received, and thank you.



Si Yu'os ma'ãse',

Marie Crisostomo

Committee on Rules Assistant

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan

38th Guam Legislature

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[Quoted text hidden]



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

GEB August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting - Reporting Requirements

3 messages

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

Wed, Aug 19, 2026 at 11:32 AM

To: "Jean S. Taitano" <jean.taitano@guam.gov>, "Speaker Frank F. Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>, central.files@guam.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 August 18, 2026.

Thank you!

 Warm regards,
 Kathleen Lamorena
 Guam Department of Education

Doc Type: 38GL-26-2768
 OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
 FRANK F. BLAS, JR.
 August 19 2026
 Time: 11:32 AM
 Received:

Guam Department of Education 2026


GEB Reporting Requirements August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting.pdf
 2147K

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

Wed, Aug 19, 2026 at 12:08 PM

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

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

Hafa Adai!

Confirming receipt of your email.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'
Bernice Rivera

Administrative Assistant


Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.

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

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

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[Quoted text hidden]

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

Wed, Aug 19, 2026 at 12:16 PM

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: jtwpnpat@gdoe.net



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

August 19, 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 August 18, 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.
Superintendent of Education

Attachments



JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
Chair

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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



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

Guam Education Board
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, August 18, 2026
3 PM
Gallery, Bldg. B, Tiyan
AGENDA



38GL-26-2768
Messages and Communications

RECEIVED
COMMITTEE ON RULES
August 19, 2026

4:06 p.m.
Marie Crisostomo

- | | | |
|-------------|------|--|
| INFO | I. | Meeting Call to Order |
| | II. | Consent Calendar |
| INFO/ACTION | | a. July 24, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes |
| INFO/ACTION | | b. July 24, 2026 Superintendent's Report |
| | III. | Communications |
| INFO | | a. Correspondence received by the Board after July 24, 2026 |
| INFO | IV. | Ex-Officio Member Reports |
| | | a. Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report |
| | | b. Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report |
| | | c. Mayor's Council of Guam (MCOG) Report |
| | V. | Unfinished Business/Committee Reports |
| INFO/ACTION | | a. Superintendent's Report |
| | | i. Opening of the SY26-27 |
| | | ii. FBLG and SSHS Report |
| | | iii. Strategic Plan |
| | | iv. Consolidated Grant |
| INFO | | b. Executive Committee |
| INFO/ACTION | | c. Instructional & Academic Support Committee |
| | | i. August Head Start Report |
| INFO | | d. Safe & Healthy Schools Committee |
| | | i. Security Concerns |
| INFO/ACTION | | e. Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee |
| | | i. BP 379.1 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy |
| | | f. Fiscal Management Committee |
| | | i. GDOE Financial Report |
| INFO | | 1. Accounts Payable Aging Report |
| INFO/ACTION | | 2. Declaration of Financial Status Designation |
| INFO | | 3. Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2026 |
| INFO | | 4. Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2026 |
| INFO | | ii. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report |
| INFO | | iii. FY 2025 Audit Update |
| | | g. Legislative Committee |

VOTING MEMBERS: Judith Guthertz, DPA, Chair, Mary A.Y. Okada, Ed.D., Vice-Chair, Peter Alecxis D. Ada, 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., Superintendent

INFO	i. Legislative Proposals Introduced
INFO	VI. New Business
INFO/ACTION	VII. Executive Session (Board Policy 125.12) a. Personnel matters (5 GCA § 8111 (a)) b. Matters within scope of Public Employee-Management Relations Act, including collective bargaining (5 GCA § 8111 (b)) c. Superintendent's Evaluation d. Legal Matters
INFO	VIII. Celebrate Success
INFO	IX. Public Participation (Board Policy 125.6) Time Limit 3 minutes
INFO/ACTION	X. Announcements & Adjournment

VOTING MEMBERS: Judith Guthertz, DPA, Chair, Mary A.Y. Okada, Ed.D., Vice-Chair, Peter Alexis D. Ada, Maria A. Gutierrez, Ron L. McNinch, PhD, Angel R. Sablan, Carl E. Torres II

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Kohen Diego - IBOGS Representatives, Timothy Fedenko - GFT Representative, Mayor Brian Jess Terlaje - MCOG Representative

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D., Acting Superintendent

PUBLICATION NOTICE

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

CUL GUAM, INC DBA: COST-U-LESS

has applied for a Class: 5 (Five) Off Sale Beer & Wine Alcoholic Beverage License said premises being marked as Lot: 82-1-5-R10NEW-R4 422 Chalan Canton Tasi RTE 4

Hagåtña



GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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



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

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD REGULAR MEETING Tuesday, August 18, 2026 3 PM Gallery, Bldg. B, Tiyan AGENDA

- | | | |
|-------------|-------|---|
| INFO | I. | Meeting Call to Order |
| | II. | Consent Calendar |
| INFO/ACTION | | a. July 24, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes |
| INFO/ACTION | | b. July 24, 2026 Superintendent's Report |
| | III. | Communications |
| INFO | | a. Correspondence received by the Board after July 24, 2026 |
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| | | a. Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report |
| | | b. Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report |
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| | | iii. Strategic Plan |
| | | iv. Consolidated Grant |
| INFO | | b. Executive Committee |
| INFO/ACTION | | c. Instructional & Academic Support Committee |
| | | i. August Head Start Report |
| INFO | | d. Safe & Healthy Schools Committee |
| | | i. Security Concerns |
| INFO/ACTION | | e. Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee |
| | | i. BP 379.1 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy |
| | | f. Fiscal Management Committee |
| | | i. GDOE Financial Report |
| INFO | | 1. Accounts Payable Aging Report |
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| INFO | | g. Legislative Committee |
| INFO | | i. Legislative Proposals Introduced |
| INFO | VI. | New Business |
| INFO/ACTION | VII. | Executive Session (Board Policy 125.12) |
| | | a. Personnel matters (5 GCA § 8111 (a)) |
| | | b. Matters within scope of Public Employee-Management Relations Act, including collective bargaining (5 GCA § 8111 (b)) |
| | | c. Superintendent's Evaluation |
| | | d. Legal Matters |
| INFO | VIII. | Celebrate Success |
| INFO | IX. | Public Participation (Board Policy 125.6) Time Limit 3 minutes |
| INFO/ACTION | X. | Announcements & Adjournment |

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

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

This advertisement was paid by GDOE local funds.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING COMMISSION ON POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS

Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Attorney General's Office,
134 W Soledad Ave., Suite 412, Hagåtña.

This meeting is open to the public via YouTube Livestream Link: guamattorneygeneral.org/live

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
 - II. Roll Call of Members
 - III. Open Government Compliance
 - a. Publication, August 6, 2026
 - b. Publication, August 11, 2026
 - c. GovGuam Notices Portal & Website Posting
 - IV. Approval of Prior Minutes, September 18, 2024
 - V. Old Business
 - VI. New Business
 - a. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner status and discussion on current data collection
 - b. Dr. Kenny Su resignation
 - c. Chief Medical Examiner job announcement
 - d. Discussion & Possible Selection of Chief Medical Examiner
 - e. AG's assistance to OCME office operations
 - i. Memorandum of Understanding with AG's Office and Guam Memorial Hospital Authority to help provide support staff, supplies and equipment to the Chief Medical Examiner's Office
 - ii. Pending applications for employment
 - VII. Adjournment or Recess
- For more information or to arrange for ADA accommodations, please contact Anna Nicole Perez at (671) 477-4703 or (671) 475-3324 ext. 5030.
- Meeting location: Attorney General's Office, 134 W Soledad Ave., Suite 412, Hagåtña, Guam
- This advertisement was paid with government funds by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

APPLY NOW!!

03-CARPENTER WITH 1 YEAR EXP. \$18.34 PER HR.
Constructs, erects, installs, and repairs structures and fixtures of wood, plywood, and wallboard, using carpenter's hand and power tools, and conforming to local building codes: Studies blueprints, sketches or building plans for information as to type of materials required. Selects specific type of lumber or other materials. Installs partitions and cabinet work.

17-CEMENT MASON WITH 1 YEAR EXP. \$17.51 PER HR.
Smooths and finishes surfaces of poured concrete floors, walls, sidewalks, or curbs to specified textures, using hand or power tools, including floats, trowels, and screeds. Spreads soft concrete to specified depth and workable consistency, using float to bring water to surface and produce soft topping. Lays concrete blocks; mixes cement using shovels, hand tools and mixing machine.

06- FIELD SUPERVISOR WITH 2 YEARS EXP. \$27.84 PER HR.
Examine and inspect work progress, equipment, and construction sites to verify safety and to ensure that specifications are met. Read specifications such as blueprints to determine construction requirements and to plan procedures. Supervise, coordinate, and schedule the activities of construction or extractive workers. Coordinate work activities with other construction project activities.

Benefits: Roundtrip airfare for off-island hire, food & lodging at \$80.00 per week; local transportation to/from jobsite. Employer may offer discretionary bonuses based on performance.
Successful applicant must be able to obtain military base access.

The job offer meets all EEO requirements, and initiates a temporary placement. The recruitment associated with this job offer is closely monitored by the Department of Labor. Qualified, available and willing U.S. workers are highly encouraged to apply. Should you qualify for the job and are not hired, you may appeal with the Department of Labor who will independently review matter.

Apply in person at the American Job Center
414 W. Soledad, Avenue, Suite 300, GCIC Building, Hagåtña, Guam 96932
Or apply online at www.hireguam.com; Enter Keyword: 2026-102

AVAILABLE JOBS FOR ELIGIBLE U.S. WORKERS

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 6 - BOOKKEEPER with min. 1 yr. exp. | \$16.96 PER HOUR* |
| Must possess a minimum of 1 year experience using any accounting software. Compute, classify and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. | |
| 4 - CAMP COOK with min. 1 yr. exp.; must possess a health certificate after hiring | \$14.09 PER HOUR* |
| Prepares and cooks Filipino dishes and other style cuisines for construction crew. | |
| 38 - CARPENTER with min. 1 yr. exp. | \$18.34 PER HOUR* |
| Performs carpentry duties for residential, commercial and/or government construction projects. | |
| 48 - CEMENT MASON with min. 1 yr. exp. | \$17.51 PER HOUR* |
| Performs cement mason duties for residential, commercial and/or government construction projects. | |
| 1 - ELECTRICIAN with min. 2 yrs. exp. | \$21.02 PER HOUR* |
| Performs electrician duties for residential, commercial and/or government construction projects. | |
| 3 - HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR with min. 1 yr. exp. | \$18.97 PER HOUR* |
| Performs heavy equipment operator duties for residential, commercial and/or government construction projects. | |
| 5 - PAINTER with min. 1 yrs. exp. | \$19.82 PER HOUR* |
| Performs painter duties for residential, commercial and/or government construction projects. | |
| 8 - REINFORCING METAL WORKER with min. 1 yr. exp. | \$16.98 PER HOUR* |
| Performs reinforcing metal worker duties for residential, commercial and/or government construction projects. | |
| 3 - SITE SUPERVISOR with min. 2 yrs. exp. | \$27.84 PER HOUR* |
| Performs site supervisor duties for residential, commercial and/or government construction projects. | |

Verification of qualifications required.

**Special wage rate: Work to be performed on DPRI-funded projects and projects covered by Davis Bacon, Service Contracts Act, and/or Executive Order 14206 will be paid no less than the indicated wage rate but may be paid more where special rates apply and may require paid holidays and/or paid sick leave.*

Benefits: Round trip airfare for off-island hire; Meals and lodging at \$80.00/week; Local transportation to/from jobsite from the employer's designated housing facility.
Successful applicant must be able to obtain military base access.

The job offer meets all EEO requirements, and initiates a temporary placement. The recruitment associated with this job offer is closely monitored by the Department of Labor. Qualified, available and willing U.S. workers are highly encouraged to apply. Should you qualify for the job and are not hired, you may appeal with the Department of Labor who will independently review matter.

For the complete job duties, apply in person at the American Job Center
414 W. Soledad Avenue, Suite 300 GCIC Building Hagåtña, Guam
Or apply online at www.hireguam.com; Enter Keyword: 2026-097



**GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-06**

Introduced by:

Guam Education Board Members

**RELATIVE TO THE COMMENDATION AND RECOGNITION
OF GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2026 TEACHER OF THE YEAR
ACIE JO SABLAN CRUZ
FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE, LEADERSHIP,
AND DEDICATION TO THE STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY OF GUAM**

WHEREAS, Acie Jo Sablan Cruz is a dedicated educator at Simon Sanchez High School, where she teaches twelfth-grade English and Video and has devoted more than twenty-two (22) years to serving students through meaningful and engaging learning experiences; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cruz earned a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education and English from the University of Guam and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Portland, demonstrating her continued commitment to professional growth and educational excellence; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cruz, throughout her career, is an educator who connects academic learning with service, storytelling, reflection, and real-world experiences that encourage students to better understand their identity, purpose, and role within their communities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cruz extends her leadership beyond the classroom through her service as the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Coordinator, Activities Coordinator, Senior Class of 2025 Main Advisor, and Legacy Club Advisor, providing students with opportunities to develop leadership, responsibility, school pride, and a spirit of service; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cruz has led numerous schoolwide and community service initiatives, including *When You Wish Upon a Shark*, *Yuletide in Yigo*, and *Fleece Navidad*, through which thousands of toys, blankets, supplies, and other needed items have been provided to children and families throughout the community during the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cruz truly believes that an effective classroom is rooted in empathy, reflection, respect, and belonging, creating an environment in which students are encouraged to recognize the value of their experiences and the importance of their individual voices; and

WHEREAS, her guiding message, "Everyone has a story," inspires students to embrace their own stories, understand the experiences of others, and use their voices and talents to make positive contributions to their school and community; and

WHEREAS, through more than two decades of teaching, leadership, mentorship, and community service, Ms. Cruz has positively influenced countless students, colleagues, families, and members of the Guam community and continues to exemplify the highest ideals of the teaching profession;

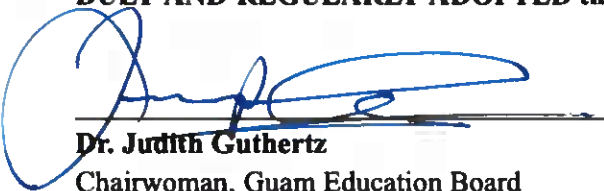
WHEREAS, Acie Jo Sablan Cruz was nominated and selected from among qualified applicants by previous Guam Teachers of the Year to be named the 2026 Guam Department of Education Teacher of the Year, after successfully demonstrating excellence in teaching through her written application, interviews, and on-site classroom observations; and

WHEREAS, the Guam Department of Education Teacher of the Year program recognizes the importance and value of experience that top educators throughout the United States and its territories can offer and share with all teachers; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Guam Education Board hereby recognizes and commends **Acie Jo Sablan Cruz** for her outstanding dedication to education, exemplary leadership, commitment to service, for inspiring students to recognize the power of their stories, serve others with compassion, and pursue lives of purpose and positive impact, and for being selected as the 2026 GDOE Teacher of the Year award, presented by the Foundation for Public Education during the Guam Teacher of the Year recognition ceremony, held on May 24, 2025, at CarsPlus Guam in Maite and wishes her well in the 2026 National Teacher of the Year Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Guam Education Board Chairwoman certifies and the Guam Education Board Executive Secretary attests to the resolution hereof and transmit a copy of this Resolution be presented to **Acie Jo Sablan Cruz** as an expression of appreciation and recognition for her exemplary service and contributions to public education on Guam.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED this 18th day of August, 2026.



Dr. Judith Guthertz

Chairwoman, Guam Education Board



Dr. Judith Won Pat

Executive Secretary, Guam Education Board



**GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-07**

Introduced by:

Guam Education Board Members

**RELATIVE TO THE COMMENDATION AND RECOGNITION OF
GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2027 TEACHER OF THE YEAR
CAROLYN E. HARUO
FOR HER OUTSTANDING DEDICATION TO EDUCATION,
STUDENT LEADERSHIP, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

WHEREAS, Carolyn E. Haruo has dedicated eleven (11) years to teaching science at John F. Kennedy High School, including Marine Biology and Marine Biology Honors, inspiring students through rigorous, relevant, and hands-on learning experiences; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Haruo earned a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education—General Science from the University of Guam and a Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction from Western Governors University, and she is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Education, specializing in Educational Management, at Philippine Women's University; and

WHEREAS, her teaching is grounded in equity, inquiry, academic rigor, and learning rooted in place and purpose, empowering students to see themselves as scientists, problem-solvers, and leaders; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Ms. Haruo established the John F. Kennedy High School Ocean Guardian School program to connect science education with environmental responsibility, student confidence, and leadership development; and

WHEREAS, She developed meaningful partnerships with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Ritidian Wildlife Refuge, Guam Department of Agriculture, University of Guam Sea Grant, and other community organizations to connect classroom learning with real-world environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Haruo believes in the potential of every student and creates meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that build confidence, leadership, scientific understanding, and pathways to future academic and career opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Haruo has extended her leadership beyond the classroom through her service as an Ocean Guardian School Advisor, Guardians of the Reef Advisor, accreditation leader, Young Pacific Leaders Delegate, and Marine Academic Challenge Bowl coach; and

WHEREAS, her educational leadership and impact have earned recognition from organizations including the Guam Education Board and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as honors for student achievement in the Marine Academic Challenge Bowl; and

WHEREAS, drawing from her own experience as an English Language Learner from Palau, Ms. Haruo understands the lasting impact of educators who recognize potential, build confidence, and create a sense of belonging for every student; and

WHEREAS, through her dedication to academic excellence, advocacy, environmental stewardship, and student empowerment, Ms. Haruo has made a meaningful and lasting contribution to the students of John F. Kennedy High School and the greater Guam community; and²

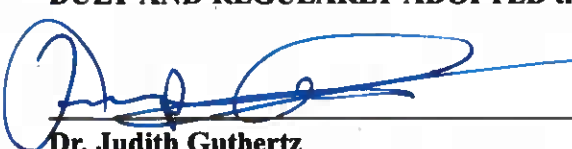
WHEREAS, Carolyn E. Haruo was nominated and selected from among qualified applicants by previous Guam Teachers of the Year to be named the 2026 Guam Department of Education Teacher of the Year, after successfully demonstrating excellence in teaching through her written application, interviews, and on-site classroom observations; and

WHEREAS, the Guam Department of Education Teacher of the Year program recognizes the importance and value of experience that top educators throughout the United States and its territories can offer and share with all teachers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Guam Education Board hereby recognizes and commends **Carolyn E. Haruo** for her outstanding service to public education, her exemplary leadership, and her unwavering dedication to empowering students to become confident learners, responsible leaders, and stewards of their island community, and for being selected as the 2027 GDOE Teacher of the Year, presented by the Foundation for Public Education during the Guam Teacher of the Year recognition ceremony, held on May 30, 2026, at CarsPlus Guam in Maite and wishes her well in the 2027 National Teacher of the Year Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Guam Education Board Chairwoman certifies and the Guam Education Board Executive Secretary attests to the resolution and to that a copy of this Resolution be presented and transmitted to **Carolyn E. Haruo** as an expression of sincere appreciation for her distinguished service and contributions to the students and community of Guam.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED this 18th day of AUGUST, 2026.



Dr. Judith Guthertz

Chairwoman, Guam Education Board



Dr. Judith Won Pat

Executive Secretary, Guam Education Board



JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
Chair

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

501 Mariner Avenue
Barrigada, Guam 96913-1608
Telephone Number: (671) 300-1627
Facsimile Number: (671) 472-5003
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MARY A.Y. OKADA, Ed.D.
Vice Chair

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 24, 2026

3 pm

Gallery, GDOE Building B

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Judith Guthertz, DPA, Chair
Mary A.Y. Okada, EdD, Vice-Chair

Peter Alexis D. Ada
Maria A. Gutierrez
Ron L. McNinch, PhD
Angel R. Sablan
Carl E. Torres, II

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Vacant
IBOGS Representative

Timothy Fedenko
GFT Representative

Mayor, Brian Jess Terlaje
MCOG Representative

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Guthertz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

Voting Members:

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

Non-Voting Members:

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

Legal Counsel:

Rudolph, Gloria

Absent:

Voting Members:

Non-Voting Members:

The Superintendent announced that five (5) members of the Board were present, and two (2) connected via Zoom, constituting a quorum.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR –

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Mr. Sablan, to approve the items under the consent calendar, June 16, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes and June 16, 2026 Superintendent's Report. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

- 1) June 16, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 2) June 16, 2026 Superintendent's Report

III. COMMUNICATIONS - Dr. Guthertz asked Dr. Won Pat if there were any communications.

Mr. Sablan took a moment to recognize Vice Mayor Pedro Blas of Yigo, who also serves as the alternate representative for the Mayor's Council of Guam. He noted that Vice Mayor Blas will represent the Mayor's Council of Guam whenever Mayor BJ Terlaje is unable to attend.

Dr. Guthertz welcomed Vice Mayor Blas and told him that they were happy to have him with them.

Mrs. Gutierrez jokingly remarked that, after 30 years, she finally had the opportunity to use the microphone before retiring from the Board. She then welcomed Mayor Terlaje and Vice Mayor Blas, noting that the Mayor's Council's participation is mandated under 17 GCA and emphasizing the importance of maintaining attendance records. She expressed appreciation that an alternate representative is now available when the mayor cannot attend and welcomed their participation in representing communities from north to south.

Mayor Terlaje acknowledged that the Mayor's Council attendance is legally mandated but explained that mayors must prioritize responding to their communities, especially during emergencies. In response to concerns raised at the previous board meeting, the council proposed allowing an additional alternate representative to ensure continued participation when mayors are unavailable. He explained that mayors may need to leave meetings to respond to community needs. To ensure consistent representation, Vice Mayor Pedro Blas will serve as an alternate, and if both are unavailable, a third alternate will be designated to attend meetings.

Dr. Guthertz expressed appreciation for the Mayor's participation, stating that the Board strongly supports the mayors and the Mayor's Council and is honored to have their presence at the meeting.

Dr. McNinch commended Guam's elected mayors, noting that they are among the hardest-working public servants on the island.

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Mr. Sablan, to dispose of all action on the July 24, 2026 agenda and all the others that are in the information are available. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Guthertz stated that the meeting would focus only on action items and that any requested information would be provided accordingly. She then asked Dr. Won Pat whether she had received any correspondence on behalf of the Board after June 16, 2016.

Dr. Won Pat reported that Danko Taburosi, on behalf of the Island Research and Education Initiative, requested a letter of support for its no-cost digital resource library promoting vernacular languages and curriculum in the Federated States of Micronesia. The initiative aims to preserve local languages and cultures, complement existing educational resources, and support FSM students and families in Guam.

Dr. Guthertz asked Dr. Won Pat if she will maintain communication with the organization.

Dr. Won Pat said Yes.

Dr. Guthertz thanked Dr. Won Pat for the information, noting that it was helpful and encouraging for the language program.

Mr. Sablan recommended that the proposed language digitization initiative be referred to the Faniyakan CHamoru Division for review to ensure it aligns with existing language efforts and does not create conflicts. He requested that the group be included in the discussion and asked that their endorsement be obtained before the Superintendent submits a letter of support. He also suggested conducting additional research or gathering more information if needed before issuing the letter.

Dr. Won Pat acknowledged.

Dr. Okada noted that, since the district has students from the FSM community, accessing the 1,800 available resources could provide valuable educational support for FSM students.

Dr. Guthertz said that would be included in the discussions.

IV. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

- 1) Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report – N/A
- 2) Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report – N/A
- 3) Mayor's Council of Guam (MCOG) Report – Mayor Terlaje thanked the board and the superintendent for considering the concerns raised by the Mayors' Council, noting that mayors are often the first to receive community complaints. He requested a meeting between the superintendent, DOE leadership, and the Mayors' Council to discuss issues affecting schools in their respective villages. He also sought clarification on Board Policy 602/604 regarding unused DOE facilities, citing Mayor Dale Alvarez's request to refurbish and use the former J.P. Torres School in Santa Rita, noting that the policy appears to address only facility rentals and not the reuse of vacant school buildings by mayors.

Dr. Won Pat explained that they are still developing its approach to school leasing and is coordinating with Mayor Alig and the Mayors Council to establish meetings and work sessions. She noted that current policy only addresses the use of classrooms and school facilities, while recent legislation allowing the leasing of decommissioned schools prompted the Board to establish a committee to develop standard operating procedures. She also said they are seeking authority to conduct professional real property valuations to establish fair rental rates and explore arrangements that could offset costs such as school grounds maintenance. They plan to work closely with Mayor Alig and the mayors and report its progress back to the Board.

Mrs. Gutierrez expressed concerns about the accuracy and clarity of the 2026–2027 school readiness report, particularly entries showing schools as “unknown,” “yes” with outstanding issues, or “no.” She noted concerns about fluctuating power, non-functioning air conditioning, pending water connections, public health inspections, and equipment installation, with only 17 days remaining before school opens. She requested clarification from the administration and asked that an updated status be provided to all Board members and the public to avoid confusion among parents and the community.

She also asked for an update on whether teachers, including retirees recruited through the job fair, had been fully processed and contacted.

Mr. Sablan raised concerns about the transition from GDOE's Tier 1 shelters to the Mayor's Council of Guam's Tier 2 shelters following the recent storm, noting that the transition during Typhoon Bavi was not as smooth as anticipated. He explained that the seven designated Tier 2 gyms may be unavailable due to storm damage, power outages, or lack of water, making the transition difficult. He recommended that GDOE and the Mayor's Council include island-wide shelter planning in their upcoming discussions and establish contingency measures for situations when Tier 2 shelters cannot be used, as well as plans for after the shelter period ends. He also noted that Ordot-Chalan Pago Elementary School (OCPEs) recently opened an emergency shelter facility and that Astumbo Elementary School (ASTES) is another hardened facility managed by the Mayor's Office. He further pointed out that while the Legislature provided GDOE with funding for supplies and materials for Tier 1 shelters, there does not appear to be comparable funding specifically designated for operating Tier 2 shelters. He suggested considering legislative funding for Tier 2 shelters to ensure resources are available when needed.

Mrs. Gutierrez urged improved communication and coordination between DOE and village mayors, particularly in northern communities. She stressed the importance of planning before COR 4 is announced to ensure families affected by changes have support and appropriate placements. She cited Machananao Elementary School as an example of a community needing attention and emphasized the need for collaboration to address families' needs.

Dr. Okada recommended considering unused DOE facilities, specifically Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary School (LBJES) and Chief Brodie Memorial Elementary School (CBMES), as temporary typhoon shelters to avoid disrupting instruction at active schools. She noted that LBJES still has usable resources, though cleanup and maintenance are needed, and suggested identifying requirements for these facilities to serve as Tier 1 or Tier 2 shelters while longer-term leasing plans are developed.

Vice Mayor Blas supported the discussion on Tier 1 and Tier 2 shelters and emphasized the need for improved planning, funding, and maintenance for Tier 2 facilities. Reflecting on Typhoon Sinlaku, he highlighted the importance of better coordination between agencies, including the Red Cross, and smoother transitions when activating shelters. He supported using currently unused schools as shelter options and stressed the need for preparedness to better serve both evacuees and community members affected by disasters.

Dr. Okada recommended preparing an after-action report documenting Mr. Sablan's Tier Two funding recommendation, lessons learned, and procedures for transitioning between Tiers One and Two, while the experience and challenges remain fresh.

Dr. Guthertz asked Dr. Won Pat whether she would like to address some of these matters in her superintendent's report.

V.UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- a. **Strategic Plan** - Dr. Won Pat explained that many of the issues raised are addressed in the GDOE Strategic Plan. Since the current plan is set to expire at the end of the year and some historical data on actions taken could not be located, the administration has begun developing a new strategic plan. She noted that the first phase, conducted in June and July, focused on developing the "Portrait of the GDOE Graduate," identifying what the district wants students to achieve upon graduation. This phase also included establishing a strategic planning task force, timeline, and stakeholder engagement process. The second phase will involve launching the task force and conducting facilitator training, with the core task force members identified in the Board's packet. The third phase, scheduled for August and September, will focus on reviewing and closing out the current GDOE Strategic Plan. The fourth phase will involve stakeholder engagement and a SWOT analysis. GDOE plans to gather input from teachers, principals, school staff, unions, students, families, businesses, military partners, nonprofit organizations, higher education institutions, the Legislature, the Mayor's Council, and other government agencies. Feedback will be collected through focus groups, surveys, town hall meetings, and virtual engagement. Phase five, scheduled for November and December, will focus on developing the first draft of the new strategic plan. Phase six, scheduled for December through January, will involve developing the strategic metrics, data framework, and monitoring system. The completed strategic plan and framework will then be presented to the Board.
- b. **School Readiness Report** - Dr. Won Pat reported that school readiness remains a major priority, with Ms. Jackie and the school readiness team meeting weekly to monitor progress and changes across the 14 readiness areas. She assured the Board that all 38 schools are expected to open, with F.B. Leon Guerrero Middle School (FBLGMS) the top priority due to delays in receiving aluminum doors, followed by Simon Sanchez High School (SSHS) and Tiyan High School (THS). She explained that Ms. Jackie's school-level summary provides a detailed update on the 14 readiness areas, based on information collected from April 29 through May 26, and that principals were also included in the reporting process to receive updates. She identified teacher vacancies and the recruitment of certified instructional personnel as the most significant ongoing challenge, with staffing numbers continuing to change monthly. The district remains in compliance with instructional time requirements, while four schools have insufficient textbooks but have class sets and will receive additional consumable materials. Okkodo High School (OHS) is also being evaluated for air-conditioning, temperature, and humidity concerns. The department is preparing seven schools for Division of Environmental Health (DEH) inspections, prioritizing major deficiencies to ensure safe and healthy learning environments. Other concerns include maintaining functional toilets, with approximately 95% compliance, and addressing recurring clogs caused by inappropriate items being placed in toilets. Transportation also remains an issue, with nine schools experiencing late student drop-offs and about 12 reporting after-school bus delays. GDOE is working with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to address these concerns and expects improved transportation flexibility once double sessions end.
- c. **Finance Report** - Dr. Won Pat reported progress with Ernst & Young Audit, reducing outstanding requests from 17 to three. She also noted that grant funding has decreased from \$35 million to \$21 million, with the remaining amount uncertain. To address OPA's concerns about late financial reports and

audits, the agency is implementing monthly book-closing procedures to ensure a smoother and more timely fiscal year-end audit.

Dr. Won Pat reported that expenditures for Super Typhoon Bavi have been compiled and that the \$250,000 allocated per shelter is being used effectively. Drawing on lessons learned from Typhoon Sinlaku, the agency conducted a debriefing to identify challenges and improvements for future emergencies. With Bavi funding available, they addressed previous shortages by purchasing essential toiletries, cleaning, and sanitation supplies that had previously come from the school system's budget. They are also investing in a fuel tank and trailer to ensure adequate fuel for generators and water systems, after experiencing difficulties obtaining fuel during the storm. She said a detailed breakdown of the purchases will be provided.

- d. Summary of the 14 Points
- e. Opening of the SY26-27 - Dr. Won Pat reported that all 38 schools are scheduled to open on August 10, with teachers and staff reporting on August 5 and participating in school-level professional development from August 6–7. She reported that two planning reports were included in the packet for SSHS and THS, summarizing meetings and preparations regarding their needs, resources, and potential relocations. A separate plan was also developed for FBLGMS, initially considering keeping incoming sixth graders at their feeder schools while the campus was repaired. However, the plan shifted after FEMA offered \$8 million for 20 classrooms and the Guam Housing Corporation (GHC) offered 24 units, which were expected to accommodate the incoming students. Construction of the 20 classrooms was later halted because the contractor could not obtain the required DPW permit. To address this, language was added to the budget bill allowing schools to operate on GHC property. The amendment passed, but the budget bill remains unsigned by the Governor and is awaiting a decision
- f. Consolidated Grant - Dr. Won Pat said that the CG23 consolidated grant award closed on January 30, 2026, with approximately \$587,000 remaining unliquidated due to indirect costs. GDOE is seeking approval to begin drawing those funds. For the CG24 grant, the final date to obligate funds was updated after a meeting with Procurement, with the deadline moved to the current day for entering purchase orders (POs). Staff are working urgently to complete the required submissions.
- g. Bavi Report - Dr. Won Pat explained that the Department initially opened several schools as emergency shelters but adjusted its plans due to generator failures, facility limitations, and staffing needs. OCPES was selected as an alternative shelter, while GWHS was initially excluded because of restroom capacity issues that have since been resolved. As conditions changed and schools needed to prepare for reopening, the Department consolidated shelter operations. Yigo's gym was unavailable because of storm damage, while Astumbo Gym was repaired with assistance from the Department and opened as a Tier 2 shelter. Although OCPES had estimated that it could accommodate up to 1,000–2,000 people, the American Red Cross officially assessed its capacity at just over 200, with Astumbo Gym also accommodating about 200. With more than 400 shelter residents remaining, Dr. Won Pat proposed moving them to the GWHS gym, which could accommodate over 600 people. However, the proposal was placed on hold, and the residents were ultimately moved to OCPES and Astumbo Elementary School, allowing the Department to close Tier 1 school shelters and focus on preparing schools to reopen.

- h. SIFA Relocation to GDOE - Dr. Won Pat reported that SIFA toured GWHS and determined that approximately 16 classrooms could be used without comingling students, rather than the 20 originally requested. The classrooms would be leased individually, with an MOU to be developed.

Dr. Won Pat reported that the National Comprehensive Center will host a meeting in Washington, D.C., on September 9–10, 2026, with travel expenses covered for three DOE representatives, including airfare, lodging, per diem, and ground transportation. After discussions with representatives from American Samoa, Hawaii, and other insular areas, the group requested a separate session focused on insular area needs. The request was approved, and an additional meeting will be held on September 11 specifically for the insular areas.

Mrs. Gutierrez raised concerns about inconsistencies and lack of clarity in the school readiness report, particularly the 0% readiness status reported through July 15 and incomplete master schedules. She requested clarification from the Department and emphasized the need for accurate, consistent information to assess readiness for the 2026–2027 school year. She also noted a 136-student decline in enrollment, attributing some of the decrease to students transferring to charter schools.

Dr. Won Pat explained to Mrs. Gutierrez that completion status figures are updated weekly, with the latest report dated July 15 and additional progress reported by July 24. More school principals have submitted master schedules and completed student scheduling, though delays occurred due to FSAIS system issues, including a shutdown during the typhoon. She referred further details regarding the delay to Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services Franklin Leon Guerrero.

Deputy Leon Guerrero explained that DOE's computer systems were shut down before the typhoon to protect aging network equipment from power surges. He noted that many switches are about 15 years old and obsolete, with a procurement underway to replace the outdated hardware. The shutdown temporarily affected access to systems such as PowerSchool, Munis, and other daily operational programs, causing delays in master scheduling, teacher recruitment, and other services, including food and nutrition programs. Although the shutdown created challenges, it prevented equipment damage, and all systems were restored successfully. DOE is now working to recover from the delays while awaiting the network upgrades.

Mrs. Gutierrez questioned why the board document uploaded to the shared drive was not labeled as subject to change, noting that she spent time reviewing information that later required clarification. She emphasized that outdated or inaccurate documents could confuse board members and the public, especially when shared with stakeholders. She added that she is very meticulous and reads all documents thoroughly, and requested that future materials provided by the superintendent's office be accurate, updated, and clearly identified if changes are expected.

Deputy Leon Guerrero acknowledged the concern and apologized.

Mrs. Gutierrez stressed the need for DOE to be fully prepared by August 10 for the start of school, including ensuring teachers are in classrooms, school aides are available for supervision, and cafeteria operations are ready. She offered to volunteer at a school to help with cafeteria supervision due to staffing concerns. She questioned whether teachers hired through the job fair, particularly special education teachers, had completed processing and were ready to report to their assigned schools. She also raised concerns about delays in hiring processes, noting that Finegayan Elementary School (FES) was still waiting for approval signatures before receiving another list of candidates to interview for a library technician position. She emphasized the urgency of filling special education vacancies to avoid failing to provide required services to students with special needs. She also expressed concern about unclear communication regarding school orientations and the potential impact on families and student enrollment. She reiterated that she reviews documents carefully, line by line, and requested accurate and timely information because community members rely on her for answers.

Dr. Won Pat said Deputy Superintendent Jacqueline Quitugua has been communicating with principals almost daily to obtain updates on school readiness. Some schools reported their status as unknown, so she asked Deputy Superintendent Quitugua to provide clarification.

Deputy Quitugua explained that she works closely with GDOE principals to monitor the weekly district readiness report and address any concerns they may have. She reviews the data with staff and recently began sharing summary reports with principals so they could verify the accuracy of their information, which revealed inconsistencies in how data was being submitted. Going forward, the weekly reports will provide more current and accurate updates on each school's readiness indicators. Despite the challenges caused by Sinlaku and Bavi, principals remain committed to opening schools on August 10 and are working with staff and outside agencies to address outstanding needs. She emphasized that the readiness data is continuously changing and that GDOE is committed to transparency and providing support where needed. She also noted that she works closely with the other deputies as a team to address facilities and other critical areas necessary for schools to be ready.

Deputy Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability Dr. Julie Ulloa-Heath reported that Facilities and Maintenance is working diligently to prepare FBLGMS, SSHS, and THS and to eliminate double sessions. FBLGMS passed its first inspection and is preparing for Phase Two, while LPUMS is also scheduled for inspection. She noted that, since January, 14 schools have received an A and six have received a B in public health inspections. She credited the work-order tracking and prioritization system for helping monitor progress and emphasized the department's commitment to ensuring schools are ready.

Mayor Terlaje raised two concerns. First, regarding Tier Two shelters, he noted that several facilities, including approximately six or seven school gymnasiums, have been designated as shelters but are not yet operational due to funding limitations. He asked whether GDOE would consider allowing mayors to temporarily use suitable decommissioned schools as Tier Two shelters while they await funding for their designated facilities, provided the

schools meet the necessary assessments and requirements. His second concern was school grounds maintenance. He explained that mayors and their offices are frequently called upon to assist with school grounds cleanup, particularly before the start of the school year. While mayors are willing to help because schools serve their communities, staffing limitations make this difficult. For example, some municipalities oversee multiple schools with only a small number of community maintenance workers. He questioned whether the district is truly prepared to have schools ready within 17 days and expressed concern that mayors' offices could become overwhelmed with maintenance requests. He suggested that if GDOE has funding or contracts for grounds maintenance, municipalities being asked to provide this assistance should receive appropriate support or funding. Speaking on behalf of the 19 mayors, he requested clarification on GDOE's readiness and its plan for addressing school grounds maintenance before the school year begins.

Mrs. Gutierrez raised concerns about the increased responsibilities of the Yigo mayor's office following the closure of FBLGMS and SSHS, noting that Yigo Mayor Benavente is frequently called upon to arrange grass cutting for school events, assist with traffic control on the first day of school, and address other school-related needs. She also noted that parents and the mayor's office have provided assistance without reimbursement and recommended stronger oversight of grass-cutting contractors to ensure schools are properly maintained.

Dr. Guthertz suggested allowing the Superintendent and Mr. Leon Guerrero to provide an update on the status of grounds maintenance.

Dr. Won Pat explained that GDOE has historically contracted grounds maintenance services for its schools. In the past, funding for school grounds maintenance was transferred to the mayors, allowing them to purchase equipment, hire local workers, or contract with businesses within their communities. After several years, the mayors decided they no longer wanted to manage the program, so GDOE is now taking responsibility for grounds maintenance again and has included funding for it in its budget and upcoming contracts. She noted that the mayors could have requested increased funding from the Legislature if the existing allocation was no longer sufficient, but that did not occur. For the current fiscal year, GDOE prioritized funding for grounds maintenance, along with contracts and utilities, despite receiving a status-quo budget rather than its full \$307 million request. Regarding the decommissioned schools, Dr. Won Pat said GDOE plans to lease LBJ Elementary School and CBM Elementary School and is already exploring potential tenants, with the goal of leasing them before the end of the year. On the issue of using GDOE facilities as Tier Two shelters, Dr. Won Pat cautioned against relying on decommissioned schools for this purpose. Instead, she suggested that mayors work with the Governor's Office, GHURA, and FEMA to strengthen existing community gymnasiums so they can serve as Tier Two shelters. She emphasized that Tier Two shelters provide more comprehensive support, including cleaning, meals, transportation, generators, and water supplies, making them better suited for emergency operations than using GDOE schools as temporary shelters.

Deputy Leon Guerrero clarified that GDOE has a grounds maintenance contract and that mayors should not be asked to cut school grass. Contractors

are paid only after the school principal verifies and documents that the required services were completed according to the contract. He questioned why mayors are still being asked to assist with grass cutting if contractors are being paid for the service.

Dr. Guthertz asked Deputy Leon Guerrero to clarify the annual cost of the grounds maintenance contracts for all GDOE schools.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said the grounds maintenance contracts represent a significant expense, although he did not have the exact amount available. He noted that DFAS is reviewing the costs and benefits of grounds maintenance and janitorial contracts. For janitorial services, some schools may use allocated funds to manage cleaning themselves, with two schools currently doing so through staff, volunteers, or community members. He suggested exploring a similar approach for grounds maintenance, while allowing staff, parents, and community members to participate in fundraising or support efforts.

Dr. Guthertz suggested that the Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTOs) could also be involved.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said GDOE is open to involving PTOs and community members but emphasized that existing grounds maintenance contracts must be enforced. If contractors are not completing the required work, GDOE should be notified so corrective action can be taken rather than relying on mayors to perform the work.

Dr. Won Pat reported that GDOE is budgeting \$900,000 per year for grounds maintenance and \$2.5 million per year for custodial services.

Dr. Julie explained that GDOE has two grounds maintenance contractors, JJ Global and GTM, with scheduled service dates provided to all schools. Facilities and Maintenance staff, including supervisors or superintendents, verify that the work has been completed and must initial the invoices before payment. If the work is unsatisfactory, the contractor is required to correct it or payment may be deducted.

Mr. Torrest left the Zoom meeting at 5:27pm.

Dr. Guthertz supported Mayor Terlaje's request and expressed concern that principals are still contacting mayors for grounds-maintenance assistance despite GDOE's existing contracts. She suggested this may indicate that contractors are not consistently performing the required work.

Deputy Dr. Julie said the scope of work needs to be reviewed and improved to better address the requirements for grounds maintenance.

Dr. Guthertz encouraged GDOE to take advantage of the public law she authored, which gives the department authority to conduct cost-benefit analyses when determining how to provide maintenance, custodial, and cafeteria services. She suggested evaluating whether these services would be more cost-effective if handled by GDOE, nonprofit organizations, village community groups, or qualified local families rather than relying solely on

private contractors. She recommended that the Board request these analyses to identify cost-effective alternatives and opportunities to create local jobs within villages and communities. She also expressed concerns about the performance of some private contractors and emphasized that GDOE does not necessarily have to outsource all of these services to private companies.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said principals have been instructed to not sign off on grounds-maintenance work if they are dissatisfied with the quality and to document any concerns on the assessment forms. He explained that GDOE reviews these forms before contractors are paid, including the school's approval, the contractor's work schedule, and the school's satisfaction with the service. He noted that contractors coordinate directly with schools on mowing schedules and said GDOE has generally found their work satisfactory. He added that complaints should be reported to GDOE so corrective action can be taken, rather than having mayors receive calls for issues that should be addressed by the department.

Mayor Terlaje requested that mayors' offices receive the grounds-maintenance schedules and contractors' scopes of work. He explained that having this information would allow mayors to respond accurately when residents or schools contact their offices about grass cutting. He also suggested that reviewing the scope of work could help identify areas for improvement in the contractors' services.

Deputy Leon Guerrero agreed to provide the requested information.

Dr. Guthertz agreed that ensuring school housekeeping and grounds maintenance are completed before the start of the school year should be a priority. She noted the improvements to the GWHS field fencing as an example of visible progress and emphasized the importance of maintaining clean, attractive grounds so schools are welcoming and safe for students. She suggested that the Board receive one more readiness update before school opens, either through a written report within the next 10 days or a brief special meeting if necessary. She requested that the Superintendent provide an updated status report so the Board can be assured that schools will be properly prepared and presentable when students return.

Mrs. Gutierrez noted that mayors previously received funding for school grounds maintenance, but concerns about equitable funding eventually led to the use of contracted services. She stressed that GDOE contractors should fulfill their responsibilities and that principals should verify that services are completed rather than relying on mayors. She cited an example of a Dededo middle school contacting Mayor Benavente to cut the grass for soccer practice, despite having a GDOE grounds-maintenance contractor. She also raised concerns about school cleanliness, restroom conditions, and custodial services, citing an example at Harry S. Truman Elementary School, where most toilets were broken and covered with trash bags, leaving only one functioning toilet for boys and one for girls. She contacted the acting superintendent Francis Santos, and Mr. Phil Toves and his team worked over the weekend to address the issue and prepare the school for opening. She emphasized that principals should personally inspect facilities before certifying them as ready, similar to how they are responsible for taste-testing and signing off on cafeteria food. She stressed the importance of ensuring

that restrooms, cafeterias, and other facilities are properly maintained so that students, teachers, and staff have clean, safe, and functional school environments.

CELEBRATE SUCCESS - The following were recognized: John F. Kennedy High School (JFKHS) - got an A on DPHSS Health Inspection, and GWHS retiree John Wesolowski.

Mr. Sablan suggested that the two deputy superintendents attend the Mayor's Council of Guam meeting on August 5 to clarify that mayors should direct school grounds-maintenance requests to GDOE, since the department now has a contract for grass cutting. He recalled that the previous grass-cutting contract covered 41 schools for about \$475,000, while the current contract is nine hundred-some thousand dollars. He stressed that contractors should be held accountable for fulfilling their contractual obligations and asked mayors to document and report any grass-cutting complaints so GDOE can follow up with the contractors. He also acknowledged that mayors will already be busy during the start of the school year assisting with traffic control, student safety, and transportation, so grounds maintenance should not unnecessarily add to their responsibilities. He then raised concerns about the SIFA relocation to GDOE facilities. He said the superintendent's report only indicated that potential schools had been visited but did not explain the next steps. He questioned whether SIFA would occupy additional space at George Washington High School (GWHS), when the relocation would occur, and what facility would be used. He also requested clarification on the legal requirements under Public Law 38-66, particularly whether GDOE can lease only vacant classrooms or an entire school facility, what level of lease requires Board approval, and how the lease rate would be determined. He noted that educational institutions may be eligible to lease space at 60% of the appraised value, but GDOE has not yet provided an appraisal or lease amount.

Mr. Sablan expressed concern that Dr. Won Pat's report on SIFA did not provide a clear outcome regarding whether SIFA would actually occupy the identified classrooms. While he emphasized his support for both charter and public school students, he stressed the importance of protecting GDOE by ensuring that the proper procedures are followed. He asked for clarification on whether George Washington High School (GWHS) would share the campus with another school when it opens on August 10. He also noted SIFA's interest in submitting a proposal for CBMES, but questioned how GDOE could accept proposals when the requirements of Public Law 38-66 have not yet been fully implemented. He pointed out that although members have been appointed to oversee the process, the necessary rules and regulations for leasing GDOE facilities have not yet been established. Additionally, there do not appear to be appraisals for the school properties to determine appropriate rental rates. He emphasized that GDOE should establish the required procedures, rules, and property valuations before moving forward with any school facility leases.

Dr. Won Pat explained that she is waiting for the Governor to sign the budget, which includes an amendment allowing the department to establish a process for leasing classrooms and school facilities. She clarified that property valuations for the decommissioned schools have already been completed by Revenue and Taxation through a certified appraiser. However, valuations for

individual classrooms and other spaces have not yet been completed, which is why GDOE requested the budget amendment to allow leasing rates to be based on the square footage of classrooms, gyms, and other facilities. Regarding SIFA, she confirmed that GDOE conducted a walkthrough and identified 16 classrooms for potential use. She stated that there would be no commingling of students and that GDOE intends to move forward. An MOU is being drafted, and SIFA would be required to provide a security deposit to cover potential damages or other costs. The proposed rental rate is \$1,500 per classroom, consistent with what SIFA previously paid at GCC. Dr. Won Pat emphasized that all rental revenue would be earmarked specifically for facilities and maintenance and could not be used for other purposes.

Mr. Sablan asked who is responsible for paying the power and water expenses.

Dr. Won Pat clarified that the \$1,500 rental fee would be all-inclusive, covering the associated costs.

Mr. Sablan noted that the \$1,500 rental payment is designated for maintenance.

Dr. Won Pat clarified that GDOE continues to cover the water and power costs, as it does for the central offices; the school is not paying for these utilities separately.

Mr. Sablan acknowledged that this means GDOE is not realizing savings on utilities, since the department continues to pay those expenses.

Dr. Won Pat said yes.

Mr. Sablan emphasized the importance of ensuring that the proposed arrangement is properly authorized and does not create legal concerns or challenges from the Attorney General's Office. He noted that if the total amount exceeds \$500,000, Attorney General approval may be required. He also raised concerns regarding the uncertainty surrounding the proposed budget amendment and the Governor's stated intention to veto the measure. He expressed concern about the potential impact on SIFA if funding is not available, particularly regarding its ability to continue providing classes. He recommended that GDOE communicate with SIFA regarding the uncertainty of the funding until a budget is approved. He further suggested including a provision in the lease agreement allowing government funding designated for the charter school to be transferred directly to GDOE to cover rental payments and prevent the school from falling behind on its lease obligations.

Dr. Won Pat stated that the law already requires the funds to be transferred directly from DOA to DOE, so the matter has been addressed.

Dr. Guthertz asked if they had agreed to participate.

Dr. Won Pat said she wanted to brief the Board before making any announcement. She provided the requested details and said the next step is to develop an MOU, with the committee expected to meet the following week.

Mrs. Gutierrez noted that 16 classrooms would be used and asked how the arrangement would be affected if GWHS enrollment increases and additional classrooms are needed.

Dr. Won Pat explained that GDOE identified additional classrooms that are either being used as offices or are currently unused.

Dr. Guthertz acknowledged the department's efforts to accommodate SIFA at GWHS and expressed hope that all incoming students can be accommodated through the arrangement. She also asked how long the arrangement would remain in place.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the current funding is being planned for four months, with the regular budget expected to take effect October 1. She also requested a budget amendment allowing funding for FBLGMS and GHC property to take effect immediately, so necessary permits can be obtained without waiting until October 1.

Mr. Sablan raised concerns that the proposed law or budget amendment would not take effect until October 1, creating a funding and legal gap for August and September. He noted that without the amendment in effect, GDOE may not be able to lease space to SIFA, allow them to use GWHS, or charge them for the classrooms. He emphasized the need to address these issues while still supporting SIFA, as current law limits the department's ability to act before October 1.

Dr. Okada clarified that charter school funding follows the fiscal year, from October through September, so funding should not be the primary concern. She noted that the funding cycle is different from the academic year, and the main issue is whether GDOE has the legal authority, without the amendment, to accommodate the charter school during August and September.

Dr. Guthertz agreed that the funds could likely be reserved for that.

Dr. Okada explained that the charter school should be able to reserve funding before the end of the fiscal year to cover August and September, as they would have needed those funds regardless of the location.

Dr. Guthertz suggested that the Superintendent request the Legislature to pass a separate, expedited bill authorizing the arrangement, rather than waiting for the overall budget bill. She also asked about the Legislature's schedule and whether they would continue meeting the following Monday or conclude that day.

Dr. Won Pat said she needed to confirm the Legislature's schedule. She explained that because the measure is part of the budget bill, multiple subject matters can be included, allowing her to request an amendment addressing the issue. She planned to contact the Legislature immediately after the meeting.

Mr. Sablan expressed concern about the limited time before August 10 and asked whether the remaining 18 schools, which may have a C rating or have

not yet been inspected, would be permitted to open. He also questioned whether any existing inspections or certifications would expire before the August 10 opening date.

Deputy Dr. Julie noted that the inspection schedules for FBLGMS and LPUMS are scheduled for July 28, followed by THS and SSSH on August 4.

Mr. Sablan asked about a contingency plan if any schools fail inspection.

Dr. Julie said the department is confident the schools will pass.

Mr. Sablan pressed for clarification on the contingency plan if a school does not pass inspection, emphasizing that the school could not open under those circumstances and that a backup plan should be identified despite the department's confidence in passing.

Dr. Won Pat explained that if a school does not pass inspection, the facility would not open, but instruction would continue through asynchronous learning.

Mr. Sablan requested that parents be notified in advance about upcoming school inspections and informed of any alternative arrangements if a school does not pass inspection. He emphasized that families should receive this information early rather than waiting until just before or after the school opening date.

Dr. Julie explained that if any deficiencies are identified during the inspection, Public Health will give GDOE a few days to correct the issues before returning to conduct a reinspection.

Mr. Sablan emphasized the importance of notifying parents in advance about the possible alternatives that may be implemented if the schools are unable to meet the necessary requirements for opening.

Dr. Julie acknowledged the concern.

Mr. Sablan reiterated his support and hope that the schools would pass inspection but stressed the importance of preparing parents in advance by informing them of the alternative options if the schools are unable to open as planned.

Dr. Guthertz expressed confidence in GDOE's principals, employees, and management team to prepare schools for a successful reopening. She emphasized that students affected by two consecutive typhoons need a safe, welcoming environment where they can return to their teachers, classmates, and learning. She acknowledged the concerns raised but affirmed her trust in the school system's efforts to be ready.

Mr. Sablan suggested holding a special meeting before August 10 to review the final status and ensure all preparations are in place for the school reopening.

Dr. Guthertz said the Superintendent will recommend the date for the special meeting and arrange the necessary announcements.

Mrs. Gutierrez supported holding a special school readiness meeting before the start of the school year to ensure that staffing and other critical needs are addressed before students return. She asked whether vacancies identified through the job fair have been processed and whether one-to-one school aides have received the necessary training. She also requested clarification on bus driver staffing, particularly whether all hired drivers, including special education drivers, are actively driving buses or whether some are assigned to Central Office. She asked how many drivers are available and how they are being utilized to ensure adequate student transportation.

Dr. Won Pat asked Acting Assistant Superintendent of Special Education Dr. Asherdee Rosete to answer the question for the SpEd bus drivers.

Dr. Rosete clarified that all GDOE bus drivers are assigned to routes. Newly hired drivers undergo a shadowing period before receiving their own routes. She also noted that GDOE buses were used to transport evacuees during Typhoon Bavi, but all drivers are now actively assigned to student transportation routes or supporting bus safety.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked whether all newly hired bus drivers would be assigned to drive buses beginning August 10, rather than being stationed at Central Office.

Dr. Rosete clarified that all hired bus drivers are assigned to routes or supporting routes and none are stationed at Central Office. She added that some drivers are covering routes because other bus drivers are currently on military leave.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked whether all required records and clearances had been completed for the bus drivers so they are authorized to transport students.

Dr. Rosete clarified that all drivers who have been processed and hired have completed the required clearances.

Dr. Okada pointed out that the May 26, 2026 enrollment report listed 22,740 students, while Dr. Won Pat's current report showed 21,354 students, reflecting a decrease of nearly 1,400 students. She acknowledged that registration is still ongoing but noted that enrollment also declined from 21,490 on July 8 to 21,354 on July 15, indicating a significant decrease compared with the previous year.

Dr. Julie clarified that the enrollment figures do not include Head Start and Pre-K students, which typically add approximately 700 students to the total count.

Dr. Okada suggested adding a footnote to clarify that Head Start and Pre-K students are excluded from the enrollment totals, since the figures appear in the same monthly report and may cause confusion.

Dr. Julie noted that, even after accounting for approximately 700 Head Start and Pre-K students, enrollment is still down by about 700 students compared with the previous school year.

Dr. Okada noted that enrollment is down by about 700 students, even after accounting for Head Start students. She also pointed out that Head Start reported declining enrollment and plans to close some centers due to low enrollment.

Dr. Julie agreed and indicated that the decline in enrollment was expected.

Dr. Guthertz noted that the Superintendent requested authorization to participate in an important National Comprehensive Center meeting, with all expenses covered. The meeting would include three GDOE representatives: the Superintendent and two department personnel. She asked Dr. Won Pat to explain the meeting's significance.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the National Comprehensive Center, under the U.S. Department of Education, is supporting GDOE through leadership training and strategic planning. The center recently worked with Guam's school principals and is helping the department define the desired outcomes for students upon graduation as part of the development of a new strategic plan. The center will also assist GDOE in addressing student achievement in literacy and numeracy, areas that have not been comprehensively reviewed in more than 20 years. She said the National Comprehensive Center is offering a dedicated session for the U.S. insular areas to discuss and better understand their unique educational needs.

Mr. Sablan asked when the event would be held.

Dr. Won Pat said September 9–10, with September 11 reserved for the insular areas.

Mr. Sablan noted that the travel request was not included on the published agenda.

Dr. Guthertz suggested approving the travel request at the upcoming special meeting.

Mr. Sablan proposed taking a notwithstanding action instead, with Dr. McNinch available to facilitate the action.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked how many people would be traveling.

Dr. Guthertz confirmed there would be three travelers.

Mr. Sablan and Dr. Guthertz agreed to proceed with a notwithstanding action to address the travel request.

Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Mr. Sablan to approve Dr. Won Pat's travel to attend the National Comprehensive Center meeting in Washington, D.C. from September 9-11, 2026. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 6-0. The motion passed.

Dr. McNinch suggested approving the proposed travel, noting that the Superintendent's report sufficiently addressed and supported the request.

Mr. Sablan moved to approve the Superintendent's attendance at the conference in Washington, D.C., from September 9–11, with the Superintendent selecting the other two attendees. He also asked who would be responsible for covering all expenses.

Dr. Guthertz and Dr. Won Pat confirmed that the National Comprehensive Center will cover all expenses for the trip.

Mrs. Gutierrez requested that Dr. Won Pat provide a travel report at the next meeting for the CCSSO conference or whatever her most recent training was.

Dr. Won Pat clarified that the CCSSO travel report had already been submitted the previous month but was not reviewed because the Board skipped its last meeting.

Dr. Won Pat asked AO Kathleen to provide Mrs. Gutierrez with a copy of the travel report and noted that she was currently preparing the report for the recent trip to California.

NASBE 2026 Annual Conference - Baltimore, Maryland, October 26-28, 2026

Mrs. Gutierrez reported that Mr. Carl Torres was unable to travel to the NASBE New Member Institute due to the typhoon, and she notified NASBE's CEO of his inability to attend. She also announced the NASBE 2026 Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, October 26–28, reminding Board members to register by the deadline to avoid the higher \$900–\$1,000 registration fee. She asked interested Board members to inform her so registration could be arranged. She also reiterated her request for the GDOE Legal Office to attend the conference and then noted that no legal representative was present.

Dr. Won Pat noted that Attorney Gloria was present but had stepped out.

Mrs. Gutierrez recommended that someone from the Legal Department attend the NASBE conference, where the National Council of State Education Attorneys (NCOSEA) will also be present. Although NCOSEA is included in the board's membership, there is an additional registration fee. She encouraged interested legal staff to attend because the conference will address important issues, particularly those involving students with disabilities, which could help prevent future legal problems.

Dr. Won Pat said it would be ideal for Attorney Gloria to attend, as she has been assigned oversight of Special Education (SpEd). She added that she would obtain the conference dates later.

Mrs. Gutierrez stated that the registration deadline is in September and that registering after the deadline would cost an additional \$200. She clarified that the NASBE membership will cover airfare, hotel, and registration for the attendee. She also noted that she will not attend because her term is ending.

Dr. McNinch emphasized that the Board's longstanding relationship with NASBE directly supports its mission and has provided valuable assistance in many ways over the years.

Mrs. Gutierrez thanked Dr. McNinch and emphasized the importance of GDOE's continued participation in NASBE. She noted that NASBE's CEO and incoming president asked her to ensure the Board remains involved after her departure because of the resources and support the organization can provide. She also said she regularly shares NASBE information with the Board, particularly regarding chronic absenteeism, which she believes GDOE needs to address.

Dr. McNinch noted that Guam representatives have served on NASBE's Board of Directors for approximately eight of the past ten years.

2) Executive Committee – N/A

3) Instructional & Academic Support Committee

- a. July Head Start Report - Mr. Sablan asked Ms. Angelina whether her report required Board action, noting that he and Dr. Okada might need to leave soon, which could result in a lack of quorum. He requested that she proceed with the action item promptly if Board approval was needed.

Ms. Lape reported two corrective actions from the Focus Area 1 monitoring: improving the regular inclusion of school readiness data in Board reports and adding a community representative to the Policy Council. She requested extensions of 30 days for the Round Review finding and 120 days for the Focus Area 1 finding to allow time for additional monitoring cycles, Policy Council elections, and training for incoming Board members.

Mr. Sablan asked whether Ms. Lape had submitted the request for Board action in writing.

Ms. Lape confirmed that it was included on pages 3 and 6 of her report.

Dr. Okada motioned seconded by Dr. McNinch to approve the request of extending the monitoring timeline for correction for all areas of noncompliance in the round review for 30 additional days, and the Focus Area 1 review for 120 additional days as requested by the Head Start administrator. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 6-0. The motion passed.

Ms. Lape clarified that she resubmitted the Nutrition Supplement Grant from the previous year, and a new Board approval was not required because the Office of Head Start determined that there were no major changes to the grant. Food Services only needed to recertify the pricing before the grant was resubmitted. The supplemental funds will support the purchase of air curtains and sculleries for elementary schools with Head Start centers, replacement of dishes and utensils, and root-view planters for students. She noted that the Board's approval from the previous year remains valid.

Mr. Sablan wished Head Start a successful new school year.

4) Safe & Healthy Schools Committee – Not discussed.

- a. Security Concerns

- 5) Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee – Not discussed.
- 6)
- 7) Fiscal Management Committee
 - a. GDOE Financial Report
 - i) Accounts Payable Aging Report
 - ii) Declaration of Financial Status Designation – October 2025-February 2026

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Dr. McNinch to approve Resolution 2026-05 Relative to Approving the Corrective Financial Recovery Plan Prepared in Response to the Code C-Watch Issued by the Educational Financial Supervisory Commission for the Months of October, November, December, January, and February of Fiscal Year 2026. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 6-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Okada presented Resolution 2026-05, which approves GDOE's Corrective Financial Recovery Plan in response to the Education Financial Supervisory Commission's C-Watch findings for October through February of Fiscal Year 2026. He explained that whenever a specific expenditure category is placed under C-Watch monitoring, GDOE must submit a corrective action plan accompanied by a Board resolution. Dr. Okada moved for approval of the resolution as presented.

- 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
- c. FY 2025 Audit Update
- d. Management and Curriculum Audit - Dr. Won Pat reported that Dr. Allison met with GDOE's auditor two weeks earlier and is working closely with Dr. Layland. She then asked Ms. Jackie whether she had received any updates from Dr. Allison regarding the curriculum audit.

Dr. Riza explained that the management audit will be incorporated into the development of the Strategic Planning Management (SPM) process. Dr. Layland is providing technical support, and the department receives free services through the Comprehensive Center Network. The strategic plan will include strategies to address the findings and results of the management audit.

Dr. Won Pat asked Dr. Riza whether Dr. Layland had mentioned when it would be ready to be presented to the Board for action. She said that they intend to incorporate the areas they believe would be most beneficial and align with their strategic plan. She clarified that they are not rejecting the report outright, as there are several positive elements they would like to incorporate into their strategic plan.

Dr. Riza said she had a meeting with Mr. Cooper-Nurse when she was here doing the leadership academy, and they had some conversations on how the management audit will be addressed.

Dr. Guthertz raised concern about the deadline for submitting GDOE's input to the Legislature.

Mr. Sablan said they were way past the deadline.

Dr. Guthertz then asked Dr. Won Pat how she planned to address the missed deadline.

Dr. Won Pat explained that they are not rejecting the entire proposal and intend to incorporate the beneficial recommendations into their strategic plan. She offered to present their position in a memo for the Board's review and decision.

Dr. Guthertz recalled that the Board had intended to submit its recommendations to the Legislature in writing. She suggested taking action that day to transmit the response, noting that the senators had been awaiting the Board's input. She emphasized the importance of identifying the recommendations the Board found helpful and explaining how it intended to use them.

Dr. Won Pat asked Dr. Guthertz and the Board whether they would be comfortable limiting the special session to two matters: school readiness for opening and action on the curriculum management report.

Dr. Guthertz asked if they needed a motion to do that?

Dr. Okada said a motion wasn't needed.

Dr. Guthertz said they would request the Superintendent to prepare and submit a document, under her signature and on behalf of the Board, outlining the areas of common ground that the Board plans to consider and incorporate into its actions, along with a commitment to provide the Legislature with additional information and an update.

Dr. Okada clarified that the requirement is to transmit the final report, after which the Board can provide periodic updates on its progress regarding the report's recommendations. She stated that the immediate action is for the Board to approve or reject the final report.

Dr. Guthertz said the final language should be submitted promptly to the Legislature, followed by periodic updates on GDOE's progress in implementing the recommendations.

Dr. Okada asked whether the Board was planning to hold a meeting on August 7, noting that the required public notice must be provided within the appropriate timeframe.

Dr. Guthertz said Dr. Won Pat would present her report for the Board's review and transmittal.

Dr. Won Pat noted that she would be in Fiji and suggested holding the special meeting on August 3.

Mr. Sablan emphasized the need to provide the public with the required five-day notice and asked whether the readiness report would be ready.

Dr. Won Pat confirmed that, with assurance from her deputies, the reports should be ready by August 3.

Dr. McNinch suggested considering University of Guam and Guam Community College as potential partners for future audits, noting that their involvement could benefit GDOE and the broader community.

Dr. Won Pat agreed with the suggestion to conduct future audits locally and noted that, if necessary, the law could be amended to allow local institutions to fulfill the requirement rather than relying on outside organizations.

Dr. Okada noted that existing law requires contractual services to be vetted through the University of Guam and Guam Community College before GDOE can seek outside providers.

Dr. Won Pat questioned why the department proceeded with the outside services despite the existing requirement.

Dr. Okada recommended reviewing the law and ensuring its requirements are incorporated into the procurement process.

Dr. Guthertz emphasized the need to follow the existing law and remind the Senators of its requirements.

Dr. Won Pat thanked Dr. Okada for clarifying the requirement and said GDOE would consider using UOG and GCC for the next audit. She explained that they didn't initiate the current audit, and the department was following the existing process.

Mr. Sablan asked whether the proposed August 3 special meeting would meet the required five-day notice period and sought clarification from the deputies.

AO Kathleen confirmed that it would not.

Dr. Won Pat confirmed that the special meeting would be held on August 7.

Dr. Okada noted that the Acting Superintendent would attend.

Mr. Sablan asked what the agenda items were for the Special Meeting.

Dr. Won Pat replied that the meeting, scheduled for Friday at 3:00 p.m., would address school readiness and the management and curriculum audit report.

- 8) Legislative Committee – Not discussed.
 - a. Legislative Proposals Introduced

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Textbook Audit - Dr. Riza stated that the auditor submitted a response to the textbook audit on March 18, 2026, requiring an action plan to address the audit recommendations. In June 2026, the Office of C&I submitted the textbook audit report and action plan to the auditor's office, where it is currently under review.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the report includes target dates for implementing the agreed-upon actions. The report was then submitted to the OPA's office for review, and they are still awaiting feedback on whether the proposed timelines and actions will be accepted.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she had reviewed the report and noted that she was present at some of the school sites when the photographs included in the report were taken. She then asked whether any of the survey textbooks were still available at the school sites.

Dr. Riza confirmed that schools are still surveying textbooks and coordinating with C&I. Schools must follow the standard operating procedure (SOP) when requesting to survey textbooks, while C&I assists in ensuring that the disposal process is properly documented.

Mrs. Gutierrez questioned whether schools are following the legal requirements for distributing surveyed textbooks, including the established order of priority for recipients. She specifically noted that parents should have an opportunity to obtain textbooks for their children and expressed concern that the required process may not be consistently followed.

Dr. Riza explained that the department is currently reviewing and accepting the required documentation for surveyed textbooks. Once the survey is approved, the textbooks may then be distributed to parents.

Mrs. Gutierrez also recommended that northern schools consider holding a Saturday job fair and questioned the storage conditions of textbooks, including whether they are properly stored in air-conditioned classrooms or in temporary spaces enclosed with bubble wrap.

Dr. Riza said they should be in the classrooms at the required temperature.

Mrs. Gutierrez raised concerns about textbooks being improperly stored outdoors, noting that one elementary school had books left by the gravel and wrapped in plastic. She asked whether Carlotta Leon Guerrero had been contacted about the textbooks and noted that some principals had to rent trailers to transport textbooks to the warehouse. She also encouraged Mr. Leon Guerrero to visit and inspect the warehouse.

Mr. Leon Guerrero said the department has instructed schools to contact F&M for the pickup of surveyed textbooks, with equipment available to collect them directly from the schools. He confirmed that the surveyed textbooks in Sinajana have already been picked up and that all principals have been notified of the process.

Mrs. Gutierrez raised concerns that some elementary schools in the north are still using direct instruction, despite expectations to move away from that approach. She questioned the principal about its continued use and suggested that materials or practices involving direct instruction could instead be provided to Guahan Academy, which she believes still uses that method.

Dr. Guthertz recommended adding the textbook audit to the agenda for the next special meeting, as requested by Mr. Sablani. This would allow the Board to have a more detailed discussion of the audit, along with the other two agenda items.

Dr. Okada asked about the required action on the textbook audit.

Dr. Riza stated that the department submitted an action plan to OPA in March, outlining the next steps.

Dr. Okada asked whether Board approval was required.

Dr. Riza clarified that the audit recommendation requires the department to provide a corrective action plan identifying a responsible official and timeline, not Board approval.

Dr. Okada clarified that the required action is the department's responsibility, not the Board's, and recommended addressing the matter under the Superintendent's Report for reporting and disposition.

Mrs. Gutierrez emphasized the need for accountability at all levels, including holding current or former employees responsible for mismanagement of funds and resources. She specifically noted that school principals should be accountable for neglected or damaged textbooks. She urged leadership to enforce accountability among those they supervise and stressed that personal friendships should not interfere with professional responsibility.

Dr. Guthertz expressed hope that the leadership team would address the concerns raised. She announced that the Board would hold a special meeting on August 7 to assess school readiness and receive more specific updates from the department. The meeting will also cover the management audit report for transmittal to the Legislature and the textbook audit, including the department's latest actions to address outstanding textbook issues.

2) NASBE 2026 Annual Conference - Baltimore, Maryland, October 26-28, 2026

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. CELEBRATE SUCCESS

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Dr. McNinch to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 pm.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:

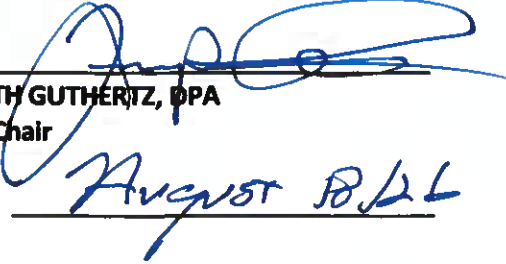


KATHLEEN LAMORENA
Administrative Officer

Date: August 14, 2026

MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2026 REGULAR MEETING:

- (☒) Approved as submitted
(☐) Approved subject to corrections
(☐) Other: _____


JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
GEB Chair

Date: August B/L


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

Date: 8-18-26

