

Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2879 through 2883.

From 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>
Date Mon 9/21/2026 3:31 PM
To Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

5 attachments (24 MB)

92126COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-2879.pdf; 92126COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-2881.pdf; 92126COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-2880.pdf; 92126COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-2882.pdf; 92126COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-2883.pdf;

Håfa Adai Clerks Office,

Please see attached, **Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-2879 through 2883** for processing:

✓	38GL-26-2879	Guam Department of Education	Guam Education Board Regular Board Meeting Packet for September 15, 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2880	Department of Public Health and Social Services	Guam Board of Examiners for Dentistry Regular Board Meeting Packet for September 16, 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2881	Civil Service Commission	Board Meeting Packet for September 17, 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2882	Department of Public Health and Social Services	Guam Board of Barbering and Cosmetology Board Meeting Packet for September 14, 2026*
✓	38GL-26-2883	Office of the Governor of Guam	Appointment and Supporting Documents for Frances A. Castro, Member, Guam Environmental Protection Agency Board of Directors.

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-26-2879*

2 messages

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

Wed, Sep 16, 2026 at 4:13 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-26-2879

38GL-26-2879	Guam Department of Education	Guam Education Board Regular Board Meeting Packet for September 15, 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, Sep 16, 2026 at 12:15 PM

Subject: Re: GEB September 15, 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 disregard previous attachment and use the attached instead.

Thank you,
KathleenOn Wed, Sep 16, 2026 at 12:05 PM Kathleen Joyce R. Lamorena <krlamorena@gdoe.net> wrote:

Hafa Adai!

Please see the attached documents for the Guam Education Board's Regular Meeting held on September 15, 2026.

Thank you!

Warm regards,
Kathleen Lamorena
Guam Department of Education

Guam Department of Education 2026

2 attachments **GEB Reporting Requirements September 15, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Updated.pdf**

2254K

 **38GL-26-2879.pdf**

1175K

Håfa Adai,

Received, and thank you.



Si Yu'os ma'åse',

Marie Crisostomo

Committee on Rules Assistant

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

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[Quoted text hidden]



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

GEB September 15, 2026 Regular Meeting - Reporting Requirements

3 messages

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

Wed, Sep 16, 2026 at 12:05 PM

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 September 15, 2026.

Thank you!

Warm regards,
Kathleen Lamorena
Guam Department of Education

Guam Department of Education 2026

**GEB Reporting Requirements September 15, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.pdf**
2061K

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

Wed, Sep 16, 2026 at 12:14 PM

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 disregard previous attachment and use the attached instead.

Thank you,
Kathleen

[Quoted text hidden]

Doc Type: 38GL-26-2879
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
FRANK F. BLAS, JR.
September 16, 2026
Time: 12:14 PM
Received:

**GEB Reporting Requirements September 15, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Updated.pdf**
2254K

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

Wed, Sep 16, 2026 at 1:49 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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JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Education

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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



September 16, 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 September 15, 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



38GL-26-2879
Messages and Communications

RECEIVED
COMMITTEE ON RULES
September 16, 2026

4:13 p.m.

Marie Crisostomo



JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
Chair

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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



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

Guam Education Board
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 15, 2026
3 PM
Gallery, Bldg. B, Tiyan
AGENDA

INFO	I. Meeting Call to Order
INFO/ACTION	II. Consent Calendar
INFO/ACTION	a. August 7, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes
INFO/ACTION	b. August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
	c. August 18, 2026 Superintendent's Report
INFO	III. Communications
INFO	a. Correspondence received by the Board after August 24, 2026
	IV. Ex-Officio Member Reports
	a. Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report
	b. Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report
	c. Mayor's Council of Guam (MCOG) Report
INFO/ACTION	V. Unfinished Business/Committee Reports
	a. Superintendent's Report
	i. Tiyan High School and Simon Sanchez High School Update
	ii. Facilities & Maintenance
	iii. Accountability Dashboard
	iv. Human Resource Update
	v. Audit Report
	vi. Curriculum & Instructional Services Update
	vii. Strategic Performance Management
INFO	b. Executive Committee
INFO/ACTION	c. Instructional & Academic Support Committee
	i. September 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 – 2 nd Reading
	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

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	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
INFO	i. Legislative Proposals Introduced
	VI. New Business
INFO/ACTION	a. Resolution 2026-08 Relative to Supporting Bill 351-38 of the Guam Legislature Establishing a Critically Needed Salary Increase plan for teacher educators at the Guam Department of Education and Calling for the Board of Regents and President of the University of Guam to Immediately Establish the Fast Track Teacher Certification Program at the University of Guam
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



JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
Chair

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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



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

Guam Education Board REGULAR MEETING Tuesday, September 15, 2026 3 PM Gallery, Bldg. B, Tiyan AGENDA

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| INFO | I. Meeting Call to Order |
| INFO/ACTION | II. Consent Calendar |
| INFO/ACTION | a. August 7, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes |
| INFO/ACTION | b. August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes |
| INFO/ACTION | c. August 18, 2026 Superintendent's Report |
| INFO | III. Communications |
| INFO | a. Correspondence received by the Board after August 24, 2026 |
| INFO | IV. Ex-Officio Member Reports |
| | a. Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report |
| | b. Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report |
| | c. Mayor's Council of Guam (MCOG) Report |
| INFO/ACTION | V. Unfinished Business/Committee Reports |
| | a. Superintendent's Report |
| | i. Tiyan High School and Simon Sanchez High School Update |
| | ii. Facilities & Maintenance |
| | iii. Accountability Dashboard |
| | iv. Human Resource Update |
| | v. Audit Report |
| | vi. Curriculum & Instructional Services Update |
| | vii. Strategic Performance Management |
| INFO | b. Executive Committee |
| INFO/ACTION | c. Instructional & Academic Support Committee |
| INFO | i. September Head Start Report |
| INFO/ACTION | d. Safe & Healthy Schools Committee |
| INFO | i. Security Concerns |
| INFO/ACTION | e. Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee |
| INFO | i. BP 379.1 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy - 2nd Reading |
| INFO/ACTION | f. Fiscal Management Committee |
| INFO | i. GDOE Financial Report |
| INFO/ACTION | 1. Accounts Payable Aging Report |
| INFO | 2. Declaration of Financial Status Designation |
| INFO | 3. Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2026 |
| INFO | 4. Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2026 |
| INFO | ii. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report |
| INFO | iii. FY 2025 Audit Update |
| INFO | g. Legislative Committee |
| INFO | i. Legislative Proposals Introduced |
| INFO/ACTION | VI. New Business |
| | a. Resolution 2026-08 Relative to Supporting Bill 351-38 of the Guam Legislature Establishing a Critically Needed Salary Increase Plan for Teacher Educators at the Guam Department of Education and Calling for the Board of Regents and President of the University of Guam to Immediately Establish the Fast Track Teacher Certification Program at the University of Guam |
| 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.



CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
KUMISION I SETBISION SIBIT
Bell Tower Suite 201, 710 W. Marine Corps Drive, Hagatña, Guam 96910 • Tel: (671) 647-1855 • Fax: (671) 647-1867

NOTICE OF MEETING

IN-PERSON MEETING AT 9:00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026.

A live broadcast of this meeting is available to the public on the CSC website at csc.guam.gov or on GovGuam.tv. The public can also access a live stream of this meeting via zoom by using the link or Meeting ID and Passcode provided below: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/launch?muid=5bdd956d-4c6a-440b-a832-3a668ea35af6> (Meeting ID: 871 1982 4482 / Passcode: 941815)

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| I. CALL TO ORDER. | IV. OLD BUSINESS: None. |
| II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None. | V. GENERAL BUSINESS: |
| III. NEW BUSINESS: | 1) Bills and Laws affecting CSC. |
| (1) Motion Hearing | 2) Administrative Matters: |
| Maria L.S. Apruon vs. Attorney General of | (A) Board Training; Civil Service |
| Guam; CSC Case No.: 26-GRE07 | Commission Board Members. |
| (2) Grievance Hearing | VI. ADJOURNMENT. |
| Charlyn Jessica Terlaje vs. Office of the | |
| Attorney General; CSC 26-GRE01 | |

For special accommodations, please contact Maria P. Masnayan, CSC ADA Coordinator at (671) 647-1872 / (671) 647-1855.

/s/ Daniel D. Leon Guerrero, Executive Director
Paid for by the Civil Service Commission.

APPLY NOW!!

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 6 - AIR CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN WITH 1 YEAR EXP. | \$21.91 PER HR.* |
| Installs, services or repairs air conditioning systems in residences or commercial establishments. Repairs or services air conditioning systems to improve efficiency, such as by changing filters, cleaning ducts or refilling non-toxic refrigerants. | |
| 37 - CARPENTER WITH 1 YEAR EXP. | \$18.34 PER HR.* |
| Construct, erect, install or repair structures and fixtures made of wood such as concrete forms or chutes for pouring concrete. Study specifications in blueprints, sketches, or building plans to prepare project layout and determine dimensions and materials required. | |
| 5 - CEMENT MASON WITH 1 YEAR EXP. | \$17.51 PER HR.* |
| Smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete such as floors, walls, sidewalks, roads or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs or gutters; patch voids; and use saws to cut expansion joints. | |
| 10 - CONSTRUCTION SITE SUPERVISOR WITH 2 YEARS EXP. | \$27.84 PER HR.* |
| Directly supervise and coordinate daily activities of construction workers and labor crews on assigned H-2B projects. Monitor and inspect work progress, and jobsite conditions to ensure tasks are completed according to project specifications and quality standards. | |
| 7 - ELECTRICIAN WITH 2 YEARS EXP. | \$21.02 PER HR.* |
| Plans layout, installs, maintains and repairs electrical wiring, equipment and fixtures based on job specifications and relevant codes. Inspects electrical systems, equipment or components to identify hazards, defects or the need for adjustment or repair, and to ensure compliance with codes. | |
| 14 - HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC WITH 1 YEAR EXP. | \$21.77 PER HR.* |
| Diagnoses, adjusts, repairs and overhauls mobile mechanical, electrical, construction, hydraulic and pneumatic equipment, such as bulldozers, graders, conveyors, dump trucks, backhoe, excavators and other heavy equipment. Tests mechanical and electrical products and equipment after repair or assembly to ensure proper performance and compliance with specifications. | |
| 34 - HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR WITH 1 YEAR EXP. | \$18.97 PER HR.* |
| Operate one or several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors or front-end loaders to excavate, move and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concrete or other hard surface pavement. | |
| 10 - OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY TECHNICIAN WITH 2 YEARS EXP. | \$21.62 PER HR.* |
| Must have OSHA 10 Hour; OSHA 30 Hour Construction, First Aid, CPR or other industry-recognized safety training. Inspect construction sites, equipment, and work areas to help ensure adherence to established safety practices and employer-provided guidelines. Report observed unsafe conditions or concerns to supervisors and assist in documenting and tracking corrective actions as directed. | |
| 5 - WELDER WITH 1 YEAR EXP. | \$20.30 PER HR.* |
| Must pass practical/qualification hands on welding test. Must be able to pass certification. Responsible for preparing materials, performing welding operations, and completing weld finishing tasks according to company instructions and specifications. Uses common welding techniques such as MIG, TIG, and stick welding. | |

BENEFITS: Roundtrip airfare for off-island hire; housing @ \$75.00 per week; local transportation from employer's designated lodging facility to/from jobsites; employer/employee paid medical insurance provided.

***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.

Successful applicant must be able to obtain military base access. Off-island hires must complete a health screening prior to working on Guam.

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 American Job Center
414 W. Soledad Avenue, Suite 300 GCIC Building, Hagatña, Guam
Or apply online at www.hireguam.com; Enter Keyword: 2026-114

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use our classified pages whether you're
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BIG RESULTS

Doc. No. 38CL-26-2879.*



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

SPECIAL MEETING

Friday, August 7, 2026

3 pm

Gallery, GDOE Building B

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

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

Peter Alexxis 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 3:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Dr. Julie Ulloa-Heath, Deputy Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability 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 Alexxis D.
Gutierrez, Maria A.
McNinch, Dr. Ron L. – via Zoom
Sablan, Angel R.
Torres, Carl E. II – via Zoom

Non-Voting Members:

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

Absent:

Non-Voting Members:

Legal Counsel

Dr. Guthertz stated that Deputy Franklin Leon Guerrero, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administrative Services, Acting Deputy Superintendent, will be joining the meeting shortly. He is currently on an important phone call with Mr. Arriola, Director of Public Works, to discuss matters concerning the department. Since 3:00 p.m. was the only time Mr. Arriola was available, he had to attend the call and will return and resume his duties as Acting Superintendent as soon as he finishes the call; Dr. Julie Ulloa-Heath, will be taking roll call.

Dr. Ulloa-Heath announced that five (5) members of the Board were present in person and two (2) connected via Zoom, constituting a quorum.

II. Unfinished Business

- a. School Readiness - Dr. Ulloa-Heath reported that all schools were ready to open on Monday, August 10, 2026. FB Leon Guerrero Middle School (FBLGMS) had passed its DPW inspection and received its Department of Public Health certificate. Simon Sanchez High School (SSHS) and Tiyan High School (THS) had addressed their identified deficiencies, with inspections scheduled for August 21 and sanitary permits valid through the end of the month. Regarding staffing, there were 105 teaching vacancies: 39 elementary, 52 middle/high school, and 14 special-program positions. To address the vacancies, teachers would be allowed to use their preparation periods to cover classes while staffing needs are resolved.

Dr. Guthertz asked whether the district planned to hire retired teachers to help address teacher vacancies for the upcoming school year and how many retired teachers might be available. She directed Ms. Katherine Ada, the HR Administrator, to answer the question.

Mrs. Ada reported that the district has made significant progress in recruitment, with 182 recruitments for the school year. Of those, 40 are retired teachers—39 fully retired and one retired part-time teacher. She said the district is in a strong position for the start of the school year, while continuing to recruit for remaining vacancies. HR is working closely with principals to address staffing needs through reassignments, dual-certified teachers, and other available staff. Some subject areas, such as science, still have vacancies. The district is also making progress in filling CBA and support staff positions. However, a major ongoing challenge is the high number of retirements and resignations, with departures occurring almost daily as the school year approaches. HR is continuing to monitor staffing levels and process recruitment efforts.

Dr. Guthertz asked whether the district was continuing its hiring efforts and had not stopped recruitment.

Mrs. Ada confirmed that hiring efforts have not stopped and they are at full force.

Mr. Ada asked whether GDOE has identified current faculty members who plan to retire on September 30, given the expected wave of Government of Guam retirements, and if so, how many employees are expected to retire.

Mrs. Ada said she is aware of about five employees planning to retire, likely in August, but their exact retirement dates are not yet confirmed. HR is monitoring these potential retirements and preparing to recruit replacements as needed. She explained that HR does not have immediate visibility into retirement plans because employees initiate the process at their discretion, and official retirement documents confirming their dates and hours are received later.

Mr. Ada asked whether the district is anticipating larger elementary class sizes due to the shortage of teachers as schools prepare to open on Monday. He suggested that Deputy Quitugua may be the appropriate person to provide the number of students expected per elementary classroom.

Mrs. Ada said that there are 39 in elementary.

Mr. Ada asked whether classrooms without regular teachers would be covered by substitutes or school aides starting Monday and continuing afterward. He emphasized that he had a specific concern about the use of school aides.

Deputy Quitugua said she was not yet aware of the exact number of substitutes needed by the schools. In the meantime, principals are working with their existing staff to cover vacancies while waiting for new teachers to be hired. One agreed strategy is paid leave-request coverage, where teachers who are already employed can cover classes for absent staff and receive additional compensation. The goal is to support schools and ensure classrooms have teachers while permanent staffing needs are addressed.

Mr. Ada asked Mrs. Ada how many of the teachers scheduled to report on Monday are currently on military duty.

Mrs. Ada explained that they are managing staff shortages caused by employees being on military duty by using limited-term part-time employees and recruiting teachers when possible. She said the school is currently in a better recruitment position than in previous school years, thanks to skilled and experienced administrators who are working collaboratively to identify staffing needs and address them quickly. However, the situation is not perfect or fully covered, because staff leave requests can occur daily and are difficult to predict. Mrs. Ada said she can provide a more accurate count of employees currently on active military duty, but she needs time to review the information.

Mr. Ada explained that he is concerned about temporary school aides being used for extended periods, as happened in previous years when temporary placements lasted six months or even an entire school year. He wants to avoid repeating that situation and ensure temporary staffing solutions do not become permanent.

Mrs. Ada said they work closely with school administrators on the ground because administrators are in the best position to identify staffing needs and recommend solutions. They try to address both planned and unexpected situations, such as illnesses and other employee leaves, and believe they have become quicker at responding to these needs. She emphasized that HR cannot make the final hiring decision. HR's role is to verify candidates' eligibility and refer qualified applicants. School principals then select the candidate, followed by superintendent approval and administrative clearances before a start date can be established. While they are trying to speed up the process due to staffing needs, required government procedures and regulations still have to be followed. She stressed that HR is collaborating with administrators, considering their feedback, and remaining open to different solutions to fill vacancies as quickly as possible.

Mr. Ada asked whether, during her time in the role, there had ever been a principal who strongly advocated for a particular teaching applicant and actively pushed to get that person hired and placed at their school.

Mrs. Ada replied that she wasn't aware of any.

Mr. Ada clarified whether the process means that applicants are placed wherever there is an available position, even if they have already contacted or communicated with a specific principal.

Mrs. Ada clarified that if an applicant specifically requests a particular school, or if the principal refers them, they will refer the applicant to that school as long as they are eligible.

Mr. Ada stated that this has not been the practice in the past.

Mrs. Ada said that, based on her three years of experience, she sees no reason why it would not be allowed if there is a vacancy, but she could only speak from her own experience.

Mr. Ada recalled an instance where a principal requested a specific teacher based on their specialty, but the personnel office ultimately assigned the applicant to another school, which he described as unfortunate.

Mrs. Ada said they are working to improve and tighten the staffing process, but managing more than 3,200 employees with high turnover creates significant challenges. She personally has not encountered the situation being discussed. She emphasized that she works closely with principals and, when a qualified applicant specifically wants to work at a particular school, it makes sense to refer them there rather than risk losing the candidate.

Mrs. Gutierrez questioned a vacancy report for Machananao Elementary School (MACHES), which listed two fifth-grade teacher vacancies. She said she was informed that the school actually requested one kindergarten teacher and one GATE teacher, not two fifth-grade teachers. She also noted that the kindergarten classroom currently does not have a teacher because the previous kindergarten teacher was reassigned, possibly as an instructional coach returning to another role. She questioned whether filling the actual classroom teaching need should take priority over assigning someone to a titled position.

Deputy Liwag explained that the titled teachers provide reading and math interventions. They will also assist their assigned schools by covering classes that currently do not have teachers, particularly while the schools are waiting for newly hired teachers to complete the hiring process.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked whether the former kindergarten teacher, now assigned as a titled teacher, would remain at the school starting August 10 until HR fills the kindergarten vacancy. She also questioned the teacher's Title I intervention responsibilities from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and asked how many students the teacher would be expected to serve.

Deputy Liwag confirmed that the teacher would provide small-group interventions to about 10–12 students per 40-minute block. The interventions would take place throughout the entire school day, from the first period through the last period.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked whether the Machananao Elementary School (MACHES) kindergarten classroom would be without a teacher when school opens on August 10, because the assigned teacher is working as a Title I.

Deputy Liwag clarified that the kindergarten classroom would not necessarily be without a teacher. A Title I teacher assigned to the school will temporarily cover the kindergarten class while also providing reading and math interventions.

Mrs. Gutierrez expressed concern about the MACHES kindergarten classrooms, stating that she expected to see a qualified teacher in each classroom on Monday rather than a school aide or having students brought down to the cafeteria because of a teacher shortage.

Deputy Liwag said that is accurate.

Mrs. Gutierrez thanked HR for finally assigning a library technician to Finegayan Elementary School (FES) after several years. She raised concerns about the remaining teacher vacancies across elementary and middle schools, asking who would cover those classrooms by Monday. She also asked about the status of retirees who applied at the job fair and whether they were still being processed. Finally, she recommended creating a policy to streamline the rehire process for retirees recommended by their principals, emphasizing the need to retain experienced teachers amid the ongoing staffing shortage.

Mrs. Ada explained that retirees are not required to attend the job fair. The priority is to fill vacancies with available candidates, but retirees are prioritized when vacancies remain because they are fully certified. Principals make the final hiring decision, and the personnel office cannot require a principal to hire a retiree. She emphasized maintaining positive relationships with retirees and removing barriers to their reemployment, while acknowledging that a principal's decision not to recruit a retiree is the only remaining obstacle.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked whether there is a current list of substitute teachers available, noting the importance of having enough substitutes when school begins, especially if some teachers are absent. She also asked about the number of substitutes allocated to each school.

Mrs. Ada explained that the budget currently provides for one substitute per school, with funding for those positions typically becoming available on October 1. Some schools have already identified immediate needs and recruited substitutes, pending approval from deputies and confirmation of funds. She has a list of schools with activated substitutes, but not every school currently has one.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked whether the substitutes referred to were long-term substitutes, noting that some principals had told her they already had their own substitutes and were not concerned.

Mrs. Ada said the substitutes could be long-term, depending on the circumstances at each school. She offered to provide a list showing the number and types of substitutes across the 38 campuses, noting that situations vary, such as covering employees on extended leave.

Mrs. Gutierrez raised concerns about whether newly hired school aides, particularly one-to-one special education aides, receive adequate training before starting work. She emphasized that aides need to understand the needs of the students they will support and their responsibilities. She noted that some aides resign within days because they are unprepared for the job. She recommended providing training before or after school or on weekends, even if additional funding is needed, to better prepare aides and reduce turnover.

Mrs. Ada explained that there is currently no formal training in place. She will reach out to Dr. Rossetti to develop a plan for addressing the training needs and share that plan with the Board when Dr. Rossetti returns. While their role is primarily to recruit staff, the schools and principals are focused on retention because these positions are needed and high turnover is a concern. Principals currently provide some training at the school level.

Mrs. Gutierrez emphasized that all GDOE employees, especially new employees, should receive training on preventing sexual harassment in the workplace. She noted that the EEO, under the Superintendent and led by Dr. Ulloa-Heath, should conduct these trainings, with particular attention to schools. She also referenced the Board's sexual harassment policy, which includes separate provisions addressing employees and students.

Dr. Guthertz expressed appreciation for retirees who return to GDOE to help address staffing shortages, particularly in hard-to-fill positions. She encouraged GDOE to expand recruitment beyond former educators to include qualified retirees from other government departments who can teach specialized subjects such as math, statistics, and economics. She urged HR and schools to welcome these individuals and consider them for limited-term positions when they meet the necessary qualifications.

Mr. Ada asked how many teachers are currently on extended medical leave and how many of those positions have been covered or filled by substitutes during the employees' absences.

Mrs. Ada explained that GDOE is reviewing its leave and recruitment processes, particularly leaves exceeding 30 days, which require additional procedures and coordination with administrators. She said HR has been focused on filling school vacancies, recruiting teachers and support staff, and addressing ongoing resignations following the typhoon. GDOE recruited 182 teachers and implemented a new online onboarding process to streamline hiring paperwork. She will prepare a report detailing employees on long-term sick leave and plans for covering their positions. Overall, she stated that staffing is in a good position and principals have action plans to address remaining shortages before the school year begins.

Mr. Ada requested that the report on long-term leave be provided to all Board members and asked that it also include information on employees taking military leave.

Mrs. Ada said yes.

Dr. Okada asked Mrs. Ada to verify the number of vacancies listed in the document, noting a discrepancy between the reported figures: 38 elementary vacancies and 48 middle/high school vacancies.

Mrs. Ada clarified that the vacancy figures were not from the finalized report because staffing numbers change daily. She apologized for the discrepancy and explained that she had quickly printed an updated sheet.

Dr. Okada pointed out that the figures at the bottom of the document do not match the figures at the top.

Mrs. Ada explained that the vacancy/teacher transfer numbers are fluid and may have changed because actions are ongoing. Some excess-teacher transfers may have been missed, particularly those still in progress. The 38 vacancies likely reflects the most accurate figure at the time because it was based on a snapshot taken earlier that day, but the number continues to change as updates are processed.

Dr. Okada asked whether the correct figures are 38 and 48, rather than 39 and 52.

Mrs. Ada clarified that she could provide the updated figures as of today, noting that one figure reflected the status as of yesterday.

Dr. Okada clarified that the figures should reflect the status as of the report date, August 6.

Mrs. Ada said that the figures as of the report date were 39 and 52, as shown at the top.

Dr. Okada asked whether the figures shown were the correct numbers, not the details.

Mrs. Ada said no, and that she had supporting details available.

Dr. Okada asked how many excess teachers were currently in the schools in addition to those already identified.

Mrs. Ada reported that 21 excess fully certified teachers were identified for the school year and have since been placed. She noted that the placement process must follow the proper procedures to ensure compliance with the CBA.

Dr. Okada asked whether the 21 excess teachers are included in the 39 and 52 figures, or whether those figures should be reduced by 21.

Mrs. Ada clarified that the 21 excess teachers have already been placed/actioned, so the 39 and 52 figures represent the current vacancies. She noted that the vacancy numbers continue to change daily.

Dr. Okada emphasized that the report should be consistent, with the figures at the top matching the details at the bottom, even if the numbers change daily.

Mr. Fedenko asked Deputy Quitugua to explain how the preparatory period will be implemented in elementary schools.

Deputy Quitugua explained that elementary schools are less affected because principals have already developed plans to address staffing shortages. These include redistributing students among existing teachers when class sizes allow. If class sizes are already at capacity, additional staff will be assigned. Central Office is also preparing a list of available staff who can provide temporary support while hiring processes continue.

Mr. Fedenko asked whether elementary schools should be prioritized for hiring, since staffing flexibility is more limited compared with middle and high schools, or whether vacancies are being filled generally across all school levels.

Deputy Quitugua confirmed that elementary schools are a priority for hiring because they provide the foundation for students' education. While recruitment remains ongoing, principals are developing solutions to address staffing gaps, including using interventionists for temporary support until needed teachers are hired. Central Office and its divisions will also assist during the opening week. For secondary schools, staffing needs and prep-period coverage have been identified, with plans to ensure teachers are properly compensated.

Mr. Fedenko agreed with the proposed secondary-school prep-period coverage but expressed concern about elementary school staffing. He asked why instructional coaches, peer coaches, and other certified teachers at Central Office could not temporarily fill the 38–39 elementary vacancies instead of relying on long-term substitutes or school aides. He suggested temporarily placing instructional coaches in classrooms and putting intervention programs on hold until the vacancies are filled, and asked why these certified personnel could not be used to address the shortages.

Deputy Liwag clarified that there are no longer instructional coaches. Instead, approximately 14 Title I teachers will be assigned to classrooms, primarily at the elementary level, to provide math and reading interventions.

Mr. Fedenko asked whether the Title I intervention teacher assigned to second grade at Juan M. Guerrero Elementary School (JMGES) would be teaching in the classroom for the entire school day, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Deputy Liwag confirmed the teacher would work the full day and serve K-5 students.

Mr. Fedenko asked whether the bell schedule has been adjusted to accommodate 180 instructional days or if it is still using a shorter extended-day period.

Deputy Quitugua clarified that the elementary school bell schedule has returned to 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., instead of the previous 2:43 p.m. dismissal. The additional 13 minutes each day had been included to accommodate professional development days, which are no longer part of the schedule. During the first week, there may be some transportation delays as DPW adjusts from the previous 2:43 p.m. schedule. Schools are being asked to remain flexible during the transition, with an updated transportation schedule expected after the first week.

Mr. Fedenko questioned whether students would be at school while teachers would not be providing instruction during that time.

Deputy Quitugua confirmed.

Mrs. Gutierrez raised concerns about former instructional coaches who were moved into Title I positions after a grant was received, leaving classroom teaching vacancies. She questioned whether their titles were simply changed even though they remain certified teachers with classroom experience. Her main concern is that two schools currently lack teachers, and she believes these certified former teachers should temporarily return to school sites and cover classes until HR completes the hiring process for new teachers. She noted that this approach was used previously during John Fernandez's time, when former teachers with active certifications helped fill classroom vacancies.

Deputy Liwag explained that when instructional coach positions were converted, some coaches chose to return to the classroom, while others became Title I teachers responsible for providing full-time instruction in reading and math. She also noted that discussions are underway regarding central staff classified under other personnel titles and the possibility of utilizing them where needed.

Mrs. Ada explained that there are two separate efforts concerning teachers at central office. One is the Operation Guardian initiative, which is focused on ensuring adequate coverage at schools, including the use of certified teachers. The other involves teachers who have been performing dual roles; positions for these roles were opened and processed through a competitive selection process. She noted that 19 teachers have been selected and are currently being processed into 12-month positions, including roles such as speech-language pathologists and school program consultants.

Mrs. Gutierrez questioned whether all students would have completed schedules by the start of school. As of August 5, 25 schools had completed 100% of student schedules, while 11 schools were at 90–99% and two schools were only 80–85% complete. She expressed concern that students might arrive Monday without schedules and asked whether all schools had reached 100% completion since the reported data was from Wednesday.

Mr. Torres left at 3:53 pm.

Deputy Quitugua said she contacted the schools that had not yet completed 100% of their student schedules, and they confirmed that all schedules would be completed.

Mrs. Gutierrez told Deputy Quitugua to hold them accountable.

Deputy Quitugua said yes.

Mrs. Gutierrez questioned the delays in completing student schedules and stressed that students should not have to wait for them on the first day. She also asked whether Sodexo or GDOE is responsible for cleaning the cafeterias.

Deputy Quitugua said FNS staff are inspecting cafeterias to ensure they are clean and ready for Monday. She clarified that cafeteria cleanliness is a shared responsibility between Sodexo and GDOE and expects confirmation by the end of the day.

Mrs. Gutierrez raised concerns about the cafeteria at Finegayan Elementary School following reported vandalism. She noted that although the classrooms have been repaired, the cafeteria was still awaiting cleaning by Sodexo due to staff training. She questioned whether the cafeteria would be cleaned and ready for students by Monday.

Mr. Fedenko asked Mrs. Gutierrez what schedule she was referring to.

Mrs. Gutierrez reported that several schools had not completed their schedules, including two high schools at 90–99% completion and one middle school and one high school at 80–85%. She expressed concern about the delays, particularly because enrollment at these schools was not especially high, and urged that administrators be held accountable for completing schedules so students are not inconvenienced by having to obtain schedules from the cafeteria.

Dr. McNinch requested that, in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, the Board review the Orders of the Day, or the current agenda.

Dr. Guthertz stated that the day's agenda items included school readiness, the management and curriculum audit, and a revised proposed BP 620 policy regarding the use of schools and other GDOE facilities.

Dr. McNinch asked where the Board was in the agenda, explaining that he was off-site and did not have a copy of it.

Dr. Guthertz reported that school readiness inspections have been going well and that all schools are expected to open on the required date next week. She then invited the Acting Superintendent to provide any additional comments before moving on to the management and curriculum audit.

Acting Superintendent Deputy Franklin Leon Guerrero emphasized the significant behind-the-scenes effort and coordination involved in preparing the schools to open. He shared that the DPW has committed to opening two additional entry points into Tiyan within two weeks to help manage increased traffic, with one near the tri-intersection by the gas stations and another near Mariner Avenue by the post office. He expressed appreciation to GDOE, DPW, and everyone working to ensure all schools open successfully and on time.

Mrs. Gutierrez expressed concerns about student schedules and cafeteria readiness before school starts. She wants 100% of middle and high school student schedules completed by the end of the day, noting that students have historically had to wait in the cafeteria for their schedules, which is frustrating. She questioned why the schedules were not fully completed when a high school has one principal and three assistant principals who could work together to ensure the task is finished. She also asked whether the cafeteria at the school that experienced major vandalism on Wednesday has been properly cleaned and is ready for students to eat. She noted that Sodexo staff were delayed because they were in training, raising additional concerns about cafeteria readiness.

Mrs. Gutierrez emphasized the need to confirm that the cafeteria is ready for Monday and that all schools are fully prepared to open. She explained that Board members

receive calls from parents and community members when problems arise, so they need to ensure issues are addressed before opening day. She was particularly concerned about students arriving without schedules and parents having to come to schools to find them. She said the purpose of the special meeting was to identify and resolve these readiness issues so that everything runs smoothly on Monday.

Mr. Sablan asked whether the Superintendent's absence was officially approved and if her leave had been authorized.

Dr. Guthertz confirmed that the Superintendent's leave had been approved in May.

Mr. Sablan said Dr. Won Pat knew about today's meeting and had been present when it was scheduled, but did not indicate she would be absent. He questioned her absence, particularly since the schools are reopening, and noted that he understood she was in Fiji. He also asked whether GDOE paid for her trip.

Dr. Guthertz said she believed she was on personal leave.

Mr. Sablan noted that she was on personal leave and questioned whether she could have stayed, while expressing disappointment with the school readiness efforts.

Dr. Guthertz reminded Mr. Sablan that her leave had been approved by the Board.

Mr. Sablan acknowledged that her leave had been approved for a specific period but questioned the change in timing and noted that she should have informed the Board if her plans conflicted with the meeting. He then set the issue aside and returned to school readiness, asking about the status of the 39 schools.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said there were 38 schools.

Mr. Sablan requested a detailed punch list for each school, including principal sign-off, compliance with the 14 readiness criteria, identified deficiencies, and timelines for correcting them. He questioned whether all 38 schools fully met the requirements but acknowledged that they would open as planned. He commended the GDOE Facilities and Maintenance Division and suggested reviewing the readiness list 30 days after opening to assess progress.

Deputy Leon Guerrero explained that all principals completed a detailed self-assessment checklist covering school readiness requirements. Any identified issues were entered as work orders in the maintenance database. He confirmed that 100% of principals certified their schools as ready to open, while minor repairs, such as replacing light bulbs or tiles, were documented separately and did not prevent schools from opening.

Mr. Sablan proposed revisiting the school readiness checklist 30 days after opening to verify progress based on principals' certifications. He also raised concerns about outdated or recent photos showing unusable restrooms and other deficiencies, emphasizing the need to ensure that identified issues are actually repaired and do not persist after schools reopen.

Deputy Leon Guerrero asked Deputy Ulloa-Heath to add to the discussion.

Dr. Ulloa-Heath reported that the FES cafeteria had been cleaned and was ready for use.

Dr. McNinch asked Deputy Leon Guerrero to confirm whether the schools were approved to open, noting that he was hearing a “go.”

Deputy Leon Guerrero said they were a “go.”

Mrs. Gutierrez said she planned to personally inspect the schools on Monday, including the restrooms and grounds. She questioned why GDOE was asked to pay for grass cutting at Liguán Elementary School (LES), noting that it is a leased facility and suggesting that the landlord should be responsible for maintaining the grounds.

Mr. Ada said just a point of clarification. In the absence of Dr. Won Pat, because I made the motion, she is on administrative leave.

Deputy Leon Guerrero explained that principals have been instructed to immediately report inadequate grounds maintenance. He noted that the maintenance contract specifies required services, and principals must sign off on completed work before the contractor is paid. He emphasized that GDOE holds the contractor accountable and pays only for services actually provided.

Mr. Sablan raised concerns about campus security and visitor access, asking how many schools have personnel or security controlling entrances and whether visitors can enter campuses without being questioned. He emphasized the importance of controlling access to school campuses to prevent potential security incidents.

Deputy Leon Guerrero said the primary focus had been preparing schools for opening and completing safety and environmental inspections. He acknowledged that campus security and entrance controls vary by school and identified security, fencing, cameras, and facility hardening as upcoming priorities. He noted that major efforts to prepare FBLGMS, THS, and SSHS for opening had been completed, allowing resources to now shift toward public health inspections and campus security improvements.

Mr. Sablan asked not to leave it on the back burner.

Mrs. Gutierrez echoed concerns about school security and inadequate protection at some campuses, noting that school aides are sometimes stationed at gates without radios or security training. She advocated for controlled entrances, intercom systems, and proper security personnel. She also questioned the Guam Police Department’s (GPD) use of an assigned classroom at frequently vandalized schools, particularly FES anMU Lujan Elementary School (MULES), and urged GDOE to verify that the space is being used for security purposes rather than for R&R (rest and relaxation).

Dr. Guthertz invited Board members to visit schools on opening day to welcome students, faculty, and staff, and encouraged them to check in with the principal’s office upon arrival and follow campus entry requirements.

Deputy Leon Guerrero asked Deputy Superintendent of Educational Support and Community Learning Jacqueline Quitugua if she had any final statements on the matter.

Deputy Quitugua emphasized that safety remains the top priority and shared that the partnership with the GPD has provided School Resource Officers (SROs) for secondary schools.

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b. Management & Curriculum Audit

Dr. Guthertz introduced the internal auditor, Mr. Franklin Cooper Nurse, and invited him to come forward.

Dr. Guthertz said it was sent to all of them.

Mr. Ada said he could not comment on the management and curriculum audit until he had thoroughly reviewed it.

Dr. Guthertz suggested listening to the presentation first, then reviewing the information and records before following up with any additional questions.

Chief Auditor Franklin Cooper-Nurse reported that the management audit is in Phase Three, the implementation and monitoring stage, with GDOE identifying recommendations for implementation while the IAO and PPRC monitor progress. The audit contract expires in September 2026, and a no-cost extension is being pursued if needed. He also emphasized the Board's legal compliance requirements under 17 GCA §3103, which require the Board, within 90 days of receiving the finalized audit findings, to vote to accept or reject the findings and take any necessary action. Separately, GDOE leadership must post the audit on its website and submit its action plan to the Speaker of the Legislature.

Mr. Sablan stated that the Board is well past the legal deadline for acting on the management audit, which he believed expired in December 2025. He noted that the Board had repeatedly requested a letter to the Legislature explaining the delay, but apparently none had been submitted. He urged the Board to take action by accepting, rejecting, or accepting the audit with notations, rather than continuing to delay. He also expressed concern that approximately \$400,000 had been spent on the audit and questioned the value of a no-cost extension if the Board had not yet acted. He asked Mr. Cooper-Nurse for his recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Cooper-Nurse explained that there are two separate matters: the Board's responsibility to review and take formal action on the audit, and management's responsibility to respond to and implement appropriate audit recommendations through corrective action plans, benchmarks, and monitoring. He noted that he was assigned as the audit liaison on February 13, by which time the audit deadlines had already passed, and the audit had been issued to the previous leadership team.

Dr. Guthertz stated that her understanding was that the Board would take action that day and invited Dr. Okada to provide comments and make a motion.

Dr. Okada clarified that a letter regarding the management audit was submitted to Senator Borja on June 2 on behalf of the Board Chair. She then asked Mr. Cooper-Nurse to clarify when the department received the updated management audit report, noting that he was assigned responsibility for it on February 13.

Mr. Cooper-Nurse explained that the audit process initially lacked proper input from GDOE leadership and management. GDOE worked with the external auditors, PPRC, to submit written responses addressing errors in the report, which were incorporated into an updated version on February 20. An updated report was issued on March 14, and the IAO provided it to the superintendent on March 18. Following an April 3 exit conference, the audit report was further updated and provided to the IAO on April 6, who then submitted it to the audit committee.

Dr. Okada asked whether the updated management audit report incorporated all of the factual errors and corrections previously identified by the Board, including the extensive details they had provided.

Mr. Cooper-Nurse explained that GDOE identified three types of concerns during its review of the audit: items requiring additional support, clarification, or correction. PPRC considered the feedback and corrected some factual and surface-level errors, including names and titles. However, not all requests for additional evidence or clarification were addressed. He noted that PPRC made a reasonable effort to consider GDOE's concerns, but not all requested changes were accepted.

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez to accept the 2025 Management and Curriculum Audit Report prepared for the Guam Department of Education by the Pacific Policy Research Center and that the management subsequent take the necessary steps to identify all the pending recommendation and take action as appropriate, and that the tracking is done, the tracking to this report is done by the internal audit office and regularly communicated to the superintendent and the Board. The Board voted by raise of hands with a vote of 6-0, 1 abstention.

Dr. Okada explained that the audit process involves negotiation, where some responses and recommendations may be accepted while others remain part of the report. He moved to accept the 2025 GDOE audit report prepared by Pacific Policy Research Center and take the necessary steps to identify all the pending recommendations and take action as appropriate.

Dr. McNinch expressed serious reservations about the reliability and quality of the audit report. Drawing on his professional experience as a fraud examiner and auditor, he said the report contains fundamental concerns, including citations to documents that appear not to exist and references or quotations that cannot be verified. He also raised concerns about the possible use of artificial intelligence without sufficient human review or fact-checking. As an example of the broader risks associated with AI-generated professional work, he referred to a major incident involving an accounting firm in Australia, where errors in a government report led to the government seeking a refund. He emphasized that his criticism was not intended as a personal or negative judgment of the company, but rather as a concern about the fundamental quality and accuracy of the work. Although he acknowledged that portions of the report have merit and agreed with Dr. Okada that some recommendations may be useful, he

believes the problems are serious enough that he will vote against accepting the audit. He intends to have the Guam Office of Public Accountability independently validate his concerns and suggested that the Board consider seeking a refund for work that does not meet an acceptable standard. He also believes the company should identify and correct the questionable portions of its report.

Dr. Guthertz said Dr. McNinch's concerns were already documented in the department's responses to the audit. She clarified that Dr. Okada's motion would allow GDOE to act on the workable recommendations without dismissing the concerns already raised and recorded.

Mr. Cooper-Nurse agreed with some of Dr. Ron McNinch's concerns and explained that the law changed the terminology from "assessment" to "audit," which carries different expectations for auditing standards. He noted that, as an auditor, he would normally follow GAGAS (Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards) for a government audit, similar to the standards used by Guam's Office of Public Accountability (OPA). However, this particular audit was not commissioned under GAGAS or other formal auditing frameworks such as the Yellow Book, Green Book, or Red Book. Instead, the department's RFP was modeled after a previous RFP and was structured more like an assessment than a formal, evidence-based audit. As a result, the selected firm is performing its work according to the contract it was given. He acknowledged that, in hindsight, the RFP should have explicitly required a standards-based audit with sufficient evidence, work papers, conclusions, and quality assurance. His main point was that the issue lies not necessarily with the firm's performance under its contract, but with whether the RFP itself adequately defined the audit standards and level of rigor expected.

Mr. Sablan recalled that portions of the audit appeared to be copied from a previous audit that had been rejected by an earlier Board. He questioned what rejecting the current audit would mean and whether it would require issuing another RFP for a new audit.

Dr. Okada said the Board does not have to accept the entire audit and should instead act on the recommendations that are appropriate. She noted that management did not follow the earlier recommendation to have the Internal Audit Office oversee the audit, which contributed to the current concerns. She proposed tracking each recommendation to completion, documenting disagreements, and potentially having the Internal Audit Office conduct a supplemental review using proper audit standards.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she agrees with the Vice Chair after carefully reviewing the entire audit and submitting comments on the areas she supports or disagrees with. She expressed concern that the Board was not given an opportunity to review the RFP, which was prepared by program coordinators rather than the Internal Audit Office, and that the draft report was circulated to management before the Board received it. She also criticized portions of the report as sounding like complaints about Board members' actions rather than substantive audit findings, comparing some of the complaints to "a little kid" upset because "he didn't give me the red lollipop, they gave me the chocolate lollipop." Despite these concerns, she acknowledged that audits are meant to identify areas for improvement and urged the department to focus on addressing those areas moving forward. She emphasized that the Internal Audit Office

should oversee the process and help ensure the Department of Education makes the necessary improvements.

Dr. McNinch thanked Mr. Cooper-Nurse and Dr. Okada for their comments and clarification. He reiterated that, in his view, the document does not meet the standards of a true audit and should instead be considered a report. He supported moving forward but recommended that any future RFP require contractors to clearly disclose where artificial intelligence is used and distinguish AI-generated work from work completed by humans using verified data and documentation. He also said he may issue a dissenting opinion to formally document his concerns, even if he ultimately votes to move forward with the Board.

Dr. Guthertz told Dr. McNinch that his concerns and objections are rightly noted and will be in our record.

Mr. Sablan said the issue is essentially “water under the bridge” because the assessment or audit has already been paid for. He emphasized that the Board does not have to agree with the entire report, but can identify and implement the recommendations it finds useful.

Dr. Guthertz said the motion already reflects this approach and suggested that the Board Secretary clearly state in the Board’s communication to the Guam Legislature that the Board will consider and implement the valuable portions of the audit while maintaining that certain parts were erroneous and did not meet appropriate audit standards.

Mr. Cooper-Nurse explained that the audit is paid for and finalized and has already been transmitted, so the focus now is on management’s response. Management will identify which findings it accepts and will develop corrective actions, responsible officials, and measurable timelines for those items. These actions will be tracked through a formal tracker with metrics, while findings that management does not accept will be clearly documented as such.

Dr. Guthertz emphasized that the Board wants management to formally consider and act on the audit recommendations it finds appropriate for the school system, and that this expectation should be documented in the record.

Mr. Sablan asked Dr. Okada to restate the motion, noting that the Board’s options were not limited to simply accepting or rejecting the audit.

Dr. Okada said So I move that the Guam Department of Education Board accept the report that was prepared, the 2025 audit report prepared for the Guam Department of Education by Pacific Policy Research Center, identifying the specific areas or recommendations that the department will act upon, and then resolve or dismiss the areas that are either irrelevant or not in concurrence.

Dr. Guthertz said the Board should also prepare an official written response to the Legislature.

Dr. Okada added that the Internal Audit Office would oversee the tracking of the report and regularly communicate updates to the Superintendent and the Board.

Mr. Sablan said the Board's remaining legal obligation is simply to inform the Legislature whether it accepts or rejects the audit.

Mr. Ada abstained from voting.

c. BP 620 Use of School/Other Department of Education Facilities

Deputy Leon Guerrero explained that Board Policy 620, "Use of School/Other Department of Education Facilities," was originally adopted in March 1997 and was designed primarily for short-term use of school facilities, such as weekend fiestas, events, or one-day activities. The proposed revision updates the policy's terminology and expands it to allow longer-term leasing of vacant school facilities, including classrooms, for periods ranging from a week to several months. This addresses situations such as SIFA's request for a four-month lease, which the existing policy did not cover. The existing rental rates will remain unchanged because modifying the rates would require additional procedures under the Administrative Adjudication Act. Overall, the revision modernizes the policy and creates an opportunity for the Department of Education to generate revenue by leasing available school space while maintaining the current rate structure.

Mr. Sablan asked about the purpose of amending the policy.

Deputy Leon Guerrero explained that the existing policy only addresses short-term facility use, such as a single day or weekend, and does not provide for longer-term arrangements lasting a week or a month.

Mr. Sablan then followed up by asking how GDOE was able to enter into an MOA with SIFA without authority.

Deputy Leon Guerrero stated that the existing Board Policy 620 provides authority through an emergency-use provision allowing the Superintendent to use any facility at their discretion when necessary to ensure continuity of educational services.

Mr. Sablan challenged this interpretation, emphasizing that Board policy cannot override existing law. He pointed to a law passed in November 2025 that he had previously raised at the Board's last meeting.

Mr. Fedenko echoed the concern, stating that he had the same question and referenced Bill No. 70-38 (COR) as the applicable law.

Mr. Sablan acknowledged that some may argue the provision applies only to an individual classroom rather than an entire or partial school. However, he emphasized that the intent of the public law appears to specifically address "unused classrooms."

Mr. Fedenko agreed that the law uses that language and noted that it also requires three Board members to approve it.

Mr. Sablan raised concerns about the MOA, noting that it was signed by Dr. Won Pat and Dr. Guthertz but appeared to have no indication that GDOE's legal counsel reviewed or approved it.

Deputy Leon Guerrero stated that the legal counsel reviewed it and provided recommendations to the superintendent.

Mr. Sablan expressed concern that the public law supersedes the Board's policy regarding the use of unused GDOE classrooms and emphasized that, although he supports charter schools and SIFA, the process must be carried out legally. He questioned whether all requirements of the law had been followed, including the appraisal, rules and regulations, and other required processes. He also raised concerns about the potential legal and procurement issues associated with allowing SIFA to use available classrooms without following the established procedures. He further expressed concern about displacing GDOE teachers and students, particularly those who had invested their own money to improve their classrooms, to accommodate SIFA. He noted that classrooms were being modified and divided to make space for SIFA while other students were being moved. He also questioned how GDOE would respond if another charter school made a similar request and whether it would be given the same opportunity. He concluded by asking Dr. Guthertz whether the updated Board policy was legally valid and stressed that, if it was not, the matter should be reconsidered and handled in accordance with public law.

Dr. Guthertz thanked the members for their comments and concerns and asked the Acting Superintendent Deputy Leon Guerrero to provide additional information, particularly regarding meetings with the Legislature and the concerns raised by Mr. Sablan.

Deputy Leon Guerrero clarified that social media reports inaccurately portrayed GDOE as unilaterally displacing SPED students without involving the school. He explained that the issue arose after GCC indicated that it could no longer accommodate SIFA, prompting GDOE to explore whether it could provide classroom space at GWHS, where there were several vacant classrooms. GDOE then met with the GWHS principal, assistant principal, and SIFA representatives to assess the campus and identify options that would minimize commingling between SIFA and GWHS students while also minimizing disruption to existing students and teachers. During the first meeting, GDOE specifically ruled out using the SPED area once it was identified as a special education space. At a second meeting, the GWHS principal informed GDOE that, after consulting with school staff and SPED personnel, the school had determined that moving the SPED students was the best option. Leon Guerrero emphasized that GDOE did not request the displacement of the SPED students; rather, the principal proposed the move as the best solution for keeping SIFA's classrooms together, reducing commingling, and limiting disruption to GWHS students and staff. GDOE subsequently began completing requested facility work, including installing divider walls, addressing tiling, and relocating shelves. A third meeting was later held with school and SPED staff, SIFA, and GDOE management, but unexpectedly included approximately 60 to 70 people, including media and senators.

Mr. Sablan stated for the record that the Board members were not informed about the meeting and therefore did not attend.

Deputy Leon Guerrero clarified that GDOE understood the meeting to be a final working session to resolve remaining details and finalize the arrangements.

Mr. Sablan noted that an MOA had already been signed before that meeting took place.

Deputy Leon Guerrero explained that the MOA was signed after the second meeting, when the principal, assistant principal, and SPED staff had indicated that moving the SPED classrooms was workable and a punch list of facility needs had been identified. A third meeting was later requested and unexpectedly had about 77 attendees, where concerns arose that GDOE was unilaterally displacing SPED students and not considering stakeholder input. He said these concerns resulted largely from a communication breakdown, as GDOE understood that school leadership had consulted with staff and received agreement to proceed. During the meeting, the SPED department chair confirmed that he had initially told the principal that moving the SPED classrooms would not be harmful or disruptive, but later acknowledged that SPED teachers expressed disagreement, causing him to question whether his initial response was appropriate. Following the meeting, Senator Borja became involved in exploring alternative locations for SIFA. He met with GDOE management and checked whether GCC's circumstances had changed and whether it could now accommodate SIFA, but GCC remained unable to do so. Senator Borja then suggested that GDOE inspect Chief Brodie Memorial Elementary School (CBMES) as another possible location. GDOE management, SIFA representatives, and SIFA's contractor inspected the facility and determined that the site could potentially work if necessary repairs were completed. He explained that CBMES presents a legal issue because its property is part of the John F. Kennedy High School (JFKHS) lot, which is tied to a long-term lease-to-own agreement for the reconstruction of JFKHS. Senator Borja indicated that he would work on determining whether the CBMES portion could be separated from the JFKHS lot to allow for a separate lease arrangement. He also noted that SIFA and its contractor offered to complete the necessary repairs and address inspection requirements at CBMES at no cost to GDOE, including air-conditioning and storm-related facility issues. As of that morning, the CBMES option remained under consideration, with the primary outstanding issues being the property arrangement and legal requirements.

Mr. Ada clarified that he is not affiliated with or a supporter of SIFA and redirected the discussion to CBMES. He referenced information from Dr. Won Pat that two classrooms reportedly under GHURA might be used for Special Education (SpEd) and emphasized the importance of obtaining written confirmation.

Deputy Leon Guerrero reported that this morning's walkthrough confirmed the two classrooms designated for SpEd are not part of SIFA's work. SIFA and its contractor stated that the classrooms on the other side of the cafeteria are sufficient for SIFA's needs, so the GHURA classrooms do not need to be included.

Mr. Ada acknowledged the clarification and stated that the two classrooms would remain vacant if they are not needed by SIFA.

Deputy Leon Guerrero confirmed that this is the case for the time being.

Mr. Ada recommended that Superintendent Won Pat put GDOE's offer to SIFA in writing, noting that circumstances could change. He expressed concern about displacing students and staff at the host school and urged GDOE and SIFA to work together toward a mutual agreement on moving SIFA to CBMES as soon as

renovations are completed. He emphasized that all legal and procedural requirements must be properly addressed to avoid future questions or disputes, and expressed sympathy for SIFA students who have been repeatedly moved between locations.

Dr. Okada clarified that the Board does not have jurisdiction over the SIFA MOA or approve contracts, as its role is limited to establishing and updating policy. She emphasized that the current discussion should focus solely on updating Policy 620, while the superintendent and GDOE's legal office are responsible for determining the legality of the MOA and the superintendent's actions. She acknowledged that the Board must still comply with Public Law 70-38 but stressed that questions regarding the MOA or the legality of the superintendent's actions are outside the scope of the current agenda. She also noted that any discussion about establishing a committee to review future leases should be addressed as a separate agenda item.

Mr. Fedenko questioned whether BP 620 conflicts with existing law, emphasizing that the Board should review the policy because Board policy cannot trump the law.

Dr. Okada recommended tabling the proposed update to Policy 620 until the Board receives legal guidance on what is authorized under the law and whether it conflicts with the existing policy. She made a motion to table the policy update until the matter could be reviewed with GDOE's legal counsel.

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Mr. Ada, to table the update to Board Policy 620 until the Board discusses it with GDOE's legal counsel. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 6-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Guthertz said GDOE should work closely with the Legislature to ensure that any actions involving SIFA are legally authorized under current law and to seek any necessary changes to the law. She suggested communicating the Board's concerns to the appropriate legislative representatives and requesting their assistance in expediting any needed legislative action to address potential conflicts between the proposed policy and existing law.

Dr. McNinch agreed with Dr. Okada that the Board should remain focused on the agenda. She noted that 17 GCA § 3135 gives the Board authority to lease properties, unless the statute has been repealed, and said that legal counsel should clarify the matter. She also suggested that the Board consider obtaining legal opinions on similar legal issues in the future and expressed appreciation for the Acting Superintendent and the challenges faced by the Board and school system.

Dr. Guthertz said SIFA's situation is urgent but not ideal and emphasized that the original intent of the charter school law was for charter schools to secure their own funding for facilities rather than rely on government-owned buildings. She said the law and its implementation should be reviewed and clarified, and that her concern was specifically that the government should not subsidize charter school facilities, rather than charter schools themselves. She also explained that the Board's motion would allow GDOE to address SIFA's immediate needs while consulting legal counsel on whether the proposed revision to Policy 620 conflicts with existing law. If necessary, she said the Board would support seeking expedited legislative action and requested legislative assistance in temporarily removing the CBMES property from the JFKHS lease arrangement until SIFA's contract ends in October.

Mrs. Gutierrez urged the Legislature to stop increasing charter school enrollment caps unless adequate facilities are available. She expressed concern about charter schools relying on government facilities and students being repeatedly relocated, and questioned how long proper school zoning would take. She also noted that, being an election year, she was concerned the Legislature may be reluctant to address the issue.

Mr. Sablan clarified that although GDOE previously had authority to lease its properties, Public Law 38-66 amended that authority and established a more restrictive process for allowing others to use GDOE facilities. He emphasized that his main concern was ensuring the proper process was followed so SIFA would not be required to leave shortly after moving in.

Dr. Guthertz said the motion would address these concerns by directing the Acting Superintendent to continue working on the matter operationally and coordinate with the Legislature and the JFKHS private partner to resolve the CBMES property issue and return the lot to GDOE's inventory. The directives were approved without objection.

Mr. Sablan requested that the superintendent's evaluation be included as an executive session item on the August 18 regular Board meeting agenda.

Dr. Guthertz confirmed that it could be added.

Dr. McNinch noted that the Guam Election Commission reported only three candidates running for the School Board and jokingly remarked that he was the only returning elected member, asking why everyone had left and abandoned him.

Mrs. Gutierrez clarified that four candidates are running for the School Board, with Dr. McNinch being the only incumbent. She said she is retiring but will continue advocating for education from the community, while noting that former Board member and new candidate John Ray Titano, along with Isaiah Agoun, are also running.

Dr. Guthertz mentioned that she attempted to run but did not obtain enough signatures.

Mr. Sablan encouraged Dr. McNinch to work with the new governor and seek the reappointment of current Board members.

Dr. McNinch thanked his colleagues and asked for their continued support in serving Guam's children.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Dr. Okada, to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 5-0. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:

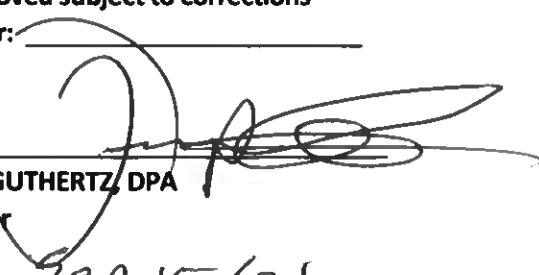


KATHLEEN LAMORENA
Administrative Officer

Date: September 10, 2026

MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING:

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



JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
GEB Chair

Date: sep 15/26



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

Date: 9/15/26



JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
Chair

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

3 pm

Gallery, GDOE Building B

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

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

Peter Alexxis 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 3:10 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 Alexxis D.
Gutierrez, Maria A.
McNinch, Dr. Ron L.
Sablan, Angel R.
Torres, Carl E. II

Non-Voting Members:

Fedenko, Timothy – GFT Representative
Blas, Pedro – MCOG Representative
Terlaje, Brian Jess – MCOG Representative via Zoom

Legal Counsel:

Wolff, Matthew

Absent:

None

The Superintendent announced that seven (7) members of the Board were present, constituting a quorum.

II. Consent Calendar

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Mr. Torres, to approve the items on the consent calendar, July 24, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes and the July 24, 2026 Superintendent's Report. The Board voted by voice 6-1. The motion passed.

- a. July 24, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. July 24, 2026 Superintendent's Report

Mr. Sablan recognized the attendance of Mayor B.J. Terlaje via Zoom, Mayor Frances Lizama, and Vice Mayor Peter Blas, and welcomed them to the meeting.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked for the minutes from the August 7 special meeting so she could refer back to the discussion and findings regarding school readiness. She emphasized that the minutes should be available. She expressed concern that, despite assurances that schools were ready, issues remained, citing the restroom at Wettengel Elementary School (WES) in Dededo as an example.

Dr. Won Pat stated that she had inquired about the August 7 meeting minutes and was informed by the Board Secretary that she is currently behind on two sets of minutes. The August 7 minutes are not yet ready and are expected to be available for the next Board meeting. She clarified that the agenda only includes approval of the July 24 meeting minutes, which the Board will consider at the current meeting.

Dr. Guthertz acknowledged that everyone has been very busy but emphasized that timely meeting minutes are important for the Board. She encouraged the prompt preparation and availability of draft minutes as soon as possible.

Dr. Won Pat said she will work with Administrative Officer Kathleen.

Mrs. Gutierrez voted no.

III. Communications

- a. Correspondence received by the Board after July 24, 2026 – N/A

IV. Ex-Officio Member Reports

- a. Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) - Mrs. Gutierrez stated that principals were asked by email to submit their recommendations by August 31, but only Okkodo High School (OHS) has submitted its recommendation so far. She expressed concern that the lack of responses from the other schools may indicate that the student representative is not considered important by those principals.

Dr. Guthertz asked Mrs. Gutierrez whether she was saying that she had sent them a reminder to hold their school elections.

Mrs. Gutierrez explained that she sent the application form to principals, but so far only OHS has submitted an application. She noted that while two students were reportedly interested, the applications must first be received and reviewed by the former IBOGS before any recommendation can be confirmed.

Dr. Guthertz asked Dr. Won Pat to take note and emphasized that principals need to conduct the necessary outreach among students to ensure student representation on the Board.

- b. Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) - Mr. Fedenko reported serious concerns about staffing shortages and student safety, noting that one-to-one aides are sometimes assigned to multiple students with special needs, while school aides are being pulled from their regular duties for extended periods to cover classes. Teachers have also reported dangerous situations in elementary classrooms due to inadequate support, while teacher shortages continue to affect school safety.

Dr. Won Pat explained that GDOE has hired all qualified applicants from recent recruitment efforts but continues to face a lack of applicants. To address vacancies, principals are assigning teachers to cover classes during their prep periods with additional pay, while central office staff, social workers, SROs, coaches, and certified teachers have been deployed to schools. She said GDOE has exhausted its current applicant pool and continues to face shortages across both teaching and other school positions.

Mrs. Gutierrez reported that a parent watching the livestream said the audio volume was too low and suggested that those operating the livestream be properly trained, emphasizing that the public is interested in and following the meeting.

Dr. Won Pat responded that, according to the PIO, the volume was already set to maximum.

Mrs. Gutierrez raised concerns about delays in hiring teachers and support staff, particularly one-to-one aides, and questioned why a SPED-funded position assigned to HR to process federally funded positions has not resolved staffing shortages. She emphasized that CBA positions should be prioritized, criticized lengthy hiring and approval processes, and urged HR to expedite paperwork so applicants can report to schools sooner. She also expressed concern about schools being understaffed, employees being required to cover multiple duties and work extended hours without overtime, and principals not receiving needed staff before the school year begins. She criticized poor facility conditions, citing an unsanitary restroom at WES, and called for greater accountability for school operations. She defended her role as an elected Board member, saying her concerns are based on firsthand observations at schools. She questioned whether continued staffing shortages could lead to another lawsuit and challenged the superintendent over ongoing recruitment delays despite the job fair. She emphasized that these are operational matters and urged the superintendent to do her job and address them promptly.

Dr. Won Pat clarified that her office does not delay hiring paperwork. Once HR notifies a selected candidate and sends the forms to her office, she signs them the same day and returns them to HR. She also clarified that the employee temporarily assigned to HR was an existing AO/AA, assigned specifically to process SPED applications. That employee has since returned to their regular position, and no new personnel specialist was hired. GDOE will continue recruiting throughout the year to fill vacant school positions. Due to staffing shortages, the department has deployed central-office employees, SROs, and social workers to schools for additional support—approximately 75% of central-office staff have been sent to schools. She encouraged

qualified individuals to apply, emphasizing that many positions remain vacant because there are not enough applicants.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked how many certified teachers were promoted to school program consultant positions, rather than being placed in schools while teacher vacancies are filled. She noted that many consultants were recently promoted from mentor/instructional coach roles.

Dr. Won Pat clarified that all instructional coaches were certified and were sent to schools. She said the department is working on school achievement in literacy and numeracy and plans to recruit program specialists to support schools in reading, math, science, and social studies. However, no one has been recruited or promoted into those positions yet. The department currently has only one program specialist, who is expected to retire in September.

Dr. Okada then asked for an updated count of teacher vacancies, starting from the 105 vacancies reported at the beginning of the academic year, and also asked how many one-to-one aide vacancies currently exist.

Dr. Won Pat reported that there are 72 total vacancies across all schools, including school aides, clerks, elementary principals, library technicians, administrative aides, and other positions. Of these, 11 have no RTF (Request to Fill), 18 are currently in recruitment, and 40 have completed recruitment or have been filled.

Dr. Okada then asked for clarification on how many of the 72 vacancies were specifically for teachers and how many central office staff are currently assigned to schools to help cover teacher vacancies.

Dr. Won Pat reported that, according to HR's latest information, there were 90 teacher vacancies as of August 14, covering both local and federally funded positions. She also noted that 15 applicants were pending acceptance after being referred and recommended, while clarifying that the figures were based on the information HR provided.

Dr. Okada requested that HR provide a breakdown of actual teacher vacancies, specifically identifying how many classrooms currently have no teacher assigned.

Dr. Guthertz said she has been asking for months for GDOE to widely publicize its vacancy lists. She urged immediate distribution to mayors' offices, government agencies, military commands, and island media, including paid newspaper and broadcast advertisements, emphasizing that broader outreach could increase the applicant pool and help address staffing shortages.

Dr. Won Pat agreed that the request was reasonable and said HR's report could be broken down by school level (elementary, middle, and high school) and subject area for public reporting. She also reported 83 teacher separations during the past school year, including 35 retirements, 16 relocations off-island, 13 for personal reasons, and others due to deployment, death, military service, medical reasons, or unspecified reasons. Additionally, there are 22 long-term vacancies caused by teachers on leave, including military leave, maternity/medical leave, long-term disability, and other reasons. These vacancies further impact the schools' ability to staff classrooms.

Dr. Okada emphasized that the requested vacancy information should already be available through the HR dashboard funded through GOSDV and the SLDS (State Longitudinal Data System) grant. She urged RP&E to complete the dashboard, which has been requested for more than five years, so the Board can access live HR data showing current vacant positions without repeatedly requesting reports. She noted that previous contract issues delayed the project, but the grant funding remains available and the dashboard should be completed as intended.

Dr. Won Pat noted that HR representatives had arrived and suggested that Mrs. Ada and Ms. D'ner may be able to address some questions. She then invited Mr. Ada to ask his questions first.

Mr. Ada thanked HR for providing information on long-term vacancies, including military and extended medical leave. He then asked whether those classrooms were staffed when school began on August 1, given that the vacancies were already known. He questioned whether replacement teachers had been hired and, if not, whether someone was "babysitting" those classrooms.

Mrs. Ada defended HR's efforts to fill GDOE vacancies, emphasizing that her team has been working extended hours despite limited staffing and following required merit-system and clearance procedures. She explained that 83 unexpected employee departures have created additional vacancies and that delays can result from budget reviews, administrative clearances, background checks, drug testing, and limitations with the MUNIS system. She acknowledged that HR's reporting and automated systems need improvement but said the department is working to streamline the process. She also noted that HR cannot control resignations, promotions, or employees moving between positions, which can create new vacancies even after hiring. She said HR has worked through challenges caused by the typhoon and server issues and has continued conducting interviews and processing hires. She welcomed suggestions for improving recruitment, clarified that principals ultimately select candidates, and offered to provide detailed reports or allow auditors to review HR's processes. She strongly rejected any implication of improper hiring and emphasized that her team is doing everything possible to fill vacancies quickly and responsibly.

Mr. Ada suggested that applicants who have met the main requirements but are missing documents such as police or court clearances should be contacted immediately and given two to three days to submit them, noting that obtaining these clearances can be costly and difficult. He then returned to his earlier question, asking whether classrooms affected by known military or long-term leave vacancies were staffed with qualified teachers when the school year began.

Mrs. Ada explained that HR fills available vacancies, but classroom assignments and coverage are handled by individual school principals. She said principals are aware of staffing needs and work with HR to cover vacancies as much as possible with qualified teachers, but specific questions about whether a classroom was staffed should be directed to the principal because HR does not control school schedules.

Mr. Ada suggested allowing site-based HR management, where principals could select the teachers they want for their schools and bring the applications directly to HR for

processing. He noted that principals may specifically seek certain teachers, but applicants are sometimes referred to schools other than the ones that originally wanted them.

Mrs. Ada said HR supports principals having input in selecting teachers for their schools. However, applicants sometimes prefer positions at other schools when contacted for interviews, even when a principal has specifically requested them. She noted that this has occurred recently and that HR tries to quickly place qualified candidates given the current teacher shortage.

Mr. Ada asked HR to consider allowing applicants to obtain police and court clearances after they have been informed that they qualify. He emphasized that the cost of obtaining these documents, including the court clearance fee, can be a significant financial burden for applicants.

Mrs. Ada said that as soon as the superintendent forwards the documents to HR, which happens very quickly, HR sends the applicant an email with the offer and a list of required documents and steps.

Mr. Ada noted that not all applicants have access to computers or cell phones. He emphasized that his feedback was intended to help HR improve and simplify its processes, not to criticize or chastise staff.

Dr. Guthertz expressed appreciation for HR's efforts and noted that the department may face additional teacher vacancies as more employees retire in September. She emphasized the need to intensify teacher recruitment and asked whether HR would need additional funding to advertise vacancies through local media, including full-page ads in the island's two digital newspapers.

Mrs. Ada confirmed that HR would need a budget.

Dr. Guthertz asked Dr. Won Pat whether GDOE could provide HR with additional funding to cover the cost of the recruitment advertisements.

Dr. Won Pat said the department could allocate additional money upon request, as it had done previously for Board meeting advertisements.

Mrs. Ada confirmed that funding was their only obstacle.

Dr. Guthertz said the superintendent is willing to provide HR with funding for recruitment advertisements and suggested creating an on-site application area where applicants can complete as many requirements as possible with access to computers, forms, and staff assistance. She said this could make the application process easier and more welcoming while reducing delays. She also recognized HR for its efforts in hiring many employees over the summer and supported adding staff if needed to process applications more quickly. Guthertz urged GDOE to expand recruitment outreach through government offices, mayors' offices, the military community, and other channels, emphasizing that increasing public awareness of job opportunities is important. She acknowledged the challenges faced by HR and GDOE and stressed that everyone is working toward the same goal of strengthening the school system.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked that they be provided updated documents at every Board meeting, noting that the previous report listed Machananao Elementary School (MaCHES) as needing two fifth-grade teachers, while the principal clarified that the actual need was one kindergarten teacher. She also questioned how many vacancies had been filled at other schools and emphasized that the Board needs current information and better communication from GDOE rather than relying on outdated reports or blaming principals.

Mrs. Ada explained that vacancies change daily due to hiring, resignations, reassignments, and other operational decisions at schools. She noted that the existing vacancy report quickly becomes outdated and that HR manages staffing and other services for about 3,300 employees. She offered to provide a more detailed and current report based on the Board's needs but cautioned that excessive reporting could take time away from recruitment and other HR responsibilities.

Mrs. Gutierrez said it is the superintendent and deputies' responsibility to provide the Board with updated documents at every meeting, rather than waiting for Board members to request them. She questioned how many of the 105 listed vacancies had been filled and asked for clear updates on remaining positions. She specifically questioned whether all library technician vacancies, which are CBA positions, had been filled and noted that some schools were still waiting for these positions.

Dr. Won Pat responded that paperwork for five schools that had selected and ranked library technician applicants had been completed and signed. The forms were sent back to the schools, with approval to hire the next-ranked candidate if the first choice declined.

Mr. Fedenko asked whether principals can refuse candidates for vacant positions or if they are required to accept whoever is selected.

Dr. Won Pat explained that for vacancies, principals interview applicants and rank their preferred candidates, which are then approved for hiring. For employee transfers, both the outgoing and incoming principals generally must approve the transfer. If either principal objects, both approvals are required before Dr. Won Pat authorizes the transfer.

Mr. Fedenko suggested that principals could be violating the contract by refusing to accept or release an employee who wants to transfer.

Dr. Won Pat explained that she seeks agreement from both the outgoing and incoming principals before approving transfers because she wants to avoid conflicts and generally support employees' transfer requests.

Mr. Fedenko acknowledged that she was trying to keep the peace but argued that the employee's preference should take priority, especially given staffing shortages, and that principals should learn to work together.

Dr. Won Pat said that after discussions with the principals, employee transfers have generally proceeded. She also addressed concerns about delays in interviewing applicants, clarifying that interviews should proceed even if there are only two or one

applicants. If there are no applicants, HR will continue advertising the vacancy until candidates are available.

Mrs. Gutierrez raised concerns about elementary schools using teachers' preparation periods to cover classes because of staffing shortages, noting that elementary schools are short not only teachers but also one-to-one school aides.

Mr. Fedenko commended the practice of allowing teachers to teach during their prep periods but emphasized that elementary schools should receive higher priority because, unlike middle and high schools, it is difficult for elementary teachers to cover additional classes during their preparation time. He asked whether elementary education was being treated as a high priority in addressing the shortages.

Dr. Won Pat acknowledged that elementary teachers do not have prep periods like middle and high school teachers, making classroom coverage more difficult. She explained that principals were asked to establish priorities for who would cover classes, including principals, assistants, or other available staff. She also noted that GDOE has sent central-office personnel to schools to help address shortages. She recalled that when Mr. Wesolowski reported having eight teachers and seven staff members absent, she immediately worked with C&I to identify eight available individuals and sent them to the schools to provide coverage.

Deputy Leon Guerrero, speaking about his time as acting superintendent, explained that employee transfers are not always straightforward. In one case, an employee requested a transfer, but both the losing and gaining principals opposed it, so he chose not to approve the transfer and instead called for further discussion. He emphasized that transfer decisions require consideration of all parties involved. He also defended GDOE's HR staff, noting that approximately 13 employees handle around 5,000 personnel actions each month. He pointed out that the recognized staffing standard is one personnel staff member for every 100 employees, while GDOE has approximately one personnel staff member for every 300 employees, meaning HR is handling about three times the normal workload. Although HR is not perfect, he said the staff is working extremely hard and should be commended. He also noted that long-term workers' compensation, disability, and military absences are contributing to staffing shortages across the district. He added that meeting federal staffing guidelines would require GDOE to double or triple its current HR staffing.

Mr. Fedenko questioned Deputy Leon Guerrero's handling of staffing, warning that failing to fill positions required by the CBA or an IEP could violate contractual obligations and expose GDOE to grievances or lawsuits. He argued that principals should not have the authority to refuse to fill mandated vacancies and that GDOE leadership must ensure required positions are filled, regardless of a principal's preference.

- c. Mayor's Council of Guam (MCOG) – Vice Mayor Pedro Blas emphasized the need to strengthen communication and coordination between GDOE and the Mayors' Council of Guam, particularly regarding school closures, GDOE initiatives, and decisions affecting students, parents, and village communities. He noted that a previously requested meeting with the Superintendent had not occurred due to a communication issue and expressed hope that the relationship could be improved moving forward. He also raised concerns about recent school break-ins at Finegayan

Elementary School (FES) and M.U. Lujan Elementary School (MULES). He asked GDOE to discuss preventive measures, immediate responses and remediation following break-ins, and ways to work with mayors and individual schools to prevent similar incidents in the future. He identified the closure of Tiyan High School (THS) and Simon Sanchez High School (SSHS) as a major concern and said he would wait for the Superintendent's report before discussing the issue further. He explained that the closures have placed additional demands on mayors' offices, which are providing facilities for meal programs, distribution of student packets, and athletic activities. For example, the Yigo gym is being used to support SSHS students, and the SSHS football team has requested use of village facilities for practice. He asked whether GDOE could provide additional maintenance and grounds support when village facilities are being used to accommodate students and school activities because of school closures. Overall, he stressed the importance of stronger GDOE-Mayors' Council collaboration and support as communities continue to address the impacts of school closures.

Dr. Won Pat agreed to strengthen communication with the mayors and said she would reach out to Mayor Alig to schedule a meeting. Regarding the break-ins at FES and MULES, she said GDOE had been asked to clear areas behind the schools and has already included solar lights and security cameras for both schools in its spending plan. She also noted that GPD offered to use a classroom at MULES as a security post, which GDOE agreed to, pending the principal identifying an appropriate classroom. Regarding maintenance support for village sports facilities being used because of school closures, Dr. Won Pat explained that GDOE contracts out its grounds maintenance and would need to discuss whether additional contracted services could be provided. She also indicated that SSHS and THS would be addressed later.

Mr. Ada supported the idea of allowing GPD to use a vacant classroom through a co-bond arrangement. He also suggested considering a similar approach of housing a family in an unused school room, referencing a successful program initiated years ago by Gloria Nelson.

Mrs. Gutierrez clarified that FES had previously provided a room for GPD following a break-in, which helped authorities apprehend four individuals, but GPD did not return and the school was later burglarized again.

Mr. Ada encouraged the Superintendent to consider whether providing housing to a family under clear conditions and responsibilities could be a viable option, noting that circumstances may have changed since the earlier program.

Dr. Won Pat said the proposal to have families or veterans live on school campuses to help monitor and deter break-ins is already under discussion. She noted that she had experienced a similar arrangement at Agueda Johnston Middle School (AIJMS), where a family lived on campus and helped monitor the area. The main hurdle is determining liability, which is being reviewed by legal counsel. She also said the idea was discussed with the Lieutenant Governor and others, including the possibility of veterans exchanging on-campus housing for school monitoring. However, additional considerations include providing apartment-like facilities, such as showers and cooking areas, which may be more challenging at elementary schools. She said more research is needed, but the approach could be an effective deterrent to school break-ins.

Vice Mayor Blas supported exploring the idea but suggested that the Department of Education also consider other security measures, such as cameras and enhanced security systems, before relying on housing families on campuses. He emphasized the need for solutions that address break-ins across all public schools, not just a few locations.

Dr. Okada suggested reviewing GDOE's inventory of riding mowers and bush cutters purchased approximately a year ago to determine whether the equipment can be utilized. She proposed that, if the equipment is not currently needed under school maintenance contracts, it could potentially be loaned to mayors' offices that are assisting schools that are temporarily closed.

Dr. Won Pat highlighted innovative approaches by school principals to retain funds that would normally be spent on private contracts. Some schools have taken on custodial services themselves, allowing the savings to remain with the schools for use toward faculty and staff needs. She also described a previous initiative involving grounds maintenance, where GDOE provided funding and equipment to mayors to maintain schools, but the program ended because the funding was not sufficient. She noted that Mayor Melissa Savares successfully worked with local families and small businesses to maintain schools in her community. She suggested revisiting similar partnerships with the mayors and sharing GDOE's current school grounds maintenance costs to explore more creative and cost-effective options.

Mr. Ada encouraged GDOE to consider hiring local families and small businesses for school grounds maintenance, assigning one school per contractor to keep the work manageable. He noted that many Yigo families already perform bush-cutting work and would have a strong incentive to maintain schools in their community, especially those attended by their children. He also suggested that this approach could help avoid the problems experienced with larger private maintenance contracts.

Mayor Blas clarified that the discussion is related to the closure of SSHS and the community's commitment to supporting the needs of children in Yigo. He emphasized that the mayors are not simply requesting funding to maintain school properties, but are seeking GDOE's assistance with community needs that may arise as a result of a GDOE school closure.

Mr. Ada said FBLGMS was operating very well when he visited on the first day of school. He praised the school's security guard for checking visitors at the entrance, noting that FBLGMS was the only school he visited with front-gate security. He also acknowledged that Southern High School (SHS) has security guards as well.

Mrs. Gutierrez said the discussion should remain focused on the existing grass-cutting contract rather than on whether mayors should be cutting school grounds. She recalled that this issue had previously been raised by Mayor Terlaje and emphasized that GDOE already has vendors under contract to provide the service. Despite this, some principals, particularly in Dededo, continue to contact Mayor Benavente for assistance. She noted that after a previous meeting, Mayor Benavente informed her that Liguán Elementary School, a lead school, had requested that his staff cut its grass. She also questioned the performance of the contracted vendors, recalling an experience at Juan M. Guerrero Elementary School (JMGES) where the principal contacted the landscaping company. Three workers arrived but realized they had

forgotten their string-trimming equipment and said they would return. However, they did not come back even after three days. She said mayors should not be asked to perform work that GDOE is already paying contractors to complete. If vendors are not fulfilling their contracts, she argued that they should be held accountable and should not be paid for unsatisfactory or incomplete work. She also suggested assessing school properties and vendor staffing to determine whether contractors have adequate resources to maintain the grounds properly. She emphasized that the same accountability should apply to all GDOE contracts, noting that the district already holds other contractors accountable when they fail to perform their obligations.

Mayor Terlaje raised two main concerns. First, he said the funding provided to mayors to cut grass at schools is insufficient, especially for municipalities such as Yigo and Dededo that have multiple school facilities. He emphasized that mayors want to support the GDOE, but the current funding does not adequately cover labor and other costs. Second, he stressed the need for better communication between GDOE and the mayors. GDOE decisions directly affect mayors and their communities, yet mayors are sometimes not given information quickly enough to respond to constituents. He noted that mayors have been waiting since April for a meeting with the superintendent and deputy superintendents. Mayor Terlaje called for the mayors and GDOE leadership to meet, discuss community concerns, and agree on appropriate funding and responsibilities, particularly if mayors are expected to participate in school maintenance contracts.

Dr. Guthertz asked Dr. Won Pat to arrange a meeting with GDOE staff and the mayors to address the ongoing concerns.

Dr. Won Pat agreed and said she had previously asked several mayors to relay a request to Mr. Alig for a meeting, but it had not yet occurred. She committed to personally calling him the following morning to arrange the meeting.

Mr. Sablan expressed concern that the meeting had lasted nearly two hours with little progress on the agenda.

Mr. Sablan motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez, to move up Celebrate Success, get into the Superintendent's Report, and then go into Executive Session to address the Superintendent's evaluation

Mrs. Gutierrez stated that Vice Mayor Blas wanted to address the Superintendent's Report and was waiting for that portion of the agenda.

Dr. Guthertz indicated there was no objection to the proposed change, reordered the agenda, and moved the meeting into the Celebrate Success portion.

CELEBRATE SUCCESS - The following were recognized: Carolyn Haruo - 2027 Guam Teacher of the Year, Acie Jo Sablan - 2026 Guam Teacher of the Year, Carmela Vi - 13 years of service with the IAO, Raymond Blas and Joseph Vibar - F&M Retirees.

Mr. Sablan disclosed that one of the individuals being recognized was his daughter. He clarified that he had no involvement in the decision to award her the certificate and that the recognition was solely at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Mrs. Gutierrez, speaking as a member of the Audit Committee, congratulated Carmela on her promotion to Chief Auditor. She noted that the Department of Administration recognized Carmela's capabilities and the value of her work. Mrs. Gutierrez also expressed regret that she and her colleagues were unable to secure the implementation of pay parity, adding that the department would ultimately bear the consequences.

V. Unfinished Business/Committee Reports

a. Superintendent's Report

- i. Opening of the SY26-27 - Dr. Won Pat reported that GDOE successfully opened all schools for the 2026–27 school year on August 10 and ended the double-session schedules at FBLGMS and SSHS despite significant teacher shortages. To address staffing gaps, GDOE conducted ongoing personnel audits to identify schools with staffing needs and opportunities for reassignment. GDOE also allowed teacher preparation staff to provide additional instructional coverage, helping ensure that classes remained staffed. In addition, Operation Guardian was launched to assign GDOE personnel to classrooms experiencing teacher shortages, while attendance officers and social workers were mobilized to support school safety, welcoming, and student and family needs. GDOE also continued the process of hiring retired and substitute teachers, along with recruiting certified teachers and school aides to fill remaining vacancies. During a needs-and-solutions discussion with middle school principals on August 13, major concerns included shortages of personnel for special needs students, teacher burnout and growing recruitment challenges, and busing delays that affected student dismissal, extended supervision, and compensation. Despite these challenges, the first four days of school showed positive results, with students being welcomed with care, enthusiasm, and smiles, while schools generally demonstrated safety, orderliness, and a climate of belonging. GDOE welcomed approximately 21,605 students from Pre-K through Grade 12.
- ii. FBLG and SSHS Report - For FBLGMS and SSHS, the occupancy permit was completed and approved by Public Health on August 6. Phase 2, which included the installation of 42 locksets and white plexiglass for whiteboards, was expected to be completed by August 19. Phase 3 involves the construction of 20 classrooms on the Guam Housing Corporation property. Once Phase 3 is completed, the plan is for SSHS to relocate to that new facility. An unannounced Public Health inspection of THS and SSHS on August 12 resulted in 50 demerits and a Grade D, requiring the campus to close. Core Tech and GDOE began addressing the violations, with more than 100 workers mobilized over the weekend. During the closure, instruction will continue through asynchronous learning and physical learning packets. Packets will be distributed through Grab-and-Go, and social workers will deliver them to students without transportation. THS will use two classrooms at Guam Community College to accommodate students with special needs and provide necessary special education services. SSHS will continue communicating with parents and providing learning packets, while GDOE is also discussing with DLPES the possibility of mobilizing additional staff and aides to support students.

- iii. Strategic Plan - Dr. Won Pat reported that the Strategic Plan Steering Committee members were appointed on July 28, 2026, along with their respective responsibilities. From July through August, the committee was launched and facilitator training was conducted. From August through September, the committee will review and close out the 2022–2027 State Strategic Plan through an organizational assessment, which will involve gathering, analyzing, and interpreting relevant information. Facilitator training was scheduled for August 26, 2026.
- iv. Consolidated Grant - Dr. Won Pat reported that USDOE approved GDOE's request for late liquidation of the CG 2023 award. Accounting has requested to draw the remaining balance of approximately \$587,000, which is pending Internal Audit review and approval. Once Tiffany Forrester, the last remaining USDOE employee to be released, unlocks the G5 system, GDOE will be able to draw down the funds. For CG 2024, the deadline to obligate funds is September 30, 2026, and the final deadline to liquidate obligations, complete payments, and draw down funds is February 1, 2027. As of August 13, 2026, the estimated G5 balance was \$23.2 million, including salaries and indirect costs (IDC). Of this amount, \$5.8 million is in existing purchase orders, while \$11.6 million is in pending requisitions awaiting procurement and conversion to purchase orders. A full consolidated grant report link was also expected to be delivered on August 14.

Dr. Won Pat reported that GDOE's Internal Audit Office requested reconsideration of the auditors' salary parity realignment to align with auditor positions at the Guam Office of Public Accountability. She said Report 26-07A, dated April 29, 2026, is being reviewed, with the Superintendent's final analysis and recommendation expected by September 30, 2026.

Dr. Won Pat reported that the textbook audit report, issued in March 2026, remains in the implementation phase. Management's response has been incorporated into the final report, and the remaining step is to submit a corrective action plan addressing each recommendation, responsible personnel, and timelines. The Internal Audit Office will monitor progress and provide updates to the Superintendent and Board.

Mr. Sablan expressed concern about the lack of transparency regarding GDOE operations and legislative decisions. He said the Board had not been adequately informed about the reopening timelines for THS and SSHS, SIFA's relocation plans, additional classrooms at SSHS, or recent budget amendments. He also questioned who authorized SIFA's move to Chief Brodie Memorial Elementary School (CBMES), raised concerns about the bus schedule and students' lengthy travel times, and warned of potential liability if a student were harmed while traveling home. He further questioned how the proposed transfer of GDOE's finance section to DOA came about and urged Dr. Won Pat to provide the Board with updates rather than having members learn about important matters through the media.

Dr. Won Pat acknowledged Mr. Sablan's lengthy list of concerns and asked him to address each issue individually so she could respond to each one.

Mr. Sablan stated that Core Tech was working on THS and SSHS.

Dr. Won Pat said a meeting was held Friday morning with Mr. Ho, his construction team, his attorney Joyce Tang, GDOE's three attorneys, the two school principals, her deputies, and a few Board members.

Mr. Sablan noted that he attended but excused himself based on legal counsel's advice.

Dr. Won Pat reported that discussions regarding SSHS and THS focused on clarifying responsibility for long-standing repair and maintenance issues. Deputy Ulloa-Heath prepared a responsibility matrix based on the contract, and the attorneys will review the contract to determine each party's obligations. Meanwhile, Mr. Ho mobilized more than 100 workers to address the 50 health inspection demerits, including air conditioning, restroom, and electrical issues. Public Health inspectors clarified the specific repairs required, including replacing stained floor tiles, repairing uneven wall surfaces, and replacing water-damaged ceiling tiles. Air conditioning concerns included keeping classroom units running 24/7 and addressing high temperature and humidity in storage areas. Mr. Kim indicated that some repairs may not be the contractor's responsibility if they were caused by vandalism or abuse. In those cases, GDOE may have to cover the costs, and the contractor would require written authorization before proceeding. Deputy Leon Guerrero, is sending a letter directing the contractor to proceed with work within the limits of the contract while responsibility and costs are being clarified. The goal is to complete the repairs within about a week.

Mr. Sablan asked how GDOE would address deficiencies that Core Tech is not responsible for if Public Health requires all deficiencies to be corrected, and what alternative options exist.

Dr. Won Pat explained that GDOE is addressing and providing materials for the deficiencies within its responsibility, with staff mobilized to mitigate them. However, Core Tech must determine how it will address deficiencies under its responsibility. She clarified that this does not mean there is no funding issue; rather, she said the request from Core Tech amounts to asking GDOE for a "blank check."

Mr. Sablan then questioned how GDOE would fund the deficiencies Core Tech does not correct.

Dr. Won Pat said that once the billing is received, she will send it to the Legislature. She also requested that the Attorney General review the matter because it was learned that the school property is owned by Phoenix IDA, a nonprofit organization, rather than Core Tech. Phoenix IDA has contracted Core Tech to provide maintenance services for the school.

Mr. Sablan questioned whether it took viral photos from students for the Department of Education to recognize serious problems at the schools, including malfunctioning doors, termites, and inoperable toilets. He pointed out that on August 7, he was told that the schools were 100% ready to open, despite his asking what the plan B would be if problems arose. He said no backup plan was provided, leaving students to rely on grab-and-go meals and pick up assignments from various locations after two schools were forced to close. He called the situation unacceptable and said he had received calls and messages from members of the public who blamed the Board for failing to hold Dr. Won Pat accountable. He also raised concerns about Southern High School, while acknowledging that facilities staff were working hard to address the deficiencies. He questioned how schools could be declared 100% ready to open only to shut down three days later, and said the relocation of SHS students may have exposed problems at THS that otherwise might not have been discovered until the sanitary permit was due for renewal on August 21.

Dr. Won Pat said she was not going to argue with Mr. Sablan, agreeing that the issue was only now being discovered and that the principals were aware of it.

Mr. Sablan asked when she knew.

Dr. Won Pat said it was on the day of the scheduled inspection.

Mr. Sablan questioned why she had previously stated that the schools were "100% ready."

Dr. Won Pat explained that the schools had completed readiness checklists, which the administration relied on in good faith.

Mr. Sablan questioned why Dr. Won Pat said the principals "will" be held accountable when the issue had already occurred and the school was shut down.

Dr. Won Pat confirmed that they would be held accountable and questioned whether Mr. Sablan was dictating what accountability should entail.

Mr. Sablan told Dr. Won Pat that she doesn't even know when the damn school is going to open again.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the delay was due to the work that needed to be completed.

Mr. Sablan expressed his frustration and apologized.

Dr. Guthertz reminded Mr. Sablan to watch his language.

Mr. Sablan said there was nothing he said that was out of order and questioned the department's handling of the SIFA relocation. He pointed

out that on August 7, the acting superintendent reported that work was underway at George Washington High School (GWHS) because SIFA was expected to move in. Less than an hour later, however, it was announced that SIFA would not be moving into GWHS. He questioned how everything could have changed so quickly and why the acting superintendent and department officials were not informed or instructed to stop the work. He also questioned how a senator could announce that SIFA would instead move into CBMES, a GDOE property, without the superintendent's knowledge or approval.

Dr. Won Pat explained that she was not present when the decision was made. She said her deputies had approached the GWHS principal about potentially renting vacant classrooms to SIFA as a way to generate funding for school facilities and maintenance. SIFA initially requested 20 classrooms, but the principal said only 16 were available because four were needed for SPED. The following day, the principal said teachers were willing to move and requested several improvements to the school, along with four 40-foot storage containers for materials currently stored in the classrooms. Department staff began assessing the work and materials needed, but shortly afterward they were told the school no longer wanted to proceed. Dr. Won Pat said the department then sought a meeting with the principal, but the situation quickly escalated and was brought to the attention of multiple people and the media.

Mr. Sablan noted that the Board was not invited to the meeting and explained that the media and public questioned the Board's absence.

Dr. Won Pat said she was unsure who sent the invitation but understood that the meeting had been arranged with GDOE regarding the affected teachers, whose numbers turned out to be higher than initially expected.

Mr. Sablan added that he was unaware of the meeting and did not know whether the other Board members were aware of it.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the matter was an operational decision rather than a Board decision, which was why the Board was not invited. She added that GDOE did not issue the invitations and that they were only asked to attend to address the affected teachers.

Mr. Sablan accused Dr. Won Pat of continuing to rely on the "operations" explanation, stating that on August 7, shortly after their meeting, breaking news reported that SIFA would not be moving in, which he believed she already knew about.

Dr. Guthertz clarified that Mr. Sablan had previously raised concerns about whether it was legally permissible for GDOE to lease its property to SIFA. She agreed that the question needed to be answered before proceeding and supported obtaining a legal opinion. She explained that GDOE had offered space to help SIFA students after they were unable to secure space at GCC, with the superintendent and management team identifying potential GDOE facilities. However, the proposal became controversial, and

she learned of the concerns through the media. Ultimately, the effort did not move forward because current law does not give GDOE the authority to lease the property in this situation; that authority belongs to a newly established commission. She said a legislative amendment would therefore be needed and noted that Dr. Won Pat may be working with the Senate Education Committee to address the issue.

Mr. Sablan questioned who decided that SIFA would not move in on August 10, noting that the superintendent had already signed a contract despite his warning about applicable public law.

Dr. Guthertz said she believed the decision resulted from their meeting, where concerns were raised about whether they had the legal authority to proceed. She stated that without confirmation of legal authority, they could not move forward.

Mr. Sablan questioned whether the superintendent knew about Senator Borja's announcement that SIFA would move into the unused CBMES facility or whether the senator made the arrangement independently. While expressing support for charter schools, he raised concerns about students being repeatedly relocated, first to GWHS and then potentially to CBMES after the GWHS lease was determined to be illegal. He also questioned whether the move to CBMES had actually been finalized and emphasized that Public Law 38-66 still needed to be followed. He noted that the superintendent had acknowledged seeking a budget amendment to bypass the law, but he was unsure whether that amendment had been approved.

Dr. Guthertz emphasized that she clearly stated during the meeting that SIFA could not proceed without legal guidance.

Mr. Sablan argued that the superintendent should publicly explain to Senator Borja that, although the school wants to accommodate SIFA, CBMES cannot simply be given the facility because a legal process must be followed.

Dr. Guthertz noted that Senator Borja is trying to develop legislation to address the matter and said she believed Dr. Won Pat had already communicated the need to follow the legal process.

Dr. Won Pat agreed with Mr. Sablan's concern and explained that, while public law permits the leasing of decommissioned schools, the Board also has Policy 620 allowing GDOE to rent individual classrooms. Because the legal requirements for leasing entire facilities were still being addressed, GDOE used Policy 620 as a temporary solution and charged SIFA \$1,500 per classroom, based on a \$50-per-day rate. This arrangement was intended to last only until an amendment could allow schools such as CBMES and LBJES to be leased using the prevailing square-footage rate. She added that the budget bill containing this language was vetoed, although the same language remains in the budget bill currently with the governor.

Mr. Sablan said that was Dr. Won Pat's vehicle that would allow CBMES and other decommissioned schools to be leased.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the Board considered three possible vehicles for leasing the facilities: the budget bill, the enacted budget law introduced by Senator San Agustin, and Board Policy 620. They ultimately chose to use Board Policy 620 because it already provided a specific rental rate for the facilities.

Mr. Sablan asked Dr. Won Pat whether there had been any communication with SIFA, the senator, or her regarding the status of CBMES.

Dr. Won Pat said that while she was off-island, she received a message regarding discussions between Mr. Ravela and a senator recommending CBMES as the facility for SIFA, which led to a request for an amendment. However, due to objections from some senators, concerns about potential litigation, and questions on the Board's legal authority to proceed, the decision was made not to move SIFA into GWHS and instead return to the previous arrangement.

Mr. Sablan expressed concern that SIFA students were left waiting without knowing where they would attend school.

Dr. Won Pat shared the concern, emphasizing that all students are considered their children regardless of whether they attend Catholic, charter, or public schools.

Mr. Sablan stressed that they must do it legally.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the requested amendment had passed and remained intact at the Governor's Office, where the Governor indicated she had no objection to the Board's requests. She also discussed concerns about transferring GDOE's Accounting Office and federal grant programs, emphasizing that she sought to prevent the transfer due to uncertainty over funding and potential loss of control over federal funds. The Senator supported her position, and the Governor agreed that removing the provision was not a deal breaker.

Mr. Sablan emphasized that the priority is protecting SIFA students from being repeatedly displaced.

Dr. Won Pat agreed.

Mr. Sablan stressed that any solution must follow the law to ensure students are not later removed from a school because adults rushed the process without following proper legal procedures.

Dr. Won Pat explained that they were currently relying on Board Policy 620 until the Governor signs the proposed legislation, after which the district could negotiate a different rate.

Mr. Sablan questioned whether Board Policy 620 could be used when Public Law 38-66, enacted in November 2025, specifically addresses the use of unused classrooms. He stressed that Board policy cannot trump public law.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the law requires the Triple-A process, which had been completed years earlier under Mr. Fernandez. The committee recommended keeping the existing dollar amount in the Board's policy rather than changing it, since changing the amount would require repeating the process.

Mr. Sablan noted that this was why an amendment was requested in the budget bill, and expressed concern about how long SIFA students would remain out of the classroom.

Dr. Won Pat added that she was working with legal counsel on the MOA to ensure it complies with both Board policy and the budget law. She said the governor had indicated she had no concerns with the language and expressed hope that the measure would not be vetoed, particularly because it had a veto-proof vote.

Mr. Sablan raised concerns about the THS and SSHS traffic and school bus situation, noting that GDOE depends on having enough buses and drivers to transport students. He acknowledged that Deputy Leon Guerrero was working on the issue.

Dr. Won Pat said she had reviewed the requests submitted by the two principals, including a request to relocate the sentry post at the entrance near Tiyan.

Dr. Guthertz confirmed that it was being worked on now.

Dr. Won Pat provided updates on traffic access and school transportation, citing Mr. Vince Arriola regarding ongoing improvements. One proposed access point had been removed, while the area at the tri-intersection was being smoothed out to create an entrance and exit and reduce congestion. Mr. Arriola also indicated that another access route near the post office was being developed, although it would take longer because a Navy fuel line underneath the area requires additional support for vehicles and buses. Regarding school buses, she explained that transportation officials are still dealing with shortages of buses and drivers and need time to adjust to the new routes and schedules. The double-session schedule had made transportation easier because the same drivers could cover morning and afternoon runs. She also addressed a recent incident in which a bus could not travel up a steep hill, requiring students to briefly walk up the hill before being picked up. She explained that GDOE cannot easily supplement regular transportation because its available buses are specially equipped for students with disabilities and wheelchairs and do not have enough capacity to transport larger groups of students.

Mr. Sablan questioned whether adjusting bell schedules could help alleviate the school bus shortage, particularly since JFK continues to start at 5:30 a.m. despite no longer sharing the facility with SSHS students during the morning.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the current staggered schedules were requested by the principals to prevent SSHS and THS students from arriving at the same time. She acknowledged that JFK's early start time could be reconsidered and said she had raised the issue with Deputy Quitugua, who could discuss possible changes with DPW.

Mr. Sablan questioned why JFK could not adjust its schedule now that the other schools were no longer using the facility, noting that the earlier schedule had previously been workable. He recommended considering staggered start times for THS and SSHS to help alleviate bus scheduling challenges and heavy traffic. He suggested having one school start later than the other so that buses, parents, and student traffic would not converge at the same time, reducing congestion around the shared location.

Dr. Won Pat agreed that was a good recommendation, and they will have that conversation with DPW.

Mr. Sablan asked about using GHURA apartment units as classrooms, noting that the apartments are not currently zoned for school use.

Dr. Won Pat said she had requested an amendment to the budget law to allow schools to use the same provisions previously applied to the Guam Housing Corporation.

Mr. Sablan believed it failed, while Dr. Won Pat understood that it passed and was now part of the bill before the Governor. She said she would confirm the status with Senator Muna-Barnes.

Mr. Sablan cautioned against believing everything reported in the media. He clarified that a photo described as a termite mound was actually an anthill located in the staff office, not in any classroom or restroom, and that the issue had already been addressed weeks before. He told her she knows how perception is.

Dr. Won Pat explained that some photos and reports being shared were inaccurate or outdated. She noted that a reported sewage issue was actually a water leak, while a rat photo from SSHS was a year old but appeared to be recent when posted. She emphasized that Public Health must investigate complaints, including anonymous reports, but expressed concern that some individuals sensationalize issues and create a negative perception of the department.

Mr. Sablan asked whether there were any results from the SHS inspection.

Dr. Won Pat said she learned that morning that the admiral and his team had visited Southern High School the previous afternoon without notifying her. Neither the principal nor the assistant principal called to inform her or the district, and she only became aware of the visit after receiving a message from Senator Borja. She planned to meet with the admiral the following day, along with district personnel, to discuss the visit. During a meeting with the CODEL (congressional delegation), she and Dr. Guthertz raised concerns about the age and condition of the district's school facilities and appealed for federal financial assistance to replace older school buildings. One congresswoman also requested information on the condition of the schools. She emphasized that the district's budget request was not a wish list but focused on essential, legislatively mandated expenses. The priorities included funding all personnel, all CBA positions, and non-negotiable expenses such as utilities and existing contracts.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked whether Vice Mayor Blas was present to ask questions regarding the Superintendent's Report.

Dr. Won Pat said she could meet with him later.

Mrs. Gutierrez raised concerns about school readiness, legal oversight, transportation, communication, and facility conditions. She questioned why no legal counsel was present at the August 7 meeting and recommended having legal representation at every Board meeting. She also emphasized that SOP 17-006 should guide school readiness, but said readiness reports appeared inaccurate based on problems she personally observed at schools. She highlighted late school buses, which can result in students arriving home around 6:00 p.m., and raised concerns about student safety and overtime for school aides who remain after hours because of transportation delays. She stressed the need for better communication and transparency with parents, mayors, teachers, and other stakeholders, particularly regarding the closures of SSHS and THS, Grab-and-Go meal locations, and remote-learning resources. Regarding the strategic plan, she questioned whether stakeholders were involved from the beginning. She specifically recommended that Mr. Torres, the parent representative, be provided with a list of schools that have Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTOs) so those PTOs can be actively involved in the planning process. She also challenged the claim that schools were 100% ready, citing unsafe restroom conditions and reports of 37 classrooms without air conditioning at OHS. Finally, she requested a special meeting before September 15 to address unresolved school conditions, vacant positions, and the status of SSHS and THS.

Dr. Won Pat said GDOE quickly arranged Grab-and-Go meals after the school closures while ensuring compliance with federal requirements. Mr. Monforte and his team worked to meet those requirements and secure distribution locations. Ms. Masnayan, the principal, contacted the mayor to request use of the Yigo facility, while the mayor's staff, community aides, and GDOE personnel helped distribute the meals. She said GDOE's PIO shared the Grab-and-Go information across its media platforms within 12 hours, with the post reaching approximately 20,000 people. Social workers

also helped identify students without transportation and offered to deliver food to families. Regarding the strategic plan, she clarified that the steering committee includes members outside GDOE and said Dr. Ulloa-Heath could provide a list of the individuals involved.

Mr. Sablan asked whether the closures of THS and SSHS would affect the required 180 instructional days

Dr. Won Pat said it was too early to request a waiver because teachers were continuing to provide instruction through Google Classroom, so the closure still counts as instructional time for now. A waiver may be needed if instruction can no longer be provided.

Mr. Sablan said that it would depend on how long Core Tech and GDOE personnel take to complete the necessary mitigation of the demerits and when Public Health clears the schools for reopening.

Dr. Won Pat said GDOE and Core Tech were looking at no more than 10 days to complete the necessary mitigation work. However, Public Health advised that because the schools were closed, the inspection process would restart from zero once they were ready for reinspection. She emphasized that all identified demerits would be addressed.

Mr. Sablan urged GDOE to think outside the box and expedite the repairs, including considering having Core Tech work 24 hours while the schools are closed and paying GDOE staff overtime to support the accelerated repair effort.

Dr. Won Pat said Core Tech had offered to mobilize up to 300 workers and had already deployed about 125, with crews working on weekends.

Mr. Sablan urged the department to expedite the repairs so students can return to their classrooms as soon as possible.

Dr. Won Pat emphasized that GDOE had stressed the urgency because the loss of instructional time cannot be measured in dollars.

Mr. Sablan also raised concerns that some teachers or staff may have received three to four fewer days of pay due to the Board-approved school-year schedule.

Mr. Fedenko confirmed there were complaints.

Dr. Won Pat clarified that, based on her past experience, the issue may involve the timing of paychecks rather than an actual loss of salary, with payments adjusted or caught up later in the school year.

Mr. Sablan clarified that employees were concerned about losing pay over the next five-year calendar schedule.

Mr. Fedenko explained that the new five-year calendar shifts the school days by a few days each year, which may continue to raise questions.

Dr. Won Pat confirmed that there will be no loss of salary.

Mr. Sablan suggested communicating this clearly to employees.

Dr. Won Pat agreed and said GDOE would consider issuing a notice and sending letters to teachers to explain the situation.

Mr. Torres urged GDOE to proactively develop contingency plans in case the school cannot reopen following the 10-day re-inspection. He expressed concern that relying too heavily on asynchronous learning and instructional packets may not provide sufficient learning, particularly for SSHS students, noting that his own children attend the school. He asked that backup plans be prepared in advance so parents and teachers can be informed and any transition can occur smoothly.

Dr. Won Pat confirmed that contingency options had already been discussed on Friday with Mr. Torres, Mr. Fedenko, and the two school principals. One option was island-wide redistricting of high school students, which could result in approximately 1,900 students per high school. Another option was returning to a double-session schedule. Dr. Won Pat noted that additional alternatives had also been discussed and asked Mr. Fedenko to recall another proposal.

Mr. Fedenko said asynchronous learning is not supported by teachers or parents and should only continue temporarily while the school's reopening is being addressed. He noted that limited access to computers has also made asynchronous learning less effective than it was during COVID-19. He emphasized the need to return students to classrooms and identified redistricting, double sessions, or continued asynchronous learning as the main options. For double sessions, he identified THS and GWHS, as well as SSHS and OHS, as the schools that could be paired to accommodate students, with FBLGMS no longer being part of the arrangement and students potentially returning to the North District.

Mr. Torres acknowledged that double sessions could result in some lost instructional time but believed they would provide more meaningful learning than asynchronous education. He stressed the need to prepare for a quick transition if the school cannot reopen after the 10-day period and asked whether the 10 days referred to calendar days or weekdays, noting that it could mean the following Monday.

Dr. Won Pat said a principal also suggested bringing all high school principals together to review the different options and present their recommendations to the Board.

Dr. Okada emphasized the need for GDOE to proactively assess all schools, particularly leased facilities, by identifying repair responsibilities between GDOE and landlords and exploring temporary variances for non-health-and-safety deficiencies to avoid last-minute inspection issues. She also called for updated spending plans, noting the \$26 million allocation that

was reduced to approximately \$8–9 million and the \$51–52 million allocation that remains available, as well as a review of how much funding is currently available for repairs. She noted that a previous HFM assessment estimated more than \$200 million in needed school repairs and recommended prioritizing those repairs based on public health inspections and regularly presenting the needs to the Legislature until the backlog is addressed. She also stressed the importance of developing a continuity-of-operations plan that includes contingency plans for school closures, learning loss, instructional materials, and makeup time rather than waiting until the end of the school year. Finally, she urged GDOE to plan ahead for leased schools whose agreements expire in 2027, including determining required repairs and future use. Regarding CBMES, she noted that the current request covers four months and stressed that GDOE must determine what will happen if the need extends beyond four months or the academic year. She also emphasized that any continued use of CBMES or another facility must eventually follow a competitive procurement process.

Dr. Guthertz raised the possibility of using available space as a temporary location for SSHS and THS.

Dr. Won Pat noted that it's an elementary school facility that had been visited and was in a very bad shape.

Dr. Okada emphasized the need for a long-term strategy, including maintaining a designated backup school or facility that could be used when schools require renovations or cannot operate.

Dr. Guthertz suggested repairing THS so it could serve as the system-wide backup school, allowing schools to relocate there one at a time during renovations. She noted that THS was originally intended to serve this purpose as a backup facility.

Dr. Won Pat agreed that this was the original plan but explained that the challenge is that a backup school cannot remain open and maintained indefinitely without being actively used.

Dr. McNinch recommended that the government consider a broader reorganization of education over the next several months, including addressing space and facility issues across multiple education systems rather than treating them solely as GDOE concerns. In the short term, he suggested exploring whether the University of Guam has available space that could temporarily accommodate students and recommended using the Joint Education Board process under 17 GCA § 16A to determine what resources or flexibility may be available.

Dr. Guthertz questioned whether UOG had space.

Dr. McNinch emphasized that the option should still be explored because available resources may not be known.

Dr. Guthertz concluded that the Board had identified several important options and needed to move forward despite the challenges. She noted that GDOE attorneys were scheduled to meet the following morning and suggested involving the Attorney General as well, particularly in light of concerns raised during the meeting.

Mr. Sablan said the Board was surprised to learn that a nonprofit, reportedly called Phoenix, had taken over Core Tech's contract for THS approximately six years ago. He said Mr. Ho indicated that his company receives about \$40,000 per month from the nonprofit to maintain THS but is reportedly losing money on the arrangement. They questioned the implications of the transfer, particularly because members were unaware of the nonprofit's involvement and were told that CoreTech may no longer be responsible for maintaining THS.

Dr. Won Pat clarified that GEDA had provided only an amendment reflecting the change from Core Tech to Phoenix, while the original contract remained unchanged. She explained that questions about the government's responsibility had been raised, but the matter was ultimately referred back to the Legislature based on the Organic Act and local law.

Dr. Guthertz said the situation seemed "funny" and expressed concern about what she was hearing.

Mrs. Gutierrez recalled that when GDOE moved from Hagåtña, the Board was not provided the THS contract because it was handled by the administration or GEDA. She said the Board had only been given an MOU involving GACs, which she refused to sign because the Board was not responsible for the facility.

Dr. Guthertz said she wanted the Attorney General, Mr. Moylan, involved in the upcoming legal meeting to protect the interests of Guam and determine how the contract change affects GDOE and public funds. She also questioned whether the nonprofit involved was properly registered with Revenue and Taxation, noting that she could not find it on the nonprofit registry and felt that something was not right.

Mr. Sablan then returned to possible options for students, including redistricting and double sessions, and asked whether Dr. Won Pat had met with the military - CODEL.

Dr. Won Pat said yes.

Mr. Sablan proposed asking the military to temporarily allow Guam to use part of the "Big, Beautiful Building" on Camp Blaz to house students from Simon Sanchez High School while the new school is being completed. He noted that the facility is not fully occupied and that the military may not use the entire building until around 2030 or later. He suggested that, if the goal is truly to support Guam's children, it is worth asking whether part of the building could be made available. He recommended that the superintendent immediately send a letter to the appropriate military

leadership requesting use of the facility, without waiting for a formal Board resolution. Dr. Guthertz agreed that the request could be followed by a Board resolution to reinforce it.

Dr. Guthertz agreed that the request could be followed by a Board resolution to reinforce it.

Mr. Ada suggested first approaching the military informally to discuss temporarily using a facility for SSHS students until the new school is completed and occupied. He recommended providing a clear timeframe to reassure them that the arrangement would only be temporary.

Dr. Guthertz noted that the military might have another facility available.

Both agreed that they should make the effort to find a workable solution for the students.

Mrs. Gutierrez suggested that Dr. Guthertz and Dr. Won Pat follow up with the military contacts they met at the conference or roundtable. She noted that Camp Blaz has numerous buildings and ongoing construction and encouraged them to reach out directly to ask whether a facility could be made available for the school's needs.

Dr. Guthertz explained that she and Dr. Won Pat were invited with only a few days' notice to participate in a one-hour U.S. House Education Committee hearing. Her testimony focused on leveraging the military buildup to gain greater support for Guam's educational institutions—GDOE, GCC, and UOG—including encouraging the military to hire qualified local graduates and support Guam's public school system. She said Dr. Won Pat emphasized the military's "One Island, One People" motto and challenged the military to reconsider having separate on-base schools for military dependents, advocating instead for one school system serving the entire island. Dr. Guthertz also raised concerns about the repeated questioning of the citizenship of people in Guam and other U.S. territories. She emphasized Guam's longstanding patriotism and military service since 1898, calling such actions insulting and hurtful. She said the testimony also served as an opportunity to educate federal officials about Guam's history and the needs of its people.

Dr. Won Pat emphasized the need to harden and strengthen all GDOE schools, citing Guam's strategic position as the "tip of the spear." She explained that GDOE schools serve as both designated bomb shelters and emergency shelters during typhoons, making improved infrastructure and additional funding essential for civilian protection.

Dr. Guthertz supported the point, noting that federal officials were not aware of Guam's lack of adequate civilian civil defense facilities. She stressed that schools and their power systems play a critical role in protecting the civilian community during emergencies, including war, typhoons, and earthquakes.

Mr. Fedenko requested clarification on what would happen after the two-week deadline for addressing the school situation. He asked whether the administration would move to Plan A, Plan B, redistricting, double sessions, or continue asynchronous learning, and whether the superintendent had the authority to make those decisions or whether the Board needed to formally act. He suggested that, if Board action were required, an emergency meeting should be scheduled within two weeks so decisions could be made promptly. He also urged the Board to clarify the role of the attorneys, the use of the alternative facility, and the overall timeline so efforts and resources would not be wasted.

Dr. Guthertz agreed that the Board should meet again within 10 days to assess progress and determine a clear direction.

Mrs. Gutierrez stressed that the Board needs to meet again because not all schools are fully ready to reopen, particularly due to staffing shortages and unfilled teacher positions. She called for an update on how many teachers and school vacancies remain and emphasized the need to clarify Plans A, B, and C.

Dr. Okada noted that if the situation is considered an emergency, the Board could meet sooner than 10 days.

Dr. Won Pat proposed September 1 for the next meeting, based on AO Kat's ability to submit a public notice advertisement by Thursday, August 20.

Dr. Okada urged the Board to hold an emergency meeting the following week, noting that the 10-day timeframe would already be reached by the following Monday. She stressed that the Board should know by Friday what action would be taken or meet Monday to address the situation.

Mr. Sablan supported an emergency meeting, particularly because a legal claim had reportedly been filed regarding a Simon Sanchez High School student with special education needs. He emphasized the need for the Board and GDOE to respond to the claim as soon as possible and avoid delays that could lead to further legal action.

Dr. Guthertz proposed recessing the meeting and reconvening on Monday at 1:00 p.m. rather than scheduling a separate emergency meeting.

Dr. McNinch supported continuing the existing meeting through a recess since the discussion was already on the agenda.

Dr. Guthertz also requested that Plan B be prepared.

Dr. Won Pat said she would meet with the principals the next day to obtain updated information on the status of SSHS and THS and keep the Board informed.

- b. Executive Committee – Not discussed
- c. Instructional & Academic Support – Not discussed
 - i. August Head Start Report
- d. Safe & Healthy School Committee – Not discussed
 - i. Security Concerns
- e. Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee - Not discussed
 - i. BP 379.1 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy
- f. Fiscal Management Committee - Not discussed
 - i. GDOE Financial Report
 - i) Accounts Payable Aging Report
 - ii) Declaration of Financial Status Designation
 - iii) Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2026
 - iv) Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2026
 - ii. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report
- g. Legislative Committee - Not discussed
 - i. Legislative Proposals Introduced

- VI. New Business
- VII. Executive Session
- VIII. Celebrate Success
- IX. Public Participation
- X. Announcements & Adjournment

Dr. Guthertz said the meeting was formally recessed until Monday, August 24, at 1:00 p.m. to continue reviewing the status of SSHS, THS, and other facilities on the agenda.

The Board recessed at 6:48 pm.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:



KATHLEEN LAMORENA
 Administrative Officer

Date: September 10, 2026

MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING:

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



JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DRA
 GEB Chair

Date: Sep 15/26



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

Date: 9-15-26

**GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09**



Introduced by:

Guam Education Board Members

**RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING AND AUTHORIZING THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S
APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR)
FIX IN SIX FUNDING FOR THE HARDENING AND RESILIENCY OF GDOE EMERGENCY SHELTERS
AND FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) operates public school facilities that serve not only as educational institutions, but also as emergency evacuation shelters and critical community facilities during typhoons and other disasters affecting the island of Guam; and

WHEREAS, Typhoon Mawar caused widespread damage to public facilities throughout Guam in May 2023 and demonstrated the importance of ensuring that emergency shelter facilities are capable of safely and continuously supporting residents during severe weather events and extended utility disruptions; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has made Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding available to Guam to address disaster-related unmet recovery needs and increase the long-term resilience of affected communities; and

WHEREAS, the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA) is administering the **Fix In Six** program as part of Guam's CDBG-DR recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, GDOE has identified public school facilities designated under its Emergency Response Plan for use as emergency evacuation shelters and has determined that improvements to these facilities will strengthen Guam's ability to provide safe and reliable shelter during future disasters; and

WHEREAS, proposed shelter-hardening activities may include, as determined eligible and necessary through site assessments and project development, improvements to emergency electrical and generator systems, automatic transfer and switchgear systems, protected fuel systems, emergency water storage and distribution, roofing and building-envelope systems, drainage, ventilation and HVAC systems, accessibility, life-safety systems, security, and other improvements necessary to improve facility resilience and continuity of shelter operations; and

WHEREAS, these investments are intended to reduce vulnerability to future disasters, improve continuity of essential shelter services during prolonged utility outages, protect public investments, and enhance the health and safety of students, employees, shelter occupants, and the broader community; and

WHEREAS, GDOE will coordinate proposed CDBG-DR activities with FEMA Public Assistance, insurance proceeds, and any other federal, territorial, or local funding sources to prevent duplication of benefits and ensure that CDBG-DR funds are applied only to eligible and documented unmet recovery needs; and

WHEREAS, the Guam Education Board recognizes that strengthening GDOE facilities used as emergency shelters is consistent with the Department's responsibility to protect its students, employees, facilities, and communities and to support Guam's overall disaster preparedness, recovery, and resilience.

**GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Guam Education Board hereby supports and approves the Guam Department of Education's participation in the **CDBG-DR Fix In Six Program** and the submission of applications for eligible projects to harden, improve, and increase the resilience of GDOE facilities designated for use as emergency evacuation shelters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Education, or the Superintendent's authorized designee(s), is hereby authorized to prepare, submit, certify, amend, and execute applications, supporting documents, certifications, agreements, and other materials necessary for GDOE to seek and administer CDBG-DR Fix In Six funding, consistent with applicable federal and territorial requirements; and

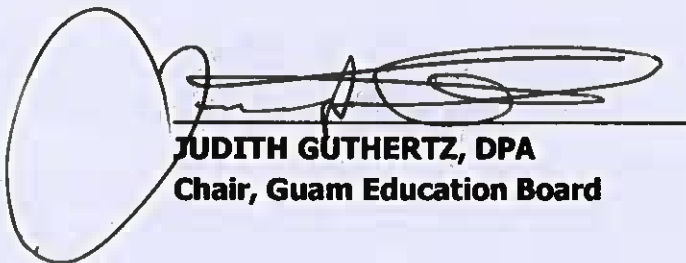
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that GDOE may ensure that proposed projects are supported by appropriate site investigations, damage and unmet-needs documentation, architectural and engineering assessments where required, cost estimates, environmental and historic preservation reviews, duplication-of-benefits analyses, and other documentation required by GHURA and the CDBG-DR program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon award, the Superintendent or authorized designee(s) shall coordinate the implementation and administration of approved projects and shall ensure that all expenditures comply with the approved scope of work, applicable procurement requirements, federal grant requirements, and the terms and conditions of the CDBG-DR award; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Guam Education Board supports prioritizing improvements that strengthen GDOE's designated emergency shelter facilities and enhance the Department's ability to maintain essential shelter operations during future typhoons, disasters, and extended utility disruptions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Speaker Frank Blas Jr., I Mina' Trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan; the Honorable Vincent Anthony V. Borja, Chairman of the 38th Guam Legislature Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting; the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, I Maga'hågan Guåhan; and the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED THIS 15th **DAY OF** September **2026.**


JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
Chair, Guam Education Board


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

**GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-11**



Introduced by:

Guam Education Board Members

**RELATIVE TO APPROVING THE CORRECTIVE FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN PREPARED IN RESPONSE
TO THE CODE C-WATCH ISSUED BY THE EDUCATION FINANCIAL SUPERVISORY COMMISSION FOR
THE MONTHS OF MARCH, APRIL, AND MAY OF FISCAL YEAR 2026**

WHEREAS, 17 GCA Chapter 3 §3133 established the Education Financial Supervisory Commission (EFSC) to develop financial performance indicators that produce a monthly financial designation status for the Guam Department of Education (GDOE); and 17 GCA Chapter 3 §3133(d)(3) defines Code C-Watch as a negative variance report exceeding two percent (2%) of the approved budget amount when combining year-to-date actual and annualized projections at the time of reporting; and

WHEREAS, on August 3, 2026 the EFSC issued Declarations of Financial Status Designation (FSD) for the months ending March 31; April 30 and May 31, 2026, and that these EFSC FSDs were transmitted and received by the Guam Education Board (GEB) office August 4, 2026; and

WHEREAS, 17 GCA Chapter 3 §3133(e)(3) requires that the GEB review, modify and approve by resolution the Corrective Financial Recovery Plan (CFRP) and submit it to the EFSC within fifteen (15) working days of receipt from the Superintendent of Education; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2026 the Superintendent of Education provided to the GEB a CFRP to address the projected Code C-Watch shortfalls for the periods ending March 31; April 30 and May 31, 2026, indicating C-Watches in the categories of 230 Contractual, 361 Power, 362 Water, and 450 Capital Outlay.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Guam Education Board approves the attached Corrective Financial Recovery Plan(s) submitted to the Board on September 11, 2026 by the Superintendent of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guam Education Board fully supports Public Law 28-45, §13, which states: "I Liheslaturan Guåhan shall annually appropriate from the General Fund or any other funds determined to be appropriate by I Liheslaturan Guåhan to the Guam Department of Education all amounts necessary to provide an adequate public educational system as required by §29(b) of the Organic Act, as amended, and to that end provide an adequate Public Education for all Public School students as those terms are defined in 1 GCA §715."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution 2026-11 and the attached CFRP be transmitted to the EFSC.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED THIS 15th DAY OF September 2026

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

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