Outlook

Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-3179 through 3189.

From 38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov>
Date Tue 11/10/2026 9:58 AM
To Guam Legislature Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.gov>
Cc Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

6 attachments (15 MB)
111026COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-3181.pdf; 111026COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-3183.pdf; 111026COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-3185.pdf; 111026COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-3186.pdf; 111026COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-3187.pdf; 111026COMM Doc. No. 38GL-26-3189.pdf;

Håfa Adai Clerks Office,
Please see attached, **Messages & Communications Doc. No. 38GL-26-3179 through 3189** for processing:

√	**38GL-26-3179**	Department of CHamoru Affairs	Notice of Intent for the Above-Step Recruitment of Johnathan G. Patton as Historic Preservation Specialist II and Vinessa P. Duenas as Historic Preservation Specialist II*
√	**38GL-26-3180**	Guam Department of Education	Guam Education Board Regular Board Meeting Packet for October 27, 2026 and October 29, 2026*
√	**38GL-26-3181**	Bureau of Statistics and Plans	FY2026 4th Quarter Report on Locally Produced Agricultural and Fish Products Purchased by the Government of Guam*
	38GL-26-3182	Bureau of Budget and Management Research	American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Allocation Reports for period ending October 31, 2026*
√	**38GL-26-3183**	Department of Public Health and Social Services	Guam Department of Education (GDOE) Public Schools Variance Report for the month of October 2026*
√	**38GL-26-3184**	Guam Memorial Hospital Authority	Board of Trustees Meeting Packet for October 27, 2026*
√	**38GL-26-3185**	Department of Public Health and Social Services	Prior Year Obligation to pay Guam Memorial Hospital Authority in the total amount of $8,123.68*
√	**38GL-26-3186**	Department of Public Health and Social Services	Prior Year Obligation to pay Laura Jano in the total amount of $407.00*
√	**38GL-26-3187**	Department of Public Health and Social Services	Prior Year Obligation to pay Lumina LLC dba: Mangilao Dental in the total amount of $2,795.40*
√	**38GL-26-3188**	Consolidated Commission on Utilities	Board Books file for Guam Waterworks Authority Work Session Packet for October 20, 2026; Board Books file for Guam Power Authority Work Session Packet for October 22, 2026; and Board Books file for Consolidated Commission on Utilities Regular Board Meeting Packet for October 27, 2026*
√	**38GL-26-3189**	Guam Housing Corporation	Board Meeting Packet for October 30, 2026*

Please retrieve Doc. No. 38GL-26-3184 and 3188 from link below:

Messages & Communications Physical Scanned Copy - Google Drive

Kindly reply to this email.

Si Yu'os ma'åse',

Marie Crisostomo

Committee on Rules Assistant

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

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Messages and Communications 38GL-26-3180*

2 messages

Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov> Mon, Nov 9, 2026 at 1:11 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-26-3180

38GL-26-3180	Guam Department of Education	Guam Education Board Regular Board Meeting Packet for October 27, 2026 and October 29, 2026*

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Bernice Rivera

Administrative Assistant

Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.

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

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456
speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

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---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Kathleen Joyce R. Lamorena** <krlamorena@gdoe.net>
Date: Thu, Nov 5, 2026 at 3:46 PM
Subject: GEB October 27 and October 29, 2026 Continuation of Regular Meeting - Reporting Requirement
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 Continuation of Regular Meeting held on October 27, 2026, and October 29, 2026.

Thank you!

Warm regards,
Kathleen Lamorena
Guam Department of Education

Guam Department of Education 2026

2 attachments

GEB Reporting Requirement - October 27 and 29, 2026 Continuation of Regular Meeting.pdf
2303K

38GL-26-3180.pdf
1077K

38th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov> Mon, Nov 9, 2026 at 1:53 PM
To: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Håfa Adai,

Received, and thank you.

Si Yu'os ma'âse',

Kamarin J. A. Nelson

Committee on Rules Director

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]

THE GUAM LEGISLATURE

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

GEB October 27 and October 29, 2026 Continuation of Regular Meeting - Reporting Requirement

3 messages

Kathleen Joyce R. Lamorena <krlamorena@gdoe.net> Thu, Nov 5, 2026 at 3:45 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 Continuation of Regular Meeting held on October 27, 2026, and October 29, 2026.

Thank you!

Warm regards,
Kathleen Lamorena
Guam Department of Education

Guam Department of Education 2026

Doc Type: 38GL-26-3180
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
FRANK F. BLAS, JR.
November 5, 2026
Time: 3:45 PM
Received:

GEB Reporting Requirement - October 27 and 29, 2026 Continuation of Regular Meeting.pdf
2303K

Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov> Thu, Nov 5, 2026 at 4:56 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>

Håfa Adai,

Confirming receipt of your email.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Bernice Rivera

Administrative Assistant

Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.

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

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456
speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

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[Quoted text hidden]

Kathleen Joyce R. Lamorena <krlamorena@gdoe.net> Thu, Nov 5, 2026 at 5:13 PM
To: "Speaker Frank Blas Jr." <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>

Thank you, Ms. Bernice!

Thank you,
Kathleen

[Quoted text hidden]

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

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

November 3, 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 October 27, 2026 and October 29 2026, continuation of 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-26-3180
Messages and Communications
RECEIVED
COMMITTEE ON RULES
November 9, 2026
1:11 p.m.
Marie Crisostomo

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

JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
Chair

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

Guam Education Board
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 20, 2026
3 PM
Gallery, Bldg. B, Tiyan
AGENDA

INFO	I.	**Meeting Call to Order**
	II.	**Consent Calendar**
INFO/ACTION		**a.** August 24, 2026 Continuation of Regular Meeting Minutes
INFO/ACTION		**b.** September 15, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
	III.	**Communications**
INFO		a. Correspondence received by the Board after September 15, 2026
INFO	IV.	**Ex-Officio Member Reports**
		a. Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report
		b. Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report
		c. Mayor's Council of Guam (MCOG) Report
	V.	**Unfinished Business/Committee Reports**
INFO/ACTION		a. Superintendent's Report
INFO		b. Executive Committee
		c. Instructional & Academic Support Committee
INFO/ACTION		i. October Head Start Report
		d. Safe & Healthy Schools Committee
INFO		i. Security Concerns
		e. Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee
INFO/ACTION		i. Guam Education Board Code of Conduct
		f. Fiscal Management Committee
		i. GDOE Financial Report
INFO		1. Accounts Payable Aging Report
INFO/ACTION		2. Declaration of Financial Status Designation
INFO		3. Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2026
INFO		4. Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2026
INFO		ii. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report
INFO		iii. FY 2025 Audit Update
		g. Legislative Committee
INFO		i. Legislative Proposals Introduced
	VI.	**New Business**

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: Micaella Bederio - IBOGS Representatives, Timothy Fedenko - GFT Representative, Mayor Brian Jess Terlaje - MCOG Representative
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D., Superintendent

INFO/ACTION
a. Resolution 2026-12 Relative to Calling for the Board of Regents and President of the University of Guam to Immediately Re-establish the Fast Track Teacher Certification Program at the University of Guam

INFO/ACTION
b. Resolution 2026-13 Relative to Adopting the Spending Priorities and Cost Cutting Measures for the Guam Department of Education for Fiscal Year 2027

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 Alecxis D. Ada, Maria A. Gutierrez, Ron L. McNinch, PhD, Angel R. Sablan, Carl E. Torres II
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Micaella Bederio - IBOGS Representatives, Timothy Fedenko - GFT Representative, Mayor Brian Jess Terlaje - MCOG Representative
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D., Acting Superintendent

FOR SALE BY OWNER
20,561 SQM As Lucas Talofofo
Call (671) 797-9425

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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

JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
Chair

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

Guam Education Board
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 20, 2026
3 PM
Gallery, Bldg. B, Tiyan
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V. Unfinished Business/Committee Reports
INFO/ACTION a. Superintendent's Report
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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.

OFFICE OF MICHAEL J GATEWOOD LLC
MICHAEL J. GATEWOOD
michael@gatewoodlegal.com
101E Chalan Santo Papa, Suite 102
Hagåtña, GU 96910
Tel No. 671.488.6285

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
ELIZABETH ANNE MENO DUENAS,
Decedent.
PROBATE CASE NO. PR0145-26

NOTICE OF HEARING

THIS NOTICE IS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR IN COURT UNLESS YOU DESIRE.

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Isabella Duenas has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration.

2. A hearing on the petition will be heard on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 11:20 a.m. before Hon. Judge Elyze M. Iriarte**.

3. To attend or to participate in the hearing, you may appear in person at the Guam Judicial Center, appear remotely at https://guamcourts-org.zoom.us and enter Meeting ID: 864 4387 2213 and Passcode: JEMI; or call into the courtroom at 671-300-6703 at the designated hearing time. For connectivity issues, you may contact Jannette Samson at (671) 475-0141 or email jsamson@guamcourts.gov.

DATED: 22 SEP 2026

JANICE M CAMACHO-PEREZ
Clerk of Court, Superior Court of Guam
/s/ Flora W. Fagan
Courtroom/Chamber Clerk

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF
FRANKLIN CRUZ CRUZ,
Decedent.
PROBATE CASE NO. PR0036-26

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

THIS NOTICE IS REQUIRED BY LAW, YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR IN COURT UNLESS YOU DESIRE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Petitions are before the Court:

1. Saiqin Cruz's Petition for Private Sale and Order Confirming and Approving Sale of Estate Real Property.

2. Edgar 0. Cruz's Petition to Approve Sale of Real Property.

A hearing on the petitions will be heard on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. before Hon. Judge Elyze M. Iriarte.**

To attend or to participate in the hearing, you may appear in person at the Guam Judicial Center, appear remotely at https://guamcourts-org.zoom.us and enter Meeting ID: 864 4387 2213 and Passcode: JEMI; or call into the courtroom at 671-300-6703 at the designated hearing time. For connectivity issues, you may contact Jannette Samson at (671) 475-0141 or email jsamson@guamcourts.gov.

DATED: **23 SEPT 2026**

JANICE M. CAMACHO-PEREZ
Clerk of Court, Superior Court of Guam
By: /s/FLORA W. FAGAN
Courtroom/Chamber Clerk

GUAM COUNCIL ON THE arts & humanities AGENCY

GUAM COUNCIL ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES AGENCY
will hold its Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday October 20, 2026 at 3:00 pm at 238 Archbishop Flores St. STE 202, 2nd Floor DNA Bldg., Hagåtña, Guam 96932

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Board Meeting Public Announcements:
October 13 & 16, 2026
III. Roll Call
IV. Approval of Minutes
• September 15, 2026
V. Executive Directors Report
VI. Board Action
• FY 2027 Folk Arts Grant Selections & Disapproved Grants Application
• GVB GMIF Sponsorship Request
VII. New Business
VIII. Old Business
• Maga'haga Awards
• Masters Recognition Program
• FESTPAC XIV
IX. Announcements
• Next Regular Mtg: Tuesday November I 0, 2026@ 3PM
X. Adjournment

Any persons needing special accommodations please contact GCAHA Office at (671) 300-1204, (671) 300-1208, and (671) 300-7584, or email info@caha.guam.gov.

This ad was paid for with Government of Guam funds.

VEHICLES FOR BID

2025 Toyota Corolla
2025 Toyota Highlander
2024 Mitsubishi Mirage
2024 Nissan Versa
2023 Mitsubishi Mirage
2023 Nissan Sentra
2019 Mazda CX5

Vehicles may be viewed at Bank of Guam Hagåtña Branch by appointment only, Tuesday through Friday, from 9am to 4pm. Last day for bidding will be on Friday, October 16, 2026 at 4pm. For more information, please contact Jesse Manibusan at (671) 472-5442/(671) 688-8866 or Kiana Aquino at (671) 472-5324/(671) 688-7784. Bank of Guam reserves the right to refuse any or all bids. All vehicles are sold "as is."

111 Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña, Guam 96910
(671) 472-5300 | bankofguam.com

Bank of Guam

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

JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
Chair

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

Guam Education Board
CONTINUATION OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 27, 2026
3 PM
Gallery, Bldg. B, Tiyan
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		d. Safe & Healthy Schools Committee
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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

JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
Chair

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

Guam Education Board
CONTINUATION OF REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 29, 2026
2 PM
Gallery, Bldg. B, Tiyan
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D., Superintendent

INFO/ACTION
a. Resolution 2026-12 Relative to Calling for the Board of Regents and President of the University of Guam to Immediately Re-establish the Fast Track Teacher Certification Program at the University of Guam

INFO/ACTION
b. Resolution 2026-13 Relative to Adopting the Spending Priorities and Cost Cutting Measures for the Guam Department of Education for Fiscal Year 2027

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 Alecxis D. Ada, Maria A. Gutierrez, Ron L. McNinch, PhD, Angel R. Sablan, Carl E. Torres II
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Micaella Bederio - IBOGS Representatives, Timothy Fedenko - GFT Representative, Mayor Brian Jess Terlaje - MCOG Representative
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D., Acting Superintendent

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
Chair

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

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
CONTINUATION OF REGULAR MEETING
Monday, August 24, 2026
1 pm
Gallery, GDOE Building B
MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Judith Guthertz, DPA, Chair
Mary A.Y. Okada, EdD, Vice-Chair
Peter Alecxis 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 1:05 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 Alecxis 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

Absent:

Voting Members:

Non-Voting Members:
Terlaje, Brian Jess – MCOG Representative

Legal Counsel

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

Mr. George Castro, court reporter from Depo Resources, was also present.

Dr. Guthertz asked Dr. Won Pat to present an updated report on the ongoing work at the teaching campus and Simon Sanchez High School (SSHS), along with other matters relevant to the meeting.

II. Consent Calendar

III. Communications

IV. Ex-Officio Member Reports

V. Unfinished Business/Committee Reports

a. **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Won Pat explained that, prior to the opening of the school year, the decision was made to end double-session schooling by having SSHS co-locate with Tiyan High School (THS) at the Tiyan site while maintaining separate campuses. The schools were initially scheduled for inspection on August 3, but the inspection was postponed to August 21 at the principal's request to allow time for furniture delivery and classroom setup. However, three days after the school year opened, Public Health conducted an unannounced inspection following an anonymous complaint and photos, resulting in 50 demerit points, exceeding the legal limit of 40 and leading to both schools' closure. Following the closures, a meeting was held with contractor Mr. Ho, attorneys, principals Ms. Carla and Ms. Sophie, and Board members Mr. Tim Fedenko, Mr. Carl Torres, and Dr. Guthertz to discuss maintenance responsibilities. Since there was disagreement over the contractor's and the schools' responsibilities, the attorneys agreed to review the contract. As an immediate response, asynchronous instruction through Google Classroom and learning packets was proposed as Plan A. She also clarified that redistricting had been discussed as a possibility but was not a confirmed decision.

Dr. Won Pat said they were not here to debate.

Dr. Guthertz asked attendees to respect the process by allowing the superintendent to present her report and provide the latest information.

Dr. Won Pat explained that asynchronous teaching had been used since the beginning, but parents, teachers, and students expressed concerns that Google Classroom and instructional packets were not providing the instruction students needed. They discussed what other options were available. She clarified that the suggestion to redistrict students did not come from her, but rather from a principal along with other school principals. She also addressed the educators and students who were speaking out of turn, reminding them that educators understand the importance of students not interrupting. She asked them to show courtesy and allow her to explain the facts before responding. She clarified that the suggestion to redistrict students did not come from her, but rather from a principal along with other school principals. She also addressed the educators and students who were speaking out of turn, reminding them that educators understand the importance of students not interrupting. She asked them to show courtesy and allow her to explain the facts before responding.

Dr. Guthertz told the meeting attendees that they will have an opportunity to speak.

Dr. Won Pat acknowledged the attendees' frustrations and said she understood their concerns as a parent and grandparent with children and grandchildren in Guam's public school system.

Dr. Guthertz asked the teachers to set an example for the students by waiting their turn to speak.

Dr. Won Pat reported on efforts to reopen SSHS and THS, explaining that repairs had taken longer than expected and students had been receiving asynchronous instruction and hard-copy assignments for approximately two weeks. After delays in receiving a repair cost estimate, the superintendent authorized the contractor to proceed with the work, with billing to follow. More than 100 workers were mobilized over the weekend, and the goal was to have students return to their campuses the following Monday. he six high school principals proposed three options for resuming in-person instruction, ranked by preference. The first option was double sessions, with THS students attending afternoon classes at George Washington High School (GWHS) and SSHS students attending afternoon classes at Okkodo High School (OHS). This option was considered the least disruptive to existing schedules and school identities and could reduce legal risks associated with prolonged asynchronous learning. However, facility preparations, particularly air-conditioning repairs at OHS, would be necessary. The second option was staggered attendance, allowing schools to share facilities while maintaining their identities, but raising concerns about student safety, transportation, teacher assignments, and equipment sharing. The third option was immediate temporary redistricting, which could help address staffing shortages but could also lead to overcrowding, community resistance, loss of school identity, transportation challenges, employee departures, and potential legal disputes. She also discussed staffing shortages, noting that the district had 65 teacher vacancies overall. GWHS, OHS, and John F. Kennedy High School (JFKHS) reported no remaining vacancies or anticipated resolutions, while SHS had two special education teaching vacancies and THS had three vacancies following a teacher's resignation. Additional pay was authorized for teachers covering vacant classes during their preparation periods. Regarding special education, the district had hired 222 aides but received requests for an additional 163, which were not included in the budget. Principals were exploring the use of teaching assistants, regular school aides, cross-training, and rotating assignments to provide necessary support to students with special needs and minimize potential legal risks. Transportation concerns included delayed buses and insufficient capacity at some schools. SSHS reported needing 16 buses but having only 13 available. The principals were asked to coordinate with the Department of Public Works to review schedules and routes. She emphasized that the district must meet the required 180 school days and comply with instructional-time requirements while prioritizing student safety, completing campus repairs, addressing staffing and transportation challenges, and returning students to in-person instruction as soon as possible. No final decision on the proposed scheduling or redistricting options was announced.

Mrs. Gutierrez expressed concern that a document outlining three plans—Plan A: online learning, Plan B: redistricting, and Plan C: double sessions/reassignment of students—was sent to the community before the Board had been fully informed. She said she was shocked when community members, including teachers and students, contacted her asking whether redistricting was really being considered. She recalled students and teachers pleading with her not to redistrict, even though she could not provide them with an answer because the information had already been distributed. She said the situation was especially concerning because SSHS students had been waiting for a school for many years, and the community and other stakeholders were

directly affected by the proposed plans. Referring to the August 19 and August 20 meetings, she said the plans changed in how they were presented, with redistricting or reassignment of THS and SSHS students appearing as an option.She stated that, from her perspective as a Board member, the communication was misleading because the community received information about redistricting before the Board had properly considered it. She questioned whether all six high school principals supported or agreed that redistricting should be included as an option. She also emphasized that the Board has the legal responsibility to establish school attendance areas and boundaries. She noted that when attendance areas were reassigned in the past, the Board first went to stakeholders—including parents, students, and teachers—to hear their concerns before bringing the matter back to the Board. She questioned where the stakeholder input and surveys were, asking specifically where the surveys of parents, students, and teachers could be found. She objected to having "immediate temporary reassignment of attendance area" listed in the document, particularly when the item was labeled "not for discussion," arguing that attendance-area decisions are ultimately the Board's responsibility.

Dr. McNinch raised two points for clarification. First, he asked how many millions of dollars per year the school system pays contractors for the campuses. Second, he asked whether the document distributed to the community was simply a discussion and planning document for the principals, rather than a final determination or decision to implement the proposed plans.

Dr. Guthertz asked everyone to follow meeting protocol and allow the Board to gather the necessary information, reminding participants that they could leave if they were unwilling to follow the rules. She clarified that the Board had not taken any action to redistrict, nor had it recommended redistricting. She explained that the superintendent had only asked principals to provide options, and the principals identified several possibilities, with redistricting being the least popular option among them. She also reiterated that redistricting cannot occur without Board approval. She emphasized that the Board's immediate focus was completing renovations and repairs at SSHS and THS. She noted that more than 100 construction workers were working on the required repairs and expressed hope that the work would be completed by the end of the week so that school could restart on September 8.

Dr. McNinch clarified that a discussion among administrators or principals does not constitute a decision or action by the Board. He stated that, as a Board member, he understood that the Board was not considering taking action to redistrict students and that redistricting was only part of a discussion occurring among administrators.

Dr. Won Pat then answered Dr. McNinch's question about the cost of the campus contract. She explained that the government pays $9 million per year under a contract involving Core Tech for the teaching facility, central facility, and annex, including maintenance and supplies. She also explained that the contract had been taken over by a nonprofit group, Phoenix IDA, which contracted Core Tech to handle school maintenance.

Vice Mayor Blas acknowledged that the immediate priority was repairing THS so the school year could proceed according to the original plan. However, he questioned why the necessary assessments and identification of facility problems were not completed during the summer, before the two schools were combined. He suggested that

conducting the assessments earlier might have prevented the current situation and stated that, based on the discussion, the community does not want redistricting.

Dr. Won Pat explained that THS's principal had submitted repair work orders for years, but a meeting involving Core Tech's attorney, GDOE's attorneys, and Board members confirmed that Core Tech is responsible for the facility's maintenance under the contract. Additional work, misuse-related repairs, labor, and materials could be charged to GDOE, along with a 15% markup. She said GDOE plans to renegotiate the maintenance contract with Core Tech and its attorneys once the school reopens. Although Core Tech had not provided a cost estimate for the needed repairs, she authorized the work to proceed so that students could return to school as soon as possible.

Dr. Guthertz clarified that the Tiyan school situation is complicated by changes to the original lease agreement. The lease is between the Government of Guam and the original company, not the Guam Department of Education (GDOE). GDOE was never a party to the lease but was intended to benefit from it. The agreement was amended over time, and the current arrangement places the lease with a nonprofit organization that contracts with Core Tech for caretaking services. Under the current agreement, GDOE is required to use Core Tech for certain repairs and improvements and must pay the costs plus a 15% overhead fee. This limits GDOE's ability to seek other contractors through competitive bidding. Dr. Guthertz emphasized that GDOE was not involved in the amendments and was unaware of the changes until recently. According to the attorneys, however, the current agreement must be followed. Repairs at Tiyan are now being addressed with Core Tech, but the total cost is still unknown because a detailed cost breakdown has not been provided. GDOE may ultimately have to pay for repairs that would otherwise have been the responsibility of the leaseholder, creating an unexpected expense that was not included in the current budget. The Board may therefore need to seek financial assistance from the Guam Legislature. She emphasized that the Board's main goal is to reopen the two Tiyan schools as soon as possible. The biggest remaining challenges are having enough teachers and one-to-one aides, particularly for special education students. GDOE is exploring options such as allowing teachers to cover classes during their preparation periods for additional compensation and finding other ways to address the shortage of trained special education professionals on Guam.

Mrs. Gutierrez questioned why the schools' issues were not addressed during the summer and why officials declared the schools ready to open when problems remained. She referenced the July 24 Board meeting, where she expressed concern that the schools were not ready for the August 10 opening and requested a special meeting on August 7. She questioned the validity of the readiness declarations for all 39 schools, which had been physically reviewed and signed by various school and safety officials. As an example, she cited a Dededo elementary school that was declared ready on August 1, even though a restroom was later found with a trash bag covering it and a toilet on the floor during the primary election. She questioned whether the schools were actually inspected thoroughly and why officials signed the declarations certifying that they were ready. She said she had reviewed all 39 readiness documents and remained unconvinced that the schools were ready to open.

Mr. Fedenko raised concerns about the potentially unlimited costs associated with the repairs and overtime expenses. He asked whether, if the Senate does not provide additional funding or reimburse GDOE, the financial impact could lead to staff layoffs, hiring freezes, salary or increment freezes, or other effects on teachers, school aides, and maintenance personnel.

Dr. Won Pat explained that GDOE will initially use existing budget lapses to pay Core Tech for repairs and to compensate teachers covering vacant positions, as well as other additional staffing needs. These funds will be used through September 30 and then continue into the new fiscal year using the new budget. If those funds are exhausted, she would return to the Board to adjust the spending plan and, as a last resort, request a supplemental budget from the Legislature. She emphasized that the goal is to avoid measures such as reducing the school week or laying off employees.

Dr. Okada explained that the superintendent was asked to reprioritize the available budget lapses so that the additional expenses would be covered first. She noted that at the beginning of each fiscal year, essential staffing and operating costs are prioritized in the spending plan. However, significant funding lapses typically occur early in the year because of delays in hiring and contracts, so GDOE must monitor the budget throughout the fiscal year before determining whether additional funding is needed.

Mr. Sablan then criticized the superintendent's handling of the situation and asked whether THS and SSHS, as currently located at Tiyan, are considered two separate schools. He questioned why SSHS was allowed to operate under the same sanitary permit as THS, arguing that the two schools should have been inspected separately. He warned that because the schools were combined under one permit, Public Health may now treat the location as a new school requiring zero deficiencies before reopening. He also argued that separate sanitary permits would prevent problems at one school from forcing the other to close. He criticized the handling of the situation, particularly the lack of a contingency plan after officials had declared the schools ready to open. He questioned why maintenance problems such as roof leaks and broken toilets had not been addressed earlier, especially given the millions of dollars reportedly spent annually on maintenance. He also expressed concern that the focus on potential lawsuits comes after years of unresolved issues involving teacher shortages, air conditioning, sanitation, and special education services. He also criticized the superintendent for not informing the Board about plans to merge or relocate schools before discussing those plans with the Guam Legislature. He argued that SSHS students have endured years of double sessions, shared facilities, borrowed campuses, and a lack of a permanent home despite continuing to succeed academically and in their communities. He emphasized that the students are asking for basic dignity and a permanent place to call their own, and said their recent protest demonstrated that they are tired of waiting for promises and funding. In response, he proposed asking the federal government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior, and Guam's congressional representatives to make unused northern Guam military facilities—including potentially facilities at Camp Blaz—available for SSHS. Finally, he stated that he would not support decommissioning THS or redistricting any high school. He argued that the Board must listen to the students and pursue solutions rather than simply choosing the easiest or most popular option, emphasizing that leadership means taking action even when the solution is difficult.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she heard Dr. Won Pat on Patty Arroyo's show discussing the neighboring facilities. She questioned why Dr. Won Pat was waiting for them to call and urged her to contact Mr. Ho directly. She also noted that only three Board members could attend the meeting and said they should review the law regarding elected voting members. During the meeting, Mr. Ho was told to do his job and stop making a profit.

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Mr. Sablan, to amend the continuation of the August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting agenda, #9 which is public participation, before the executive committee. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she wanted to hear from those who wished to address the Board.

Dr. Won Pat asked to respond to the accusations and misinformation.

Dr. Guthertz told her yes.

Dr. Won Pat clarified several points she said had been misrepresented. First, she explained that Public Health is treating THS and SSHS as one school for sanitary-permit purposes because THS holds a permit valid for one year. She said she had specifically requested that Public Health conduct separate inspections of the two campuses. She also clarified that September 8 is not the target reopening date. She is working toward August 31, while September 8 was the date recommended by the principals if the schools had to operate in double sessions. Regarding the 14 points of adequate education, Dr. Won Pat said she has been working with senators and attorneys to address the requirements and potentially amend the law to reduce the risk of lawsuits. She acknowledged that she is concerned about lawsuits because GDOE already had 11 lawsuits when she took office, resulting in significant legal costs. She has asked legislators to consider measures such as arbitration and deadlines for resolving complaints. She explained that the decision to end double sessions and have THS and SSHS co-locate was made after requests from both the Board and Legislature. The goal was to preserve both schools' identities while allowing them to operate separately at the same location. She also said the options being discussed regarding teacher vacancies, one-to-one aides, and transportation came from the principals, who viewed co-location as the least disruptive option if the schools could not immediately reopen. She said they are continuing to work toward reopening the schools as soon as possible, with facilities officials communicating with Core Tech daily about repair progress. She strongly pushed back against accusations that she was not working on the situation, saying she took offense to being accused of not working. She emphasized that she and her staff have been working diligently to address the issues and get students back to school. She also pointed out that she authored the law establishing SSHS while serving in the Legislature. She emphasized her personal commitment to public-school students, noting that all of her children attended public schools and that her grandson with a disability is also a product of the public-school system. She said public-school students are her top priority and that this is why she is working hard to get them back to school as soon as possible.

Mr. Sablan emphasized that the schools needed Public Health clearance, zero demerits, and clearances from other involved agencies before reopening.

Dr. Won Pat agreed, stating that Public Health would reinspect the schools after the work was completed and issue the required permit before reopening.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

Charlie Balbastro, Representative 35th Guam Youth Congress, Alumni of Southern High School Class of 2025 – Charlie expressed disappointment over the prolonged school closures and failed inspections, emphasizing the sacrifices made by students, parents, faculty, staff, and alumni. He called on the government and school officials to do their jobs, prioritize school repairs, and return students to in-person learning. He also opposed combining SSHS and THS stating that schools should focus on learning and student development rather than politics.

Alyssa Anderson, SSHS senior – Alyssa expressed frustration that the Class of 2027 has never attended SSHS' actual campus despite being promised it would be rebuilt by their senior year. She questioned the prolonged delays and raised concerns about redistricting, noting that they had not previously heard the Board deny it as an option. She emphasized that SSHS students have continued to succeed despite four years of double sessions, earning numerous awards and recognitions. While acknowledging the desire to end double sessions and increase instructional time, she stressed that decisions should focus on what SSHS students need. She also highlighted the repeated disruptions their class experienced from COVID-19, Typhoon Mawar, and the current school situation, and urged the GEB to provide SSHS students with their own school, community, and opportunity to graduate from the campus they have invested in and supported

Dr. McNinch asked if the speakers could say their name.

Princess Carreon, SSHS senior – Princess apologized if her remarks came across as disrespectful but argued that the Board should be the one apologizing to students for repeatedly moving them between campuses instead of returning them to SSHS in Yigo. Referring to Dr. Won Pat's statement that she empathized with the students, she asked her to consider how she would feel if she were repeatedly moved, separated from what she knows, and had things she worked for taken away. She said students, parents, teachers, aides, and administrators are exhausted and emphasized that assurances about returning home have not been followed by a clear commitment or timeline. She questioned the possibility of redistricting and urged the Board to prioritize rebuilding SSHS, stating that students deserve to return to their own community and campus rather than being reassigned to JFKHS or THS. She also criticized the lack of a clear rebuilding timeline and called for accountability if redistricting is being considered.

Ariane Alburo, SSHS senior - Ariane described students' anxiety and uncertainty after learning that SSHS might be reallocated to THS, after finally experiencing some stability at JFKHS. She criticized the absence of the superintendent and most Board members at a February town hall where students had prepared questions and testimonies. Later, students were informed—not consulted—that SSHS would coexist with THS. Despite the disruption, students adapted by helping move equipment to THS, but said the campus was not ready for them. Facing another potential move, they expressed frustration with the continued instability and asked the Board not to dissolve SSHS and to preserve the school's identity.

Marianna Hernandez (THS) - Marianna stated that she, Dylan Taitano, and Marlene Quintanilla would deliver a joint statement, noting that they were returning to speak together under even more dire circumstances than before. She asked the Board for their full attention and expressed frustration that previous requests for assistance were ignored. She called for greater transparency, communication, and collaboration from GDOE, noting that its strategic plan identifies collaborative leadership as a key goal. She argued that families, students, teachers, and communities are often informed about major school decisions only after they are underway. She urged the Board to provide accurate information, including capacity assessments, facility conditions, timelines, and proper context for statements, and to involve affected communities as partners, not simply as an audience receiving decisions after they are made.

Dylan Taitano (THS) - Dylan emphasized GDOE's strategic goal of data and accountability, arguing that urgency should not replace research when making major decisions affecting students. They called for data on classroom capacity, restrooms, water, electricity, HVAC, and other facility needs before moving students or sharing campuses. They noted that concerns about THS were raised in October 2025 and again in March 2026, yet the issues remained unresolved. They urged GDOE to make proactive, informed decisions by researching, analyzing, verifying, and communicating data before taking actions that are difficult to reverse, emphasizing that "we didn't know" should not be an answer when children's education is affected.

Marlene Quintanilla (THS) - Marlene reminded the Board of the 14 points of adequate education raised in March, emphasizing that these were not luxuries but necessary requirements for SSHS to move successfully into THS. She noted that THS ultimately closed, with some demerits tied to the increased student population and concerns previously raised, while issues such as the requested bandwidth upgrade remained unresolved. She called for accountability and a public review of what happened at THS to identify lessons and prevent similar problems at other schools. She urged the Board to use the Adequate Education Act as a standard for decision-making before students are moved or schools are repurposed, ensuring every GDOE student has a safe, adequate, and functional learning environment. She also questioned why TAMES and LBJES were previously allowed to reopen with fewer than zero demerits and asked the Board to review those standards.

Mariana Hernandez - Mariana emphasized that students should come first in GDOE decisions and called for clear governance standards, conflict-of-interest disclosures, and transparency when decisions involve other educational institutions. She urged GDOE to consider all available temporary facilities and provide data on costs and impacts before using GDOE campuses. She also rejected the characterization of THS as merely "temporary," citing its established identity, accreditations, and achievements. She stressed that students, teachers, staff, administrators, and community partners should not bear the consequences of problems they did not create. She said children should never have to compete with adult interests for a seat at the table.

Jonathan Floss, THS junior - Jonathan urged that the same research, evidence, and thoughtful decision-making skills taught in schools be applied before making major decisions. He challenged the claims about principals suggesting redistricting, THS

permits, and the Core Tech contract, arguing that these issues were not adequately researched or communicated. He criticized the appearing to shift responsibility to principals and making rushed decisions that create further disruptions for students. He urged the Board to act responsibly as student representatives and prioritize well-planned decisions that protect students from unnecessary disruption.

Monica Fliss, SSHS Teacher – Monica called for rebuilding SSHS and fixing THS, emphasizing that the SSHS community has endured years of disruption and should not be expected to remain "resilient" indefinitely. She thanked JFKHS and THS for supporting the community but argue that, more than three years later, SSHS still lacks a permanent home, with the procurement process recently appearing to return to the starting point. She stresses that students are more than numbers and schools are more than buildings—they are communities built on relationships. She urged decision-makers to provide stable, appropriate school facilities so these communities can thrive, and argue that all high schools deserve better support rather than continued reliance on their communities to adapt.

Audrey Cruz, SSHS Teacher, GFT Judo League Union Chair - Audrey questioned whether the voices of teachers, students, staff, parents, and administrators are truly being heard and considered in GDOE's decision-making. She said stakeholders have repeatedly shared their concerns and ideas, particularly regarding SSHS, but decisions continue to be made without meaningful input from those directly affected. She praised the SSHS administrative team for continually adapting to changes, listening to faculty, and working hard to find solutions, but questioned who is listening to the administrators and other stakeholders. She called for greater communication, transparency, accountability, and genuine stakeholder involvement, arguing that the focus should move away from blame and toward finding solution. She also urged GDOE and the Board to think beyond traditional approaches and consider innovative or temporary solutions that would keep students connected to their teachers, peers, staff, and support systems. The speaker emphasized that the school community has ideas and is willing to help and stressed that the goal should be to find the best solution, not the easiest one. She concluded by calling for a formal voice and representation on the Board, including a seat with voting power, saying stakeholders have spent years asking to be heard and that "enough is enough—now is the time to listen."

Shienne Carale, SSHS National Honor Society President and SSHS Senior Class Vice President - Shienne described growing up in Guam's public-school system without experiencing a "normal" school experience. Many seniors missed their 5th-grade promotion because of COVID-19, their 8th-grade promotion because of Typhoon Mawar, and have never attended the original SSHS campus. Their high school years have been defined by displacement, uncertainty, and constant change. Despite these challenges, the student said the SSHS community—their friends, teachers, and classmates—has been what made the experience bearable. They have built a strong sense of belonging as the Sharks family despite not having a permanent campus. She expressed concern about proposed island-wide redistricting and questioned who ultimately made the decision. She urged Dr. Won Pat to consider the impact on students who have already experienced repeated disruptions and displacement. She emphasized that they are not asking to avoid change, but asking to face change together. She argued that a school is more than buildings, boundaries, or enrollment numbers—it is the people and relationships that create a sense of belonging. She

asked that SSHS students be allowed to remain together, grow together, and finish what they started, especially allowing the Class of 2027 to graduate together as SSHS Sharks.

Jonnavie Abaya, SSHS teacher – Jonnavie questioned how GDOE makes major decisions and how stakeholder input actually influences those decisions. She argued that recent decisions affecting SSHS show a troubling pattern of decisions being made despite concerns raised by teachers and the school community. She cited the move from JFKHS to THS as the first major failure. Although ending double sessions was intended to be positive, the SSHS community had largely favored remaining at JFKHS because it provided stability. Instead, SSHS was moved to THS even though the campus was not fully prepared. She described personally having two classrooms without enough desks and with nonfunctioning air conditioning, forcing teachers and students to endure difficult conditions from the first days of school. She warned that a similar situation could happen again with redistricting. She said that when faculty were recently asked about their preferred option, the majority favored returning to double sessions, and other school communities also supported that approach. Despite this, redistricting appeared to be receiving serious consideration. She urged the Board and GDOE to truly listen to stakeholders, emphasizing that simply giving people an opportunity to speak is not enough. She said stakeholders do not want to hear "Oh, I hear you." They want GDOE to understand their concerns and allow their input to actually matter in the final decision-making process. Finally, she said the underlying problem remains that SSHS still does not have its own school campus. She criticized the repeated reliance on students and teachers being "resilient," arguing that resilience has become a way of masking systemic problems. Teachers and students have repeatedly adapted, compromised, and made difficult situations work, but their dedication should not be used to justify inadequate facilities. She emphasized that SSHS needs a real, permanent school rather than continuing to rely on temporary arrangements, concluding with a powerful message: "Home is where we have an actual damn school."

Haden Gurumow, SSHS freshman - Haden said his class of 2030 represents a new generation of Sharks but may graduate without ever stepping foot on the SSHS campus. He expressed frustration that generations of SSHS students have been promised a permanent school but have instead experienced years of uncertainty and broken promises. He said it is discouraging that students have had to speak up before meaningful action is taken, but expressed hope that the Class of 2030 could be the generation that finally brings change. He urged the Board and Superintendent Dr. Won Pat to listen to students and end the cycle of uncertainty and unfulfilled promises. Emphasizing that students are key stakeholders whose education is directly affected by these decisions, the student strongly stated that SSHS belongs in Yigo, not in Tamuning or Dededo. He concluded with a direct message to leadership: "Rebuild Sanchez" and "bring us home to the 653."

Nevaeh Ericsson, THS Junior - Nevaeh spoke on behalf of the Titans community, emphasizing that students deserve a safe, clean, and stable environment where they can learn and build connections. She described the poor conditions at THS, including poorly maintained facilities, unsanitary restrooms, and only two of eight toilets functioning, while students and staff continued to persevere despite these challenges. She criticized GDOE leadership for allowing more than 2,000 students to return to a campus they believed was not safe and questioned why these issues were not

addressed during the summer. She expressed frustration that THS continues to feel like a temporary school and that students are now facing the consequences of decisions they had no control over. Despite the difficulties, she emphasized that the THS community has remained strong and united. She urged the Board to learn from the situation, listen to students, staff, and parents, and make decisions with the communities rather than for them. She questioned how the situation could be considered fair to students, saying, "It's okay, just save your breath because I know you can't explain." She concluded with a direct message to the Board: "Do better. Don't redistrict. Fix THS and rebuild SSHS."

Lance Morales, THS student - Lance described the Titans as resilient, while emphasizing that students should not have to continually fight to keep their school open. He expressed frustration over ongoing campus challenges, unfulfilled promises, and the lack of response to students' concerns, holding the Board accountable for failing to take appropriate action. He stressed that students, faculty, and staff should not have to fight for their right to education and demanded written confirmation that THS will remain open, rather than relying on verbal assurances. He affirmed that the Titans will continue advocating for their school's future and the rebuilding of SSHS, emphasizing that THS is not a temporary solution but a school that deserves to remain open.

Aya Fejeran, SSHS Sophomore - Aya argued that redistricting would not solve the school's ongoing problems but would simply relocate affected students. The student noted that SSHS has been without a permanent campus since 2023 and expressed gratitude to THS for welcoming SHS students, while emphasizing that continued relocations disrupt their community. The student warned that redistricting could undermine years of academic achievements, clubs, organizations, class funds, and other student accomplishments. They stressed that redistricting is not rebuilding and called on leaders to fulfill the long-standing promise of a permanent campus. Despite years of instability, SHS students have continued to excel academically and athletically while remaining united. The student called for stability, respect, and consideration, firmly declaring, "We aren't Bulldogs, we aren't Islanders, we're Sharks and will forever be Sharks," affirming their determination to stand up for their school and community.

Acie Jo Cruz, SSHS graduate, former administrator, 24-year teacher, parent of a SSHS graduate, 2026 Guam Teacher of the Year - Acie Jo strongly opposed redistricting and urged the Guam Education Board (GEB) not to eliminate SSHS to address its ongoing challenges. She acknowledged that students, teachers, staff, and families have repeatedly demonstrated resilience, but questioned when they would be allowed to stop enduring hardship and when resilience would stop being used as an excuse for continued disruption. She emphasized that the SSHS community was not responsible for the crisis; rather, the promised campus had not been rebuilt. She highlighted the Class of 2027, which will graduate as SSHS Sharks without ever having attended classes on their own campus. These students have endured disruptions from COVID-19, infrastructure problems, long bus rides, early morning practices, lost friendships, and sacrifices involving family time. Despite these challenges, they continued to achieve academically, win competitions and championships, and represent their school with pride. She also recognized teachers, school aides, parents, and the wider community for continually adapting to unfamiliar classrooms, changing schedules, and repeated relocations to keep students learning. She stressed that although the SSHS community

has proven its resilience time and again, it should not be expected to endure hardship indefinitely. She called on school leaders to take responsibility, fulfill their promises, and rebuild the permanent campus rather than resolve the situation by eliminating SSHS.

Mr. Sablan, who was celebrating his 71st birthday, disclosed that Acie Jo Cruz is his daughter and said it was painful to see her and other students plead to keep their school. He asked the Board to listen to all students, emphasizing that every voice counts.

Gleyn Alim, GWHS Junior - Gleyn represented GDOE students in advocating for quality face-to-face instruction and urged officials to consider double sessions as the preferred solution while SSHS and THS undergo repairs. She emphasized that schools provide more than education; they offer students a sense of identity, belonging, and community. He cautioned that redistricting could disrupt students' learning, separate school communities, and threaten the jobs of teachers and support staff. She urged decision-makers to listen to students and educators and stressed that the issue affects not only SSHS and THS but all public schools in Guam.

Haden Gurumow on behalf of Christian Guevara - Haden said Christian was unable to attend in person. Christian expressed frustration with asynchronous learning and the possibility of students being redistributed among other high schools. He questioned why double sessions at JFKHS or OHS were not being considered if redistribution was an option. He also raised concerns about student safety, potential fights and discrimination, overcrowding, and the impact of an unfamiliar or unsafe learning environment on students' academic performance and well-being. Christian emphasized that having a permanent campus is essential to preserving SSHS's school pride, resilience, and sense of community. He concluded by advocating for future generations of Sharks, expressing appreciation for fellow students who continue to stand up for their school, and reaffirming the message: "All heart, all Shark."

Sheila Matienzo, SSHS parent of a current student and 2 graduates - Sheila expressed support for the SSHS community and urged the GDOE and government leaders to prioritize rebuilding a permanent campus. She emphasized that students deserve a safe, stable, and fully equipped school where they can learn, grow, build their futures, and experience the traditions of high school. She stressed that the Sharks have waited long enough and deserve a permanent place to call home. She also thanked THS and JFKHS for accommodating SSHS students throughout the years.

Inina Sanchez, GWHS Junior student - Inina began by asking Dr. Guthertz to stay awake and listen to their concerns regarding the possibility of redistricting, despite it not being explicitly listed on the GEB's agenda. She argued that students should not have to leave their established school communities to resolve problems they did not create and urged GDOE to prioritize temporary, less disruptive alternatives, such as double sessions. She highlighted potential impacts on students' academic progress, including overcrowded classes, limited access to honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and elective courses, and differences in curriculum pacing. She also raised concerns about longer commutes, increased transportation and fuel costs, disruptions to family routines and extracurricular activities, and additional expenses for new uniforms and supplies. Furthermore, she warned that redistricting could affect teachers' job placements and seniority rights under the teachers' contract. She urged GDOE to carefully consider

these consequences and clearly explain how proposed changes would affect students, families, and teachers before making a decision.

Kyla Glory, SSHS Senior Class President – Kyla expressed heartbreak and uncertainty about the school's future, particularly the possibility of redistricting and the loss of the Sharks' identity. She emphasized that SSHS is more than a building; it represents a community, history, and source of pride. She raised concerns about the future of class funds, student council, clubs, trophies, records, and traditions, stressing that attending another school cannot replace the sense of belonging. She urged school leaders to provide stability, transparency, and respect, including a realistic timeline for rebuilding the campus and clear communication about the future of student organizations and funds. She called for students, alumni, families, teachers, and the community to have a voice in decisions affecting their future. As graduation approaches, she emphasized the importance of preserving SSHS for future generations, stating that their legacy should be one of perseverance and protecting the Sharks' identity. They hope future students will remember that even when their campus was taken away, their school pride remained, and that the Sharks deserve a permanent place to call home.

Jasmine Enriquez, SSHS Senior and student body association president - Jasmine urged that double session between SSHS and OHS be seriously considered instead of island-wide redistricting. She emphasized that SSHS is more than a building; it is a community built on friendships, teachers, traditions, extracurricular activities, and a shared identity. Redistricting could disrupt not only SSHS students but also the communities of the schools receiving them, potentially causing a chain reaction of student relocations, longer commutes, and further disruption. She asked to consider the total impact on students and families rather than focusing only on where students can be placed. Although double session is not ideal, she argued that it could be a temporary solution that allows students to remain together while preserving their school community. They also express concern that dispersing students could jeopardize SSHS's future rebuilding. Ultimately, they ask the Board to protect the SSHS community, give students the opportunity to stay together, and ensure that SSHS has a school to return to.

Chelsea Taga, THS junior - Chelsea described her shock and disappointment when THS was shut down after failing a health inspection during their first week of junior year. She defended the school's faculty, staff, and students, explaining that the campus's poor conditions—such as leaking ceilings, broken tiles, and plumbing issues—were not their fault. Despite repeated complaints, these problems were ignored for too long. She expresses frustration with school leaders for neglecting the campus and only taking action after the issues gained public attention. She emphasized that students should not have to beg for safe and adequate school facilities.

Alyssa Anderson on behalf of Alexa-Jo Sanchez – Alyssa apologized because Alexa had to leave early but we will be delivering their testimonies for them. Alexa's testimony expresses frustration over the years of uncertainty SSHS students have faced due to their school's structural issues and repeated relocations. From their former campus to JFKHS and now THS, students have had to adjust to shared campuses, double sessions, overcrowding, and facility concerns, disrupting their education and high school experiences. Although the students appreciate JFKHS and THS for welcoming them, they are disappointed by government leaders' repeated promises and continued delays in rebuilding SSHS. Alexa urges those responsible to take consistent, meaningful

action so students can finally have a safe, stable school they can call their own, rather than continuing to wait through meetings and promises without results. She expressed frustration that after over a decade of fighting for SSHS to be rebuilt, they are given only three minutes to speak. She urged the rebuild of SSHS.

Dr. McNinch explained that reading another person's testimony generally requires Board approval, except in cases involving special needs or other circumstances. Although he did not object, he suggested a quick vote to follow proper procedure.

Dr. Guthertz acknowledged the circumstances and expressed the Board's support for accepting third-party testimony.

Princess Carreon on behalf of Jasmine Green — Jasmine Green emphasized that her graduating class is the first to spend all four years of high school without attending the actual SSHS campus. She describes overcrowded classrooms, poor facilities, shortened classes, and limited resources that hinder students' academic success. As a four-year varsity volleyball player, she also expresses disappointment at never having a home gym or a proper senior night. She argues that relocating students would disrupt their education, sports, commutes, and school identity. She stresses that Yigo, the island's second-largest populated village, has families who pay taxes and contribute to Guam but are still waiting for the safe, modern high school promised over a decade ago. She urges leaders to end temporary solutions and rebuild SSHS—not next term, but now.

Julia Dukes, THS junior – Julia said she is speaking on behalf of her friend Narciso Paz, a 15-year-old senior of THS and UOG student who could not attend because of a university class. She highlights the challenges faced by high-achieving students who balance high school with college, extracurriculars, and other commitments. Narciso has had to repeatedly take UOG's math placement test and coordinate an early departure from THS because his UOG class begins at 2 p.m., shortly after the THS school day ends. The closure of the THS campus has added uncertainty and stress, particularly because a potential double-session schedule of 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. would conflict with his fixed UOG class and could cause him to miss THS instruction. She argues that the disruption is unfair to students trying to advance academically and questions why Bill 225-32, which called for renovating or constructing a new SSHS, has not been followed through. She concluded by saying that THS and SSHS students deserve better and that the Board needs to do better.

Dr. Won Pat explained that after introducing the original SSHS rebuild bill, she left the legislature, and two amendments to the law later created legal barriers that prevented GDOE from moving forward. After returning, she consulted GDOE's attorney and recommended new language to resolve the issue, which was subsequently adopted and passed, allowing progress on the SSHS rebuild. However, the procurement protest halted the process, and the Department of Public Works recently decided to end the protest and restart the process. She emphasized that GDOE and the Geb cannot independently ensure the rebuild happens; continued funding and action must come from Guam's executive and legislative branches.

Kristin Benavente, SSHS freshman - Kristin expressed frustration over the added stress of double sessions and potential redistricting, emphasizing that longer commutes, exhaustion, and unfamiliar school environments negatively affect students' academic performance and well-being. She stressed that redistricting threatens friendships,

athletic teams, and relationships with coaches, urging school leaders to prioritize student stability. She challenged officials to take action and use available funding to address students' concerns, stating, "We are skipping our lessons to teach you one," to emphasize that students were missing class to educate leaders about the impact of their decisions. She concluded with, "Once a Shark, always a Shark."

Zoe Atoigue, SSHS President of Class of 2028 - Zoe reminded the Board that the room represents every single school mascot and community, not just Sharks and Titans, because Board decisions affect everyone. She expressed frustration over years of broken promises and the burden placed on students, staff, and faculty to repeatedly adapt to circumstances beyond their control. She thanked JFKHS, THS, and OHS for welcoming displaced students but oppose further relocations and redistricting, which could tear apart school communities. She urged leaders to listen to students, recognize their resilience, and ensure no community has to leave its village to receive an education. She said Rebuild SSHS—actions speak louder than words.

James Uherhewar, JFKHS Senior - James expressed frustration over repeated double sessions, proposed redistricting, and unsafe school facilities. They highlight SSHS's temporary closure in 2023 due to structural damage from Typhoon Mawar and THS's recent closure after failing a public health inspection. They question the lack of proper maintenance and oversight, emphasizing that problems arose just weeks into the school year. The speaker calls on GDOE, the GEB, and the superintendent to address students' and parents' concerns, improve school facilities, and take responsibility for providing a safe, quality education for Guam's youth.

Mayor Frances Lizama, Yigo - Mayor Lizama, whose husband and five children are SSHS alumni and whose grandchildren are future Sharks, urges the school's rebuilding to protect future generations. She references the superintendent's rebuilding bill during the 32nd Legislature and alleges that the superintendent later said SSHS "should not be rebuilt." She criticizes decisions made without stakeholder consultation, accuses the Board chairperson of being in "la-la land," and calls for the superintendent's resignation and action to rebuild SSHS.

Dr. Guthertz recommended that all testimony from the hearing be shared with the Guam Legislature, because the legislature is responsible for appropriating the funding needed to rebuild SSHS. She noted that school Boards over the past 12 years have consistently supported constructing a new SSHS facility, but the current budget reportedly contains no funding for the project. She urged the community to bring the same advocacy and urgency to the legislature and pursue a viable funding mechanism, such as direct government borrowing or a public-private partnership. Public Works is prepared to issue another bid, but the project cannot proceed without funding. She emphasized that while the GEB supports the rebuild and will continue advocating for it, the legislature—with the governor's support—must provide or authorize the necessary funding.

Dr. McNinch requested that people who read testimony from written documents or emails submit copies of those documents to the Board.

Dr. Guthertz agreed, noting that if written copies are unavailable, the testimony will need to be transcribed. She also confirmed that all of the testimony will be forwarded to the Guam Legislature.

Mr. Ada echoed the request to immediately distribute the testimony to all 15 Guam senators, rather than waiting until election season. He emphasized the importance of acting quickly and noted the sacrifices made by JFKHS and THS in hosting SSHS students. He said the situation cannot continue, comparing the repeated relocations of SSHS students to moving around the bases in a baseball game. Mr. Ada indicated that he plans to work with the superintendent on a resolution and stressed the need for a permanent solution, specifically advocating for SSHS students to have a new school facility in Yigo.

Mrs. Gutierrez expressed frustration over the longstanding, unfulfilled promises to rebuild SSHS. She recalled an SSHS graduation ceremony at the field house during the Calvo administration, where students were promised a new school within four years, followed by a peaceful student protest urging senators to sign the reconstruction bill. Despite repeated promises from successive administrations, the school remains unbuilt. She shared that her grandchildren, now around 40 years old, attended SSHS and that she also has great-grandchildren who may attend the school but still lack a new campus. She opposed redistricting and emphasized students' desire to preserve their identity as Sharks. Although her Board term ends in December, she pledged to continue advocating for SSHS and called on the governor and legislature to rebuild the school and hold officials accountable.

Mr. Ada questioned the claim that any GEB had opposed rebuilding SSHS. As the Board's longest-serving member, he said he could not recall any Board member or Board ever stating that SSHS should not be rebuilt. He asked Mrs. Gutierrez to clarify which Board, if any, had made such a statement, without identifying an individual by name.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she would not identify the person or Board, but recalled being insulted by a suggestion that the SSHS design was too large and that the school should not be rebuilt, with students instead being redistricted.

Mr. Ada expressed surprise and again asked which Board had made that statement.

Mrs. Gutierrez responded that he should review the meeting minutes to find out.

Mr. Ada asked Mrs. Gutierrez to provide a meeting-minute reference so the Board could identify which meeting or Board made the alleged statement opposing the SSHS rebuild.

Mrs. Gutierrez also mentioned receiving a circulating teacher-chat text claiming that the superintendent had met with some Board members about pursuing redistricting, though she said she did not know which members were involved.

Mr. Ada reiterated that he was concerned about any Board member suggesting that SSHS should not be rebuilt, but chose to move on from the discussion so the meeting could address other matters.

Mr. Sablan stated for the record that he has never opposed rebuilding SSHS, either as a Board member or as a parent.

Dr. McNinch clarified that he is not opposing the SSHS rebuild; rather, he is suggesting the use of building materials other than concrete to allow better airflow and ventilation.

Dr. Guthertz announced the move to executive session.

Dr. Okada said that the Superintendent's Report needed to be approved first

Dr. Won Pat said her recommendation was to reopen THS and SSHS rather than pursue redistricting or other alternatives.

Dr. Guthertz stated that the Superintendent reaffirmed the goal of reopening THS and SSHS as soon as possible.

Mr. Ada motioned, seconded by Dr. McNinch to go into approve the Superintendent's Report. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 6-1. The motion passed.

Mrs. Gutierrez stated that she would approve Items 1 and 2 but not Item 3.

Mr. Sablan requested a five-minute recess before entering executive session.

Dr. Guthertz approved the request.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Torres motioned, seconded by Mr. Sablan, motioned to go into Executive Session at 4:41 pm. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Mr. Ada to get out of Executive Session at 6:02 pm. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

b. **Executive Committee**
c. **Instructional & Academic Support Committee**
d. **Safe & Healthy Schools Committee**
e. **Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee**
BP 379.1 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Mr. Ada to move Board Policy 379.1 to second reading in the next Board meeting. The Board voted by voice with a 7-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Okada introduced proposed Board Policy 379.1 on Artificial Intelligence (AI), noting that it had been reviewed by the Policy Committee and was being presented to the Board for the first time. She moved to advance the policy to second reading at the next meeting and encouraged Board members to submit questions or recommended revisions for the committee's consideration.

Mr. Ada asked Dr. Okada for an update on the school leasing policy, which the Health and Safety Committee had referred to the Policy Committee. He noted that the committee had not received any updates and asked about the policy's status.

Dr. Okada explained that it was pending legal counsel's review to determine whether the new public law affected the proposed updates. She confirmed that no response had been received from legal counsel.

Dr. Guthertz announced the formation of the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee, chaired by Dr. Okada with assistance from Mr. Torres and Dr. McNinch.

Dr. Okada indicated that a matrix will be developed to guide the superintendent's evaluation in accordance with the new assignment. The Board will schedule a meeting to conduct the evaluation covering January 1–30, 2026.

Dr. Okada stated that a matrix will be developed for the superintendent's evaluation covering January 1–30, 2026, to be discussed during the Board retreat.

Dr. Guthertz confirmed that the retreat would address two agenda items: the superintendent's evaluation and the Board's responsibilities regarding relevant portions of the curriculum and management audit. With no objections raised, she declared the committee established and authorized to proceed.

Mr. Sablan recommended keeping the superintendent's evaluation as a recurring agenda item until it is finalized, allowing the superintendent to present her report and the committee to complete the evaluation in accordance with required timelines.

Dr. Guthertz supported the recommendation to include the item on the agenda beginning with the next meeting.

Mr. Sablan said the next meeting is scheduled for September 15 at 3:00 p.m., but an earlier meeting may be necessary depending on the status of THS and SSHS repairs. He clarified that any additional meeting would focus solely on this urgent matter.

Mr. Ada asked whether the Board could bypass the usual five-day and two-day notice requirements due to the urgency of the situation.

Mr. Sablan explained that an emergency meeting could be called.

Dr. Guthertz noted that the Board must establish that an actual emergency exists. She said the Board would await the superintendent's report on the repairs. If an emergency meeting is necessary, the superintendent will notify her, and she will inform the Board.

Mrs. Gutierrez emphasized the urgency of informing stakeholders from THS, SSHS, and the two schools being considered for double-session schedules, noting that waiting until September 15 would be too late.

Dr. Okada clarified that the superintendent's evaluation is already listed under Executive Session, Item 7C. The Board must discuss it in executive session before returning to open session, so a separate standing item on the open-session agenda is unnecessary.

Dr. Guthertz agreed, provided the item remains on the agenda.

Mr. Ada motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Sablan emphasized that the superintendent's evaluation will remain on the executive session agenda for future meetings and must be completed. He stressed the need to provide the evaluation template to the superintendent promptly for review and response.

Dr. Okada, newly appointed to the committee, committed to working on the evaluation template the following day, forwarding it to the superintendent for review, and updating the Board until the evaluation is complete.

Mr. Sablan noted the upcoming Wednesday oversight hearing involving GDOE and encouraged transparency regarding Core Tech contracts.

Dr. Guthertz urged Board members to attend and ensure senators review all versions of the contracts.

Mr. Sablan asked Dr. Won Pat to bring the contracts to the hearing so they are available for review and questions.

Dr. Won Pat confirmed that copies of all CORTEC contracts, including amendments, would be provided to senators at Wednesday's hearing.

Dr. Guthertz requested that Board members also receive a complete set.

Mr. Fedenko then reminded the Board that one more presenter had been waiting eight hours to give her report

Dr. Guthertz to apologize and invite her to proceed.

Ms. Angelina provided updates to her report.

Dr. Guthertz asked about the reasons for low enrollment.

Mrs. Lape said she was unsure but noted that the block grant hold may lead more families to enroll their children, pending data from charter schools and daycares for further analysis.

Dr. Guthertz urged the Board to expand pre-K programs for three- and four-year-old's, noting that federal funding has supported private daycare centers. She emphasized that early education is essential for a successful transition to kindergarten and elementary school.

Mrs. Lape reported an increase in preschool referrals for children with disabilities, with 55 currently enrolled or undergoing certification and another 55 on the waiting list. Since income-eligible children must be prioritized, she plans to share enrollment data with Special Education staff to help determine where additional preschool programs are needed.

Mrs. Gutierrez confirmed that Mrs. Lape was still waiting for staff and asked Deputy Leon Guerrero, who oversees HR, to explain the delay.

Deputy Leon Guerrero reported that one aide's hiring was delayed because she had not completed her drug test.

Mrs. Lape reported that six Head Start aides were recommended for hire but are awaiting clearances and superintendent approval. Teachers from temporarily closed classrooms are team-teaching at other schools until enough aides are hired to reopen DLPES. Ms. Margaret Cruz is awaiting a court appointment date for the FBI clearance.

Dr. Guthertz said that makes a difference.

Dr. McNinch inquired about their testing.

Mrs. Lape reported that annual lead testing found no lead in classroom paint this year, but lead was detected in the water from sinks in two classrooms that are currently unused.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked whether the lead issue at Finegayan Elementary School (FES) involved the same Head Start classroom.

Mrs. Lape clarified that both FES Head Start classrooms tested positive for lead in the paint, but their water tested negative for lead.

f. **Fiscal Management Committee**
g. **Legislative Committee**

VI. New Business
VII. Executive Session
VIII. Celebrate Success
IX. Public Participation
X. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sablan urged the superintendent to reconsider her planned September 9–10 trip to Washington, D.C., emphasizing the need to address the two schools' issues, and suggested sending a representative or attending virtually

Dr. Won Pat confirmed she had already canceled the trip the previous week.

Dr. Guthertz adjourned the meeting, subject to the superintendent's call, and advised members to expect an update the following day on repair progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:

_____ **Date:** October 14, 2026

KATHLEEN LAMORENA
Administrative Officer

MINUTES OF AUGUST 24, 2026 CONTINUATION OF REGULAR MEETING:
( ) Approved as submitted
(✓) Approved subject to corrections
( ) Other: _____

_____ _____

JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
GEB Chair

Date: 10.29.2026

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

Date: 10.29.2026

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
Chair

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

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 15, 2026
3 pm
Gallery, GDOE Building B
MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Judith Guthertz, DPA, Chair
Mary A.Y. Okada, EdD, Vice-Chair
Peter Alecxis D. Ada
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 3:08 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 Alecxis D. (via Zoom)
Gutierrez, Maria A.
McNinch, Dr. Ron L.
Sablan, Angel R. (via Zoom)
Torres, Carl E. II

Non-Voting Members:
Fedenko, Timothy – GFT Representative
Terlaje, Brian Jess – MCOG Representative

Legal Counsel:
Nasis, Jesse
Rudolph, Gloria
Wolff, Matthew

Absent:
None

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

Mr. George Castro, court reporter from Depo Resources, was also present.

II. Consent Calendar

a. August 7, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes
b. August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
c. August 18, 2026 Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Dr. Okada, to approve the August 7, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Mr. Torres, to approve the August 18, 202 Regular Meeting Minutes, subject to corrections. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Dr. Okada, to approve the August 18, 2026 Superintendent's Report. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

III. Communications

a. Correspondence received by the Board after August 24, 2026

Dr. Won Pat mentioned that a September 9 memorandum had been sent regarding the renegotiation of the collective bargaining agreement with the Guam Federation of Teachers.

Dr. Guthertz noted that, under Article 4, Section 7D, the Board needed to establish a team of representatives for the negotiations. Since the process was already behind schedule, he requested the Board's endorsement to immediately begin negotiations with union representatives and called for a motion.

Dr. Okada said they didn't need a motion.

Dr. Guthertz confirmed that the letter had been sent to GFT and asked whether it was received.

Mr. Fedenko confirmed receipt and said GFT was forming a six-person negotiating team and looked forward to negotiations.

Dr. Guthertz expressed appreciation and offered the Board's support in getting the process underway. She then acknowledged Mr. Ada's attendance via Zoom.

IV. Ex-Officio Member Reports

a. Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report - Mrs. Gutierrez introduced the IBOGS representatives for School Year 2026-2027, noting their commitment to serving students. She explained that two students from each of the six high schools were selected and invited each student to introduce themselves and state their grade. She thanked the principals of all six high schools for recommending students to serve as leaders for the 2026–27 school year. Since many students rely on their parents for transportation, IBOGS began with virtual meetings and will continue meeting remotely until they can meet in person. The elected officers are Micaella Bederio from Okkodo High School (OHS) as Chair, Gleyn Alim from George Washington High School (GWHS) as Vice Chair, Jonathan Fliss from Tiyan High School (THS) as Secretary, and Eliya Park from John F. Kennedy High School (JFKHS) and Marleigh Goffigan from Southern High School (SHS) as Public Relations Officers. The IBOGS will focus on Board Policy Series 400, Student Conduct, and represent the student voice on the Guam

Education Board. Mrs. Gutierrez also expressed confidence that student leadership will continue beyond her term and invited the chair to give a brief report.

Dr. Guthertz welcomed the new IBOGS team and expressed the Board's support, encouraging the students to share their input, suggestions, and ideas to help improve the school system. She then invited them to present their report.

Ms. Bederio reported that IBOGS held its first meeting on September 10, 2026, conducted officer elections for SY 2026–2027, and established its leadership team. The group's first task is to review Board policies on student conduct under the guidance of Ms. Gutierrez. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity for IBOGS to serve as the student voice on the Guam Education Board.

b. Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report - Mr. Fedenko acknowledged receipt of the negotiation notice and said the union would hold a general membership meeting on September 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall to form its negotiation team. The list of team members would be provided the following week. He welcomed beginning negotiations two years before the contract expires, noting that this early start could help prevent delays experienced in the past. He explained that the contract allows six representatives from each side, with members able to rotate as needed during the negotiation process. Regarding the Executive Council report from the previous evening's meeting, he raised concerns about reports that employee and teacher salary increments may be behind, possibly due to missing evaluations. He asked that all increments be brought up to date and also expressed concern about outstanding bonuses, BRIPs, and coaching fees. He further mentioned reports of class sizes reaching 38 students, which would violate the contract, and urged that the matter be investigated and corrected if confirmed.

Mrs. Gutierrez supported Mr. Fedenko's concerns about delayed salary increments, noting that some maintenance employees have not received increments that were due in July. She expressed concern about the delay, especially given the employees' hard work, and emphasized that the issue should be addressed even though overtime payments are reportedly up to date.

Dr. Guthertz raised a concern about teachers' summer pay, reporting that some teachers said their compensation for summer work was incorrectly calculated and that they did not receive their full payment for their nine months of service. She asked the Superintendent to look into the issue and confirm whether they were aware of the problem.

Mr. Fedenko explained that teachers should not lose any pay because of the way the fiscal, calendar, and school years overlap. Teachers work 185 days and are paid for the full 185 days, even though there may be breaks in the payment schedule. He suggested that the superintendent send a clear notice reassuring employees that their annual pay will remain the same and that any apparent gap in summer pay is due to the different calendars, not an actual loss of wages. He also noted that the concern might involve summer school or catch-up pay, but he had not heard specific information about that situation.

Dr. Guthertz said as long as the superintendent is aware, that's what's important right now.

c. Mayor's Council of Guam (MCOG) Report – Dr. Guthertz noted that the Mayor was absent and that his report would be addressed later if he arrived.

V. Unfinished Business/Committee Reports

a. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Won Pat read her report for the record.

Dr. Guthertz emphasized the importance of the facilities report and requested that it be released to the island's media so the public can understand the condition and age of Guam's schools and the significant funding needed to improve their infrastructure. She also recommended that the Governor present the report to the civil-military relations committee and seek federal and Department of Defense support to build new schools and upgrade existing facilities. She proposed incorporating modern civil defense shelters into school construction so schools can better protect the community during typhoons and potential man-made threats, including military attacks.

Mr. Fedenko asked Dr. Guthertz to make a motion to approve the report before discussion, explaining that, under Robert's Rules of Order, the Board must first have a motion and a second before discussing the report. He also noted that the IBOGS students were present and could learn from observing the proper procedure.

Mrs. Gutierrez expressed frustration over the continued delay in providing the Board with the requested dashboard, noting that it has been pending since the previous leadership and that the Board's term is nearing its end. She questioned why staff members are able to travel off-island to present information while the dashboard remains unfinished and urged the superintendent and responsible deputy to ensure that it is presented by October. She also raised concerns about security and staffing at GDOE Central, noting that the visitor sign-in area appeared to be unattended and that the last recorded visitor entry was September 10. She described meeting an applicant for a school aide position who had applied months earlier, been interviewed and recommended for a school, but was still waiting for HR to schedule drug testing. Mrs. Gutierrez expressed concern that these delays are leaving schools without needed school aides and teacher assistants and urged GDOE to streamline the hiring and drug-testing process so qualified applicants can begin working sooner.

Dr. Guthertz explained that GDOE must follow mandatory regulations, including drug testing and documentation requirements, and cannot bypass those procedures. She emphasized that applicants also have a responsibility to promptly submit required documents, complete drug testing, and follow up with HR when assistance is needed. She suggested exploring a one-stop application process to make hiring more efficient while acknowledging that both GDOE and applicants must work together to avoid unnecessary delays. She stated that she does not believe anyone intentionally wants to prevent qualified applicants from being hired.

Mrs. Gutierrez clarified that the applicants had already completed the required documentation, including police clearance and tuberculosis testing. She noted that the instructions specifically state that drug testing must be scheduled by the GDOE Drug-Free Workplace Program Specialist. Therefore, she argued that the delay is on GDOE's side, not the applicants', because the applicants have completed their responsibilities and are now waiting for GDOE to schedule their drug tests.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the hiring process includes a strict, company-coordinated drug testing procedure, along with police and court clearances and background checks required for all employees. HR has requested additional staff assistance to help expedite background checks. She also noted concerns about applicants having difficulty reaching HR and said staff have been instructed to answer calls and respond to applicants promptly. She further discussed problems with the job application website, explaining that applicants may not realize that certain links provide position descriptions and other information. The website and front-facing information should be made more user-friendly. She also emphasized the need for consistent front-desk coverage, suggesting that divisions may need to rotate staff to assist visitors and applicants. Having someone stationed at the front desk would improve customer service and help ensure the safety and security of employees by monitoring and directing visitors entering the facility.

Mr. Fedenko asked about the requirements and compensation for the School Aid I position.

Dr. Won Pat confirmed that the position is full-time, includes insurance benefits, requires a high school diploma, and pays an annual salary of $25,736. Dr. Won Pat also reported three vacancies for School Aid I and three vacancies for School Aid III.

Mr. Fedenko commented that's not a great fee, but pretty good for the island. He then questioned the drug-testing requirements, asking whether testing is required by law, whether GDOE requires applicants to use a specific testing facility, and whether applicants could use or pay for another facility themselves to speed up the hiring process rather than waiting for GDOE to schedule the test.

Dr. Won Pat said applicants could potentially use other facilities, but GDOE does not have the budget to pay for their drug testing.

Mr. Fedenko questioned whether applicants must use a specific drug-testing facility and appointment arranged by GDOE, asking whether they could instead obtain an official drug test independently. He also asked whether this requirement is mandated by law or is simply GDOE policy.

Dr. Won Pat said the requirement applies to all facilities conducting the drug testing.

Mr. Fedenko questioned whether the specific drug-testing process is required by law or is simply a policy. He noted that other government agencies allow applicants to obtain their own drug tests and submit the results, and stated that if the requirement is only a policy, the Board could consider changing it.

Dr. Won Pat explained that the drug-testing process is designed to verify that the individual providing the urine sample is the actual applicant identified by HR or the specialist, due to previous cases of someone else submitting a sample on an applicant's behalf.

Mr. Fedenko said everyone knows the tricks.

Dr. Won Pat said the process is strict to ensure that only the designated applicant provides the specimen.

Mr. Fedenko questioned why applicants must use a specific drug-testing facility when other credible facilities could follow the same procedures, noting that scheduling appears to be causing delays. He also asked for clarification on the difference between a police clearance and an FBI clearance is required.

Dr. Won Pat explained that because the positions involve working with children, applicants must undergo not only police and court clearances but also an FBI background check.

Mr. Fedenko asked whether the required FBI and APHIS background checks is scheduled by the applicant.

Dr. Won Pat explained that GDOE's EEO office handles the background checks by entering applicants' information into the appropriate database and conducting the required checks.

Mr. Fedenko said that could be a bottleneck as well.

Dr. Won Pat said background checks can become a bottleneck during the busy hiring period at the start of the school year. She noted that the workload decreases afterward and that HR has offered additional assistance to help process the checks.

Mrs. Gutierrez clarified that applicants must wait for the GDOE Drug-Free Workplace Program Specialist to schedule their drug test. She said this creates another delay for applicants who have already completed the interview, received a principal's recommendation, and submitted all other required documents.

Mr. Fedenko asked if it was a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) or a Policy.

Dr. Guthertz explained that the Government of Guam's Drug-Free Workplace rules, which she believes are a Department of Administration (DOA) policy, require applicants to use approved drug-testing vendors. She said the policy is intended to ensure testing is conducted by certified providers and to prevent fraudulent or improper clearances.

Mr. Fedenko questioned whether, if that's the case, shouldn't applicants go through DOA rather than GDOE.

Dr. Guthertz explained that DOA likely delegates the drug-testing responsibility to agency HR departments and suggested confirming the process with HR Administrator, Mrs. Katherine Ada.

Mr. Fedenko said he wanted to clarify the process because the public was listening and the requirements seemed extensive.

Mrs. Ada explained that applicants for these lower-paid positions must pay out of pocket for their police clearance, court clearance, drug test, and TB testing before they can be fully processed. She said the cost of these requirements can delay applicants,

as some must wait until they have enough money to pay for them. GDOE is working to streamline and track the process and is exploring partnerships to reduce the burden on applicants, particularly for School Aid I positions, which have high turnover.

Mr. Fedenko asked whether an employee transferring from another government department would need to take another drug test if they had already completed one.

Mrs. Ada clarified that employees transferring between divisions within GDOE would not need another drug test. However, employees transferring from another government agency, such as the Guam Police Department, would be required to undergo a drug test.

Mr. Fedenko reiterated this distinction for public clarification.

Dr. Guthertz informed attendees that a court reporter was present for the executive session and that the committee would enter executive session once the current discussion concluded.

Dr. Won Pat explained that Frank had been invited to address Mrs. Gutierrez's question regarding the dashboard but noted that he had just left the room.

Dr. McNinch motioned to accept the superintendent's report.

Dr. Okada requested that Dr. McNinch amend his motion to include approval of Resolution 2026-09, noting that the resolution needed to be included due to the timeline and requirements for the Fix-in-Six initiative.

Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez, to approve the Superintendent's Report and Resolution 2026-09 Relative to supporting and authorizing the Guam Department of Education's application for community development block grant disaster recovery CDBGDR fix-in-six funding for the hardening and resiliency of GDOE emergency shelters and facilities. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Guthertz said I would suggest we go into our executive session now because we have some matters, legal matters to talk about.

Dr. Okada motioned to go into executive session.

Dr. Guthertz said we have a few resolutions. If we can do these first so the folks don't have to wait for a presentation, that would be good.

Celebrate Success – Retirees: Christine Rosario 33 years, Michelle Reyes 32 years, Liza Davis 13 years, Nenita Padilla 16 years; OHS Marine Corps JROTC back to back naval honor school for SY 25-26 and Joseph Chargualaf II 2026-2027 National Book Foundation Teacher Fellow.

Mr. Fedenko noted that Mr. Sablan had raised his hand and asked whether he should be given an opportunity to speak before the executive session, pointing out that Mr. Sablan was muted. He also suggested considering the mayor's report before entering executive session, as they would be leaving afterward.

Dr. Guthertz noted connection issues with Mr. Salman and asked AO Kathleen to notify him to submit his comments in writing for the minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION -

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Mr. Torres to go into Executive Session at 4:30 pm. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 5-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Mr. Torres to rise out of Executive Session at 5:10 pm. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 5-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez, to contact the Attorney General regarding the representation on the threat of litigation under the adequate education act and a request for a response a response from him by close a business, September 17, 2026 and absent a respond request the Board to authorize GDOE one Department of Education legal counsel, to represent the Guam Education Board. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 5-0.

Dr. Guthertz asked Dr. Won Pat to draft the appropriate letters before returning to the regular session and resuming discussion on Head Start.

b. **Executive Committee** – N/A
c. **Instructional & Academic Support Committee**
September Head Start Report – Mrs. Lape read highlights of her report.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked whether Talofofo Elementary School (TALES) currently has a Head Start classroom.

Mrs. Lape explained that there is no Head Start classroom there at this time because the school only had one classroom, which was used for Universal Pre-K. Enrollment was also insufficient to meet the required numbers. However, they are working to recruit more children, and if enrollment reaches at least half of the required number, they may consider merging the Head Start and Universal Pre-K programs.

Mrs. Gutierrez raised concerns about a large apartment complex near the cemetery in the Talofofo area and wondered whether there were potential Head Start students living there.

Mrs. Lape said staff could conduct outreach at the apartment complex to identify residents and determine whether any children there qualify for the program.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked whether the program is still experiencing a staff shortage.

Mrs. Lape confirmed that the program is still experiencing a staff shortage, although it is not primarily due to HR delays. While all Head Start limited-term full-time aides have been hired, several teachers were subsequently hired as permanent DOE pre-K teachers, and two staff members retired while another moved off-island. These vacancies now need to be filled, but she must first ensure there is enough funding for the required Community Program Aide positions. She has placed the clerk position on hold and hopes to use most of its salary funding to address the staffing needs. However, she may need to convert another teaching position to limited-term status

because salary increments and teacher reclassifications are putting additional pressure on the budget.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked where the equipment from the closed Head Start school sites was relocated.

Mrs. Lape said the equipment remains at the closed Head Start classrooms because they intend to reopen them. Furniture and other items have not been removed, except for expensive equipment such as Promethean boards, which were relocated for security due to school break-ins.

Dr. Okada questioned the need for an Assistant Head Start Program Director given school closures, low enrollment, and existing funding constraints caused by teacher reclassifications and salary increments.

Mrs. Lape explained that the position is needed because the program is lacking an education manager. The Assistant Program Director position is designated in the personnel description as the education manager. Currently, some teachers are temporarily serving as education coordinators, but they are nine-month employees, so they are not available during the summer when much of the program planning occurs. The regional office has identified the lack of a dedicated education manager as a management gap. Mrs. Lape therefore determined that the Assistant Program Director position, as defined in HR, is the appropriate position to fulfill that role.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked whether Head Start currently has a nurse.

Mrs. Lape explained that Head Start no longer has a dedicated nurse because its nurse was transferred to Julieta about one to two years ago due to the nursing shortage. Instead, Head Start uses designated health staff, including a social worker serving as the health coordinator, who works with Julieta, Nurse Anne, and school nurses to provide health services to Head Start children.

Mrs. Gutierrez said the one that's serving Head Start are rovers.

Mrs. Lape clarified that, due to staffing shortages, Head Start currently has no roving staff; available aides are assigned to specific centers.

Mrs. Gutierrez said an employee who had been hired for Head Start as a rover but resigned after being assigned to the roving role because she had expected to be stationed at Head Start. The employee was subsequently hired by one of the clinics, resulting in Head Start losing that staff member.

Mrs. Lape said the previous Head Start nurse relocated off-island, and the nurse who replaced her was later transferred to a middle or high school.

Dr. Guthertz asked for details about Senator Barnett's proposed Head Start legislation.

Mrs. Lape explained that Senator Barnett's bill would require local Head Start programs to continue following the federal performance standards that were in effect on January 1, 2026, regardless of future changes. She noted that President Trump's administration has proposed revisions to the federal Head Start Performance

Standards, including potential changes to requirements such as staffing ratios and classroom size. Some requirements may also shift to state licensing regulations. She recommended waiting until the federal revisions are finalized before moving forward with the bill, noting that permanently requiring the current standards could potentially put Head Start out of compliance with future federal requirements. She has submitted testimony to the deputy and superintendent and expects a legislative hearing.

Mrs. Gutierrez expressed concern that legislative changes could jeopardize Head Start funding, emphasizing the need to be cautious given the federal funding source and upcoming election year.

Mrs. Lape agreed, stating that maintaining compliance with federal requirements is essential to protecting funding, which is why she recommended waiting.

d. **Safe & Healthy Schools Committee – N/A**
e. **Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee**

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Dr. McNinch to approve Board Policy 379.1 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 5-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Guthertz introduced Guam Department of Education Board Policy 379.1, the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy, invited questions, and entertained a motion for approval.

Dr. Guthertz recommended that the Superintendent publicize the policy through the media to inform the public that the Board has moved forward on the matter.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked whether the HR data was included in the Superintendent's report.

Dr. Won Pat said yes.

Mrs. Gutierrez requested that workers' compensation be added to the employee status report, including the number of employees and length of time on workers' compensation. She expressed concern about potential abuse and suggested obtaining independent medical evaluations.

Dr. Won Pat agreed and said the EEO office is already exploring hiring independent doctors to provide second opinions for employees on workers' compensation.

Dr. McNinch asked how long employees typically remain on workers' compensation.

Dr. Won Pat explained that workers' compensation leave varies by injury, ranging from about a month to several years in some cases. She noted that the department now bears the cost of these employees, with approximately $1 million budgeted because the Department of Labor no longer covers the expense. To address lengthy cases and ensure employees are appropriately cleared to return to work, the EEO office is seeking an independent medical doctor to conduct fit-for-duty evaluations and provide second opinions.

Dr. McNinch emphasized the need to consider medical retirement, workplace accommodations, or alternative duties when appropriate instead of extended workers' compensation, and noted the Board's interest in supporting appropriate policy.
Dr. Won Pat said some employees are instead on long-term medical leave, with some cases lasting up to five years through leave-sharing.

Dr. Okada questioned whether leave-sharing can legally extend that long, noting that there may be a 96-hour-per-incident limit and a maximum duration, and that the applicable law should be reviewed.

Dr. McNinch emphasized that addressing employee leave and workers' compensation issues is important because staffing shortages directly affect the department's ability to educate students.

Dr. Guthertz asked the Superintendent to work with legal counsel to review the most current laws and ensure compliance, particularly given the difficulty filling vacant positions.

f. **Fiscal Management Committee**

Dr. Okada motioned seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez to approve 2026-11 Relative to Approving the Corrective Financial Recovery Plan Prepared in Response to the Code C-Watch Issued by the Education Financial Supervision Commission for the Months of March, April, May of Fiscal Year 2026 with corrections. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 5-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Okada reported that the financial reports included in the Board packet consist of the accounts payable aging report, grant status report, executive summary, and unaudited Statement of Appropriation Expenditures and Encumbrances for FY2026. The Board's action item is to approve Resolution 2026-11, adopting the corrective financial recovery plan prepared in response to the Code C watch issued by the Education Financial Supervision Commission for March, April, and May of FY2026. The status report on the U.S. Department of Education's specific conditions remains pending an update from the Finance Committee. The FY2025 audit is nearing completion, with an update previously provided by the superintendent in her report.

g. **Legislative Committee -** Dr. Won Pat reported several bills introduced by Senator Borja addressing GDOE staffing, salaries, and infrastructure. Bill 226-38 would provide incentive pay for employees obtaining specialized certifications or training in critical shortage areas, including special education, language access, and disability services. Bill 351-38 would establish a salary increase plan for GDOE teacher educators. Bill 357-38 would appropriate $20 million in excess Section 30 revenues to GDOE for FY 2027 as an initial phase toward the estimated $427 million needed to bring schools up to standards. Bill 358-38, introduced by Senator Sabrina Mantanona, would allocate approximately $19.885 million in excess Section 30 revenues to establish the SSHS Modernization Fund for long-term capital improvements. She also noted the previously discussed Head Start legislation introduced by Senator Barnett.

Dr. Guthertz welcomed the Legislature's attention to teacher salaries and said coordination between GDOE and Senator Borja's committee is important to ensure the revised bill addresses the department's needs. She also noted that the University of Guam's School of Business and Public Administration is willing to assist with the

teacher compensation study through a team with compensation-planning expertise. She emphasized that past salary studies did not adequately recognize early-career teachers and hopes the current effort will address those concerns. She also referenced a related resolution she prepared for consideration.

Dr. McNinch emphasized the need for legislative attention to teacher certification requirements, describing the current process as burdensome and an obstacle for young people seeking teaching positions. He recommended restoring greater responsibility for teacher certification to GDOE to streamline processes and improve coordination among GDOE, Guam Community College, and the University of Guam.

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

Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Dr. Okada to approve 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 the President of the University of Guam to Immediately Reestablish the Teacher fast Track Teacher Certification Program at the University of Guam, as amended to subsequent any input of the other Board members. The Board voted by raise of hands, with a vote of 5-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Guthertz emphasized that improving teacher compensation must be accompanied by efforts to remove barriers to entering the teaching profession. She highlighted the former University of Guam Fast Track Teacher Certification Program, which allowed individuals with non-teaching degrees to complete certification coursework in about eight months and become eligible to teach in GDOE. The program successfully brought approximately 34 teachers into the school system but was later discontinued. She noted that additional requirements for education majors have also created barriers for prospective teachers. Dr. Guthertz proposed two separate Board resolutions: one to support the Legislature's teacher compensation initiative and another to urge the University of Guam Board of Regents and President to reinstate a fast-track teacher and administrator certification program. She suggested that the program be jointly managed by the School of Education and School of Business and Public Administration, with coordination from Guam Community College, including opportunities for early childhood education. She urged the Board to move quickly on both initiatives to address teacher and administrator shortages.

Dr. McNinch expressed strong support for both resolutions and emphasized the need to rebuild the pipeline into the teaching profession. He proposed engaging middle and high school students through teacher organizations and apprenticeships to encourage teaching as a career. He argued that Guam's teacher shortage could be addressed through greater collaboration among UOG, GCC, and GDOE, including potentially establishing a teacher academy on Guam. He also criticized the current certification and practice-exam requirements as costly and burdensome, suggesting a more practical approach based on mentorship, classroom experience, and apprenticeships with experienced teachers beginning as early as college. He argued that Guam's teacher shortage could be addressed through greater collaboration among UOG, GCC, and GDOE, including potentially establishing a teacher academy on Guam. He also

criticized the current certification and practice-exam requirements as costly and burdensome, suggesting a more practical approach based on mentorship, classroom experience, and apprenticeships with experienced teachers beginning as early as college.

Dr. Okada explained that Bill 351-38 should be separated from the fast-track certification initiative because the bill specifically requires GDOE to conduct a teacher compensation study. She noted that the bill is being revised to align its language with GDOE's actual job classifications. She also recommended that the compensation study be conducted by an independent third party, potentially the University of Guam, and suggested using an existing FY 2027 appropriation for updating government pay plans to fund the study. She emphasized that GDOE should avoid creating a new internal office for the study and instead utilize the Department of Administration's existing expertise in compensation and pay-plan analysis.

Dr. Guthertz said the Board should support the Legislature's teacher compensation bill and work with the university or other entities as needed to refine it. She also supported a separate resolution to reinstate the fast-track teacher certification program, with GCC included as a partner. She recommended seeking legislative funding, including potential use of excess Section 30 revenues, to support program costs and possibly subsidize tuition for participants.

Mrs. Gutierrez raised concerns that the bill's implementation timelines are unrealistic, particularly for newly appointed Board members who are still becoming familiar with the issue.

Dr. Guthertz suggested that if the Department of Administration has already completed a compensation study, it could potentially be used to meet the bill's requirements. She recommended splitting the resolution into two separate resolutions and voting on them immediately to move the initiatives forward.

Dr. Okada confirmed that DOA has already completed the compensation study and recommended approving the intent of the resolution now, with the final versions brought back to the Board for approval after the resolution is split into two separate resolutions and the language is finalized. This would allow discussions on the final content to begin immediately.

Dr. Guthertz emphasized the importance of acting quickly while legislators are actively supporting GDOE. She recommended moving forward with the resolutions rather than delaying them for another month, with the Superintendent and legal counsel finalizing the language for Board review.

Dr. McNinch suggested allowing the Board to provide input through the process and then having the Chair sign on behalf of the Board, addressing both the need for timely action and collective Board input.

Dr. Guthertz assured the Board that their comments and suggestions would be incorporated into the final resolution in coordination with the Superintendent.

Dr. McNinch motioned subject to any subsequent input of the other Board members, to approve and ask that our chair be the signatory for it.

Mr. Torres noted that there was already an existing motion and suggested that it be modified.

Dr. McNinch amended his first motion with the motion to subject any subsequent input of the other Board members, approved that the chair be the signatory for it.

Dr. Guthertz asked Dr. Won Pat to prioritize finalizing and issuing the resolution as soon as possible and expressed support for working collaboratively to move the initiative forward.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked whether the fast-track program could also include special education, noting that a previous fast-track effort had been discussed with UOG but did not continue. She also highlighted past efforts to encourage School Aide III employees to become teachers through GCC, as well as opportunities to develop more CHamoru language teachers, given the current shortage.

Dr. Guthertz agreed to include special education and CHamoru language program in the fast-track initiative and to make eligibility clear in the resolutions.

Mrs. Gutierrez emphasized including School Aide III employees, who are always covering classes.

Dr. Guthertz agreed that this was a natural pathway into teaching and said the additions would be incorporated into the resolutions.

VII. Executive Session

VIII. Celebrate Success

IX. Public Participation – N/A

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT - Dr. Guthertz introduced a commendatory resolution recognizing Marine Corps Baseball Camp Blaz Guam for its community partnership, volunteerism, and support of Finegayan Elementary SchooL (FES), noting the initiative received positive media coverage the previous week, and entertained a motion to approve the resolution.

Mr. Ada motioned, seconded by Dr. McNinch to approve Resolution 2026-10 Relative to Commending and Recognizing Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz for their Extraordinary Community Partnership, Volunteerism, and Dedicated Support of Finegayan Elementary School.

Dr. Okada suggested issuing a certificate of recognition since the resolution was not on the agenda or part of the Superintendent's report, with the formal resolution to be presented at a later meeting.

Mrs. Gutierrez supported the idea, noting that FES has a PTO meeting and recognition planned for the group, and Mr. Sablan could present the certificate there. She asked that the certificate be prepared tomorrow so she could pick it up.

Dr. Guthertz stated that the certificate would use the resolution's title, while the formal resolution would be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting. She then called for a motion to approve.

Dr. Guthertz stated that the certificate would use the resolution's title, while the formal resolution would be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting. She then called for a motion to approve.
Mrs. Gutierrez clarified that no motion was needed because it was only a certificate.

Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Mr. Torres to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 5-0. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:

_____ **Date:** October 14, 2026

KATHLEEN LAMORENA
Administrative Officer

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 REGULAR MEETING:
( ) Approved as submitted
(✓) Approved subject to corrections
( ) Other: _____

_____ _____

JUDITH GUTHERTZ, DPA
GEB Chair

Date: 10.29.2026

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

Date: 10.29.2026