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**Messages and Communications for 38GL-25-0381\***

2 messages

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**Speaker Frank Blas Jr.** <speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov>  
To: committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov, Office Senator Bri <office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov>

Wed, Apr 2, 2025 at 4:20 PM

*Hafa Adai,*

Please see attached M&C Doc. No. 38GL-25-0381

38GL-25-0381	Guam Department of Education	Board Meeting Packet for April 1, 2025*
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*Si Yu'os Ma'ase',*

*Bernice Rivera*

Administrative Assistant

**Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.**

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahan 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

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

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

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

Date: Wed, Apr 2, 2025 at 2:56 PM

Subject: GEB April 1, 2025 Regular Meeting - Reporting Requirements

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

Cc: Dr. Kenneth E. Swanson (Superintendent) <keswanson@gdoe.net>, MaeRose A. Nauta <manauta@gdoe.net>

Hafa Adai!

Please see the attached documents for the Guam Education Board's Regular Meeting held on April 1, 2025.

Thank you!

Warm regards,  
Kathleen Lamorena  
Guam Department of Education


Guam Department of Education 2025

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**2 attachments**

 **GEB Reporting Requirements April 1, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.pdf**

1461K

 **38GL-25-0381.pdf**

1030K

*Håfa Adai!*

Received and thank you.



*Si Yu'os ma'åse',*

Marie Crisostomo

Committee on Rules Assistant

## COMMITTEE ON RULES

Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada, Chairperson

*I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

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

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**From:** Speaker Frank Blas Jr. <[speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025 4:20 PM

**To:** [committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:committeeonrules@guamlegislature.gov); Office Senator Bri <[office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov](mailto:office.senatorbri@guamlegislature.gov)>

**Subject:** Messages and Communications for 38GL-25-0381\*

*Hafa Adåi,*

Please see attached M&C Doc. No. 38GL-25-0381

38GL-25-0381	Guam Department of Education	Board Meeting Packet for April 1, 2025*
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*Si Yu'os Ma'åse',*

*Bernice Rivera*

Administrative Assistant

**Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.**

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

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image001.png  
73K



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

## GEB April 1, 2025 Regular Meeting - Reporting Requirements

2 messages

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

Wed, Apr 2, 2025 at 2:55 PM

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

Cc: "Dr. Kenneth E. Swanson (Superintendent)" <keswanson@gdoe.net>, "MaeRose A. Nauta" <manauta@gdoe.net>

Hafa Adai!

Please see the attached documents for the Guam Education Board's Regular Meeting held on April 1, 2025.

Thank you!

Warm regards,  
Kathleen Lamorena  
Guam Department of Education

Doc Type: 38GL-25-0381  
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER  
FRANK F. BLAS, JR.

Apr. 2, 2025

Time: 2:55 PM

Received: 

Guam Department of Education 2025



**GEB Reporting Requirements April 1, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.pdf**

1461K

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

Wed, Apr 2, 2025 at 3:47 PM

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

Cc: "Jean S. Taitano" <jean.taitano@guam.gov>, "Dr. Kenneth E. Swanson (Superintendent)" <keswanson@gdoe.net>, "MaeRose A. Nauta" <manauta@gdoe.net>

*Hafa Adâi,*

Received, thank you.

*Bernice Rivera*

Administrative Assistant



**Office of Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.**

I Mina'trentai Ocho na Liheslaturan Guahan 38<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña

(671)969-6456

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

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**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: keswanson@gdoe.net

**K. ERIK SWANSON, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent of Education

April 1, 2025

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

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

**Dear Governor Leon Guerrero and Speaker Blas Jr.:**

***Håfa Adai!*** Pursuant to Public Law 31-233, Section 38, *Reporting Requirements for Boards and Commissions*, attached are copies of the Guam Education Board’s meeting agenda, ad, and other documents as discussed at the April 1, 2025, 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.

**K. ERIK SWANSON, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent of Education

Attachments



**38GL-25-0381**  
Messages and Communications

**RECEIVED**  
COMMITTEE ON RULES  
April 2, 2025  
4:20 p.m.

*Marie Crisostomo*



**ANGEL R. SABLAN**  
Chair

# GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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



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

## Guam Education Board REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 1, 2025  
4 PM

Gallery, Bldg. B, Tiyan

### AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order**
- INFO **II. Celebrate Success**
- INFO/ACTION **III. Consent Calendar**
  - 1. Minutes of March 4, 2025 Regular Meeting Approval
  - 2. Minutes of March 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Approval
  - 3. Superintendent’s Report 3/4/25 Approval
  - 4. Superintendent’s Report 3/18/25 Approval
- IV. Public Participation** (Board Policy 125.6) Time Limit 3 minutes
- V. Communications**
  - 1. Correspondence received by the Board after March 18, 2025
- INFO **VI. Unfinished Business**
- INFO/ACTION **VI. Unfinished Business**
  - 1. JFKHS/SSHS Double Session Status Report
  - 2. FEMA Projects Status Report
  - 3. FBLG Renovation Status Report
  - 4. Member Dr. Guthertz Motion Re: Simon Sanchez Option
  - 5. LBJES merge with TAMES
  - 6. Mold mitigation/fencing
  - 7. WASC SPRING Commission Meeting – Burlingame, CA – April 28-29, 2025
  - 8. Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon Municipal Planning Council CBMES Resolution
  - 9. Waive 180 Instructional Days for SY2024-2025 Calendar
- VII. Committee Reports**
  - 10. Instructional & Academic Support Committee
    - a. April Head Start Report
  - 11. Fiscal Management Committee
    - a. GDOE Financial Report
      - INFO i. Accounts Payable Aging Report
      - INFO/ACTION ii. Declaration of Financial Status Designation
      - INFO iii. Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2025
      - INFO iv. Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2025

---

**VOTING MEMBERS:** Angel R. Sablan, Chair, Mary A.Y. Okada, Ed.D., Vice-Chair, Peter Alexis D. Ada, Felicitas B. Angel, Christine W. Baletto, Karlyn RCG Borja, Judith Guthertz, Maria A. Gutierrez, Ron L. McNinch, PhD  
**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:** IBOGS Representatives, Timothy Fedenko - GFT Representative, Mayor Peter Benavente - MCOG Representative  
**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** K. Erik Swanson, Ph.D., Superintendent

- INFO  
INFO/ACTION
- b. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report
  - c. Revised FY26 Budget/ Updated 2025-01 Resolution Relative to Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request for the Guam Department of Education
- VIII. New Business**
- INFO/ACTION 1. Interscholastic Sports Association (ISA) (Protecting Young Women)
- INFO/ACTION **IX. 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
- INFO/ACTION **X. Announcements & Adjournment**

---

**VOTING MEMBERS:** Angel R. Sablan, Chair, Mary A.Y. Okada, Ed.D., Vice-Chair, Peter Alexcis D. Ada, Christine W. Baleto, Felicitas B. Angel, Lourdes M. Benavente, Karlyn RCG Borja, Maria A. Gutierrez, Ron L. McNinch, PhD

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:** IBOGS Representative, Timothy Fedenko - GFT Representative, Mayor, Melissa B. Savares, MCOG Representative

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** K. Erik Swanson, Ph.D., Superintendent



**CAMACHO CALVO LAW GROUP LLC**  
**VINCENT C. CAMACHO**  
 vcamacho@camachocalvo.law  
 356 E. Marine Corps Drive, Suite 201  
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910  
 Telephone No. 671.472.6813  
 Facsimile No. 671.477.4375  
 Attorneys for Petitioner  
 SOPHIA SANTOS BLAS

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF**  
**GREGORY FRANCIS BLAS,**  
**Deceased.**

**PROBATE CASE NO. PR0021-25**  
**NOTICE OF REMOTE HEARING BY**  
**ZOOM OR TELEPHONE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a hearing has been set before this Court before the Honorable Judge Dana A. Gutierrez, Superior Court of Guam on:

DATE:	TIME:	PURPOSE OF HEARING
APR 02 2025	9:30 a.m.	Petition for Letters of Administration

**REMARKS:**  
 Please see Zoom information below to appear for remote hearing:  
 You may participate by using a smartphone or computer: go to <https://guamcourts-org.zoom.us>  
 Meeting ID: 839 7874 0380 Passcode: 189701  
 You may also call in for the hearing; you can call into the courtroom at 671-475-3207 at the designated hearing time.  
 DATED: Hagåtña, GU, February 3, 2025.

**CAMACHO CALVO LAW GROUP LLC**  
 /s/ VINCENT C. CAMACHO  
 Attorneys for Petitioner  
 SOPHIA SANTOS BLAS

You may appear in person at the Courtroom of Judge Dana A. Gutierrez, 120 W. O'Brien Drive, Hagåtña, GU or you may participate via Zoom by logging onto <https://guamcourts-org.zoom.us> and enter the Meeting ID: 839 7874 0380 and Passcode: 189701. For technical assistance, please call (671) 475-3207 five (5) minutes prior the designated hearing time.

**CAMACHO CALVO LAW GROUP LLC**  
**VINCENT C. CAMACHO**  
 vcamacho@camachocalvo.law  
 356 E. Marine Corps Drive, Suite 201  
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910  
 Telephone No. 671.472.6813  
 Facsimile No. 671.477.4375  
 Attorneys for Petitioner  
 DARLENE RUPLEY SAUER

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF**  
**HARRY JOHN SAUER,**  
**Decedent.**

**PROBATE CASE NO. PR0022-25**  
**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 Darlene Rupley Sauer has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration.
2. A hearing on the petition will be heard on **Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.**
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](mailto:jsamson@guamcourts.gov).

DATED: 25 FEB. 2025

**JANICE M. CAMACHO-PEREZ,**  
 Clerk of Court, Superior Court of Guam  
 /s/ Alice B. Mendoza  
 Courtroom/Chamber Clerk

**CHAMORRO EQUITIES INC.**

**CALL OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF CHAMORRO EQUITIES, INC.**

**TO: ALL STOCKHOLDERS**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to the §2.03 of the By-laws of CHAMORRO EQUITIES, INC., a Special Meeting of the Stockholders of Chamorro Equities, Inc. has been requested by a couple of shareholders for the purpose to "Discussing tax issues related to fringe benefits of officers". The Special Meeting will be held at **10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, April 9, 2025**, at the principal office of Chamorro Equities, Inc. that is located at 205 Oka Commercial Center, 221 Farenholt Avenue, Tamuning, Guam, 96913

Dated this 6th day of March, 2025

**/s/ ROBERT V. ULLOA**  
 President

**THE SALVATION ARMY GUAM CORPS**  
 Statement of Financial Position  
 September 30, 2024

	2024
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 849,539
Accounts Receivable	\$ 752,736
Other Assets	48,045
Right-of-Use Lease Asset	331,889
Vehicles and Equipment, net	<u>6,545</u>
	<u>\$ 1,988,754</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 3,294,765</u>
Total Liabilities	3,294,765
Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>(1,306,191)</u>
	<u>\$ 1,988,574</u>

**CAMACHO CALVO LAW GROUP LLC**  
**VINCENT C. CAMACHO**  
 vcamacho@camachocalvo.law  
 356 E. Marine Corps Drive, Suite 201  
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910  
 Telephone No. 671.472.6813  
 Facsimile No. 671.477.4375  
 Attorneys for Administratrix  
 TRICIA LYNN CHARGUALAF

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF**  
**TOMAS SAN NICOLAS CHARGUALAF,**  
**Deceased.**

**PROBATE CASE NO. PR0012-25**  
**NOTICE OF CREDITORS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by TRICIA LYNN CHARGUALAF, Administratrix of the Estate of TOMAS SAN NICOLAS CHARGUALAF, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against said Estate or against said Decedent, that within sixty (60) calendar days after the date of the first publication of this notice, they either file them with necessary vouchers in the Office of Clerk of the Superior Court of Guam, or exhibit them with the necessary vouchers to said Executrix or her attorneys of record, Camacho Calvo Law Group LLC, 356 E. Marine Corps Drive, Suite 201, Hagåtña, Guam 96910, the same being the place for the transaction of the business of said Estate.

DATED: Hagåtña, GU, March 14, 2025.

**CAMACHO CALVO LAW GROUP LLC**  
 /s/ VINCENT C. CAMACHO  
 Attorneys for Administratrix  
 TRICIA LYNN CHARGUALAF

**Statement of Activities**  
 September 30, 2024

	2024
<b>REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>	
Fees and grants from government agencies	\$ 1,696,313
Associated grants	238,044
Contributions and fundraising	328,490
Sales to the public	560,343
Interest	44
Other	<u>2,090</u>
Total Revenues, gains and other support	2,825,324
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Program Services:	
Guam Corps	1,750,452
Lighthouse Recovery Center	<u>1,626,643</u>
Total Expenses	3,377,095
Change in net assets	(551,771)
Net assets at the beginning of the year	(754,420)
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ (1,306,191)</u>

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

**Guam Education Board**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 1, 2025**  
**4 PM**  
**Gallery, Bldg. B, Tiyan**

**AGENDA**

- I. Meeting Call to Order**
- II. Celebrate Success**
- III. Consent Calendar**
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  2. Minutes of March 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Approval
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  7. WASC SPRING Commission Meeting - Burlingame, CA - April 28-29, 2025
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  11. Fiscal Management Committee
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  - 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
- X. Announcements & Adjustment**

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

Individuals requiring special accommodations or information or wish to submit public testimony via email may contact Kathleen Lamorena by email: [klamorena@gdoe.net](mailto:klamorena@gdoe.net).

This advertisement was paid by GDOE local funds.

**GSWA**

**Guam Solid Waste Authority Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 27, 2025 – 1:00 PM (ChST)**  
**Join Zoom Meeting**

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/9140408814?pwd=TjZ3U0dHSVd0ajlKRjBhCWFrclZlZz09>

Meeting ID: 914 040 8814 Passcode: 777546

THE GUAM SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HAVE A REGULAR BOARD MEETING MARCH 27, 2025 AT 1:00 PM. THE MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM.

**AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. DETERMINATION OF PROOF OF PUBLICATION
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- VI. REPORTS A. RECEIVER REPORTS I. RECEIVERSHIP UPDATE
- II. TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE B. MANAGEMENT REPORTS I. OPERATIONAL UPDATE II. FINANCIAL REPORT C. LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT D. COMMITTEE REPORTS VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS A. RATE CASE WITH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION B. ISLAND WIDE TRASH COLLECTION INITIATIVE I. PROPOSED BILL C. LAYON CELLS 1 AND 2 CLOSURE VIII. NEW BUSINESS A. SUCCESSION PLANNING IX. COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE X. PUBLIC FORUM A. BART CRUZ – RECYCLE SERVICE XI. NEXT MEETING XII. ADJOURN.



Access live stream of the meeting on GSWA website: <https://www.gswa.guam.gov/>

For more information, please contact GSWA Admin at [keilani.mesa@gswa.guam.gov](mailto:keilani.mesa@gswa.guam.gov) or 671-646-3215. Persons needing telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) may contact 671-646-3111. This advertisement was paid for by GSWA.

## Department of Education **SCHOOL CALENDAR (UPDATED 4/1/25) - SCHOOLS OPENING ON AUGUST 22, 2024 SY 2024-2025**

August 2, 2024	Friday	<b>Teacher Workday #1</b>
August 5-21, 2024	Monday-Wednesday	Professional Development (PD #1-13) - <b>NO CLASSES</b>
August 6-14, 2024	Tuesday-Wednesday	Head Start Pre-Service Professional Development - <b>NO CLASSES</b> Pilot Pre-K & GATE Pre-K Professional Development - <b>NO CLASSES</b>
August 15-16, 2024	Thursday-Friday	Head Start Parent-Child Day Pilot Pre-K & GATE Pre-K Orientation & Pre-Assessments
August 22, 2024	Thursday	<b>Head Start &amp; Pilot Pre-K &amp; GATE Pre-K - FIRST DAY OF CLASSES</b>
September 2, 2024	Monday	<b>HOLIDAY - Labor Day</b>
September 16, 2024	Monday	Head Start (Home Visits and Screening) - <b>NO CLASSES</b>
October 15, 2024	Tuesday	1st Semester Midterm
November 1, 2024	Friday	<b>HOLIDAY - All Souls' Day</b>
November 5, 2024	Tuesday	<b>Election Day</b> - Online Synchronous & Asynchronous Sessions
November 11, 2024	Monday	<b>HOLIDAY - Veterans Day</b>
November 28, 2024	Thursday	<b>HOLIDAY - Thanksgiving Day</b>
December 9, 2024	Monday	<b>HOLIDAY - Santa Marian Kamalen Day</b>
December 23, 2024- January 3, 2025	Monday-Friday	<b>RECESS - NO CLASSES</b>
January 1, 2025	Wednesday	<b>HOLIDAY - New Year's Day</b>
January 6, 2025	Monday	Classes Resume
January 10, 2025	Friday	End of 1st Semester
<b>87 SCHOOL DAYS</b>		
January 13, 2025	Monday	2nd Semester Begins
January 16, 2025	Thursday	1st Semester Grades Due at the End of the Duty Day
January 17, 2025	Friday	<b>Head Start Parent-Teacher Conference</b>
January 20, 2025	Monday	<b>HOLIDAY - Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>
March 3, 2025	Monday	<b>HOLIDAY - Guam History and Chamoru Heritage Day</b>
March 14, 2025	Friday	2nd Semester Midterm
April 14-18, 2025	Monday-Friday	<b>RECESS - NO CLASSES</b>
April 22-May 16, 2025	Tuesday-Friday	Districtwide - Assessment Testing Window
May 5, 2025	Monday	Head Start (Transition to Kinder and Home Visits) - <b>NO CLASSES</b>
May 22, 2025	Thursday	<b>LAST DAY OF CLASSES/End of 2nd Semester</b>
May 23, 2025	Friday	Flexible Make-Up Day #1
<b>87 SCHOOL DAYS</b>		

The last day of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter shall change accordingly in the event make up days are used.  
 In the event that additional make-up days are necessary, the available Professional Development Day(s), Parent Teacher Conference(s), and Teacher Work Day(s) shall be used as a school day(s).  
 17 GCA § 3127. Definitions. As used in Title 4 GCA Chapter 8, § 8121 (a) and §§ 3127 through 3131 of Title 17:  
 (f) School year means one hundred eighty (180) instructional days as that term is defined in 1 GCA § 715, Item (l)

SUMMARY	FLEXIBLE MAKE-UP DAY	APPROVED BY THE GEB
174 School Days 1 Teacher Work Day 13 Professional/Staff Development 188 Days  HEAD START: 167 School Days 4 Teacher Work Days 2 Parent-Teacher Conference Days 13 Professional/Staff Development 186 Days	May 23, 2025- Flexible Make-Up Day #1	<div style="text-align: right;">   <b>Dr. K. Erik Swanson</b>      4/1/25                      SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION      DATE                 </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">   <b>Angel R. Sablan</b>      4/1/25                      CHAIR, GUAM EDUCATION BOARD      DATE                 </div>

**Updated as of April 1, 2025**



**ANGEL R. SABLAN**  
Chair

# GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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

**GUAM EDUCATION BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, March 4, 2025  
4 pm  
Gallery, GDOE Building B  
MINUTES**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

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

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Segundo Garrido  
IBOGS Representative  
  
Timothy Fedenko  
GFT Representative  
  
Mayor, Melissa B. Savares  
MCOG Representative

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

K. Erik Swanson, Ph.D.  
GDOE Superintendent

**I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Angel Sablan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Dr. K. Erik Swanson, Superintendent and Executive Secretary, took the roll call. The following members were **present** for the meeting:

***Voting Members:***

Okada, Dr. Mary A.Y. – Chairwoman  
Sablan, Angel R. – Vice-Chair\*  
Ada, Peter Alecxis D.  
Angel, Felicitas B.  
Borja, Karlyn RCG  
Guthertz, Judith  
Gutierrez, Maria A.  
McNinch, Dr. Ron L.

***Non-Voting Members:***

Fedenko, Timothy – GFT Representative  
Aldi, Don - IBOGS Representative  
Benavente, Peter – MCOG Representative

***Legal Counsel:***

*Jesse Nasis*

***Absent:***

Baleto, Christine W. (Excused)

The Superintendent announced that eight (8) members of the Board were present, constituting a quorum. Ms. Baleto was excused.

Mr. Sablan greeted Dr. Guthertz with a happy birthday. Mrs. Gutierrez also introduced John F. Kennedy High School Junior IBOGS Representative Don Aldi.

- II. CONSENT CALENDAR
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Angel motioned, seconded by Dr. Guthertz, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, February 4, 2025 Work Session Minutes, and February 18, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes. The Board voted by voice and approved the motion with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.

- 1) Minutes of January 21, 2025 Regular Meeting
- 2) Minutes of February 4, 2025 Work Session
- 3) February 18, 2025 Regular Meeting

IV. **CELEBRATE SUCCESS** – The following were recognized John F. Kennedy High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC), Lt. Col. Sharon Williams, SMSgt Victor Rosario, and MSgt Joseph Mafnas – exceeds standards rating, AsTumbo Middle School – earns “A” in inspection, Tiyan High School AFJROTC, Cadet Major Paul Gumataotao, Cadet Captain John Carino – exceeds standards rating, and Ernest Ochoco - coordinator, director, and coach for the Musical Theatre Competitions of America Guam National Team.

V. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

VI. **COMMUNICATIONS** – Not discussed.

VII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 1) Superintendent’s Report – Mr. Sablan said that the status of the JFKHS/SSHS Double Session Status Report, FEMA Projects Status Report, FBLG Renovation Status Report, Finance and Auditor Pay Plan Status Report, and the Dashboard Status Report will be discussed in the March 18, 2025 Meeting. He then mentioned that they need to discuss the audit and understand why Ernst & Young hasn’t been paid the \$35,000 that the department needs to pay them to complete the audit.
- 2) Instructional & Academic Support Committee
  - a. January, February, March 2025 Head Start Report – Ms. Lape read her report for the record.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked if the Head Start students were getting the services and how long they had to wait for them to be assessed and evaluated.

Ms. Lape said SpEd has a timeline of when they needed to complete evaluations after they received the referral. She said they were told that there was a staffing shortage but since then they’ve hired some people, and there has been a lot of movement - a lot of the evaluations were being scheduled.

Mrs. Gutierrez shared her concern that she doesn’t want a lawsuit to come to the Board because of that. She said that she was on NASBE this morning and it’s come up that students with special needs are not getting the services. She said she calls the principals when she sees the schools on the reports. She’s told that they are still waiting for the evaluations and assessments. She said the Board and Dr. Swanson would soon be served for this, not the people doing the services.

Dr. Okada asked if the playground equipment transfer will require federal approval – if it's something that was already procured and now they're asking for a separate location or has the procurement process has not started yet.

Ms. Lape replied that the PO is complete, the vendors have been working on everything and the regional office approved the funds. She said the specific sites weren't identified then but based on Supply Management Administrator Ms. Carmen Charfauros' consultation with Legal, a memo needed to be provided to her requesting the relocation and then she will do the paperwork to ensure it's documented and could be done by the vendor. She explained that Region 9 approved the funding but did not approve the schools it's going to but it is in their RFP.

**Ms. Borja motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to approve the continuation grant budget and application for Year 2 of the Head Start Program's grant cycle 2024-2029. The Board voted by voice and approved the motion with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

**Ms. Borja motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to approve the proposed changes to the service area for School Year 2025-2026. The Board voted by voice and approved the motion with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

**Ms. Borja motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to approve the Selection Criteria for School Year 2025-2026. The Board voted by voice and approved the motion with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

Mr. Sablan then informed his colleagues that the listing of announcements to show the department is actively recruiting to fulfill at least the 14 points is in their packet.

Mr. Fedenko asked if there were any CBA positions.

Dr. Swanson replied that vacancies for the CBA were being recruited for.

Mrs. Gutierrez informed Mr. Fedenko that there weren't any CBA positions other than the school aides on the department's job announcements. She said some positions were not in the Spending Priorities based on the resolution. She pointed out that they have to honor the contract signed by the GFT, the Attorney General, and the Governor. She shared that someone had informed her that they had applied for the school aid position but hadn't heard back from the department for months. She said there was a problem if they couldn't read the resolution.

HR Administrator Ms. Katherine Ada said that they pulled down the closed applications when there were sufficient applicants. She stated that they were being rated and established. She shared that they were down 3 staff at the moment and they were diligently working on school staff as well as CBA positions. She said HR is working on them based on the approved RTF. The other positions posted were federally funded or were to establish a list. She noted that they were doing their best to clear them and were working closely with the principals and administrators.

Mr. Sablan asked Ms. Ada to provide an update in the March 18, 2025 Meeting.

Ms. Ada said they will.

Mr. Ada said he didn't see a position for a secondary geometry class.

Ms. Ada said they wouldn't put the specific class on the announcement – the announcement is for the teacher. She said teachers apply, they put their certification on their applications, and are slotted accordingly.

Mr. Ada asked if she knew if there was an applicant for a high school geometry teacher.

Ms. Ada said she could provide the data by the next meeting but she doesn't recall at the moment.

Deputy Paul then discussed the status of the audit. He said the audit reports that EY was asking for were turned in. He also shared that they had a Zoom meeting with OPA and EY today. He added that they need to clean up 2 reports by the end of the week. He also noted that the auditors were paid last week in 2 payments – 1 partial Local and 1 partial Federal. He stated that the FY23 closing did not match the FY24 openings which they were trying to figure out.

Mr. Sablan asked to meet the deadline or his proposal to have correct balances by the end of the week.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked who was handling the audit because it's always on the headlines.

Deputy Paul replied that it was Ms. Margaret Artero but a month ago, Justin Castro was assigned to it.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked how many people from the Business Office would be leaving on an upcoming travel because there was an issue with the audit.

Deputy Paul responded that there were 3 from Finance that were going.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked if they were responsible for the audit.

Deputy Paul said they wouldn't be going on the field trip unless the audit was complete.

Mrs. Gutierrez said there were 10 travelers listed.

Deputy Paul replied that the others were from other divisions including HR and Procurement for the Munis Training,

Mr. Sablan said he's made Dr. Swanson aware that the audit needs to be completed before anything else is done – even to travel. He said he would take Deputy Paul's word that they won't go unless it's done.

Deputy Paul acknowledged.

### 3) Fiscal Management Committee

a. GDOE Financial Report

- i) Accounts Payable Aging Report – Deputy Paul said he was going through the 90-day larger bills. He said one of the vendors listed was Carrier. He shared that their draw was rejected by the Internal Audit Office because the procurement document didn't match what they performed. He said they are unable to pay Carrier's bill because it's a federal ESF-II bill. He said they went back to US-Ed, asking them to submit something in writing, allowing the revised maintenance plan. He also pointed out that an issue he was trying to fix was people getting invoices in on time. As an example, he shared that the Sanford Technologies invoice dated June 6, 2024, was submitted to the Business Office on January 28, 2025. He said that he and his staff had gone over the items over 90 days and he had notes on several items should there be questions. He then mentioned that BJ Cruz wants to know a better status on the \$51 million they tried to drawdown in their meeting next week. He explained that the payroll reimbursement for salaries was not included in the original ARP list of what the department was going to spend the money on when the ARP application was submitted. He said they were going back to US-Ed to add it to the application.

Mr. Sablan said they needed to be on top of this because the Oversight Chair had told him that if it came to the budget hearing and the \$51 million was still outstanding, it would be removed from their budget.

Deputy Paul said that the money was never given and the department was requesting a reimbursement in salaries. He noted that it was approved; the technicality of getting the money to the department is where they were running into problems.

Mr. Sablan asked what the balance was out of the \$51 million that needed to be drawn down.

Deputy Paul said that the total ARP balance is ~ \$124 million that needs to be drawn. He said \$51 million was the payroll piece and it was in addition to the \$124 million they were still trying to draw.

Mr. Sablan asked Deputy Paul to provide an update in the next meeting.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she didn't see WASC on the report and asked if they were paid up.

Deputy Paul replied that WASC had been paid and was still being utilized as well as the other accreditation group. He said there is going to be some overlap between the two.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked what happened to WASC. She recognized that Cognia was another accreditation company.

Dr. Swanson replied that the department is working heavily to see if the Cognia systems accreditation could be more to the department's advantage than WASC. He said that they are doing individual schools with WASC and it costs more. He continued that they have an initial membership with Cognia so their resources can be accessed - to see if it's a better process for the department to use to give one system accreditation. He continued that the model he was thinking of they can do is they take the whole school system and start from the ground level from the schools up to the region office and provide one accreditation that applies to all the schools.

Mrs. Gutierrez said that they seemed to be paying two accreditation consultants when they still had WASC. She asked how many more schools WASC was going to be accrediting.

Dr. Swanson said that he intends they finish this year with WASC. He said Cognia won't accept their accreditation in the interim.

Mrs. Gutierrez then asked Deputy Paul about Sodexo which was listed under 60 days for both local and Federal. She remarked that they provided the meals for the students. She asked if they were waiting for Sodexo to go to the governor's office to seek assistance to get paid like last time. She asked what the issue was and the turnaround time. She asked who was responsible for turning in Sodexo's invoices.

Deputy Paul replied that they get the invoices from the Food and Nutrition Services but the Child Nutrition Program is the one that seeks reimbursement from USDA for what they pay. He said they paid over \$6 million to Sodexo over the past month.

Mrs. Gutierrez said Sodexo should be a priority because it's for the students. She said someone wasn't doing their job in getting the invoices paid. She asked how will Sodexo pay their employees and buy the commodities. She said she hoped she wouldn't see it again on the next aging report.

- ii) Declaration of Financial Status Designation – Deputy Paul said that everything was stable in the last report they received.
- iii) Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2025 – Deputy Paul highlighted that it's the lowest he's seen Column J "Available Cash Balance" at \$4 million. He said Payroll is \$5 million so he's hoping they get cash disbursement from DOA this week.

Mr. Sablan said he and Dr. Swanson were meeting with the Governor tomorrow.

Deputy Paul said that they paid upfront when the memo came about the changing procedure with ARP. He explained that they



used to draw the money and then pay the bill, but now they have to pay the bill and request reimbursement. He said he authorized \$300K+ because Hive needed to be paid.

Mr. Sablan said they will also be discussing that in the meeting called for by the Governor and Senator Borja. He then named a few of those who will be in attendance.

iv) Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2025 – Mr. Sablan shared that there's a new secretary of Education and they don't know what's her agenda. He said the educational institutions in Guam are getting some not-so-good news, hence their meeting tomorrow.

- Revised FY25 Spending Plan - Mr. Sablan told his colleagues that this was to amend the resolution for FY25 to cover expenditures under indirect cost and to allow Dr. Swanson to hire a professional engineer and a person who will oversee contracts.

Mrs. Gutierrez shared that she and Dr. Okada had met with Deputy Paul, Dr. Swanson, and the General Accounting Supervisor. She said that the one they were going to ask the Board to approve under Indirect Cost was two (2) Auditor 1, one (1) Auditor 4, and one (1) Management Analyst I and the Deputy Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability. She said that the Deputy Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability has always been under indirect cost. She said Dr. Swanson felt the need to fill the position because the Board always asks him for a dashboard and the assessment and accountability of the department.

Mr. Sablan asked if it included the hiring of the engineer.

Deputy Paul said that was on the current budget.

Mrs. Gutierrez concurred.

**Mrs. Gutierrez motioned seconded by Mrs. Angel to approve one (1) Auditor IV, two (2) Auditor I, one (1) Management Analyst I, and the Deputy Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability to be funded under Indirect Cost. The Board voted by voice and approved the motion with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

Dr. Swanson introduced Ms. Leah Beth Naholowaa as the new Deputy Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability. He shared that she will start next week on March 10, 2025, because of payroll.

Mr. Sablan said there's a lot that she needs to account for and Mrs. Gutierrez expects to see a dashboard.

Mrs. Gutierrez said by March 18, 2025.

Mrs. Naholowaa joked that she still had a chance to change her mind. She then said she was excited.

Mr. Sablan told Dr. Swanson that he needs to realign some of the work that the other 3 deputies are doing so that not everybody is overloaded with work.

Dr. Swanson said with all the work that's being done by the deputies, they needed that 4<sup>th</sup> person on the team.

b. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report – Not discussed

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- 1) 2025 GEB Standing Committee Assignments – The chair and members of the committees were discussed.

Mr. Sablan informed the committees that they could hold their meetings for work sessions. He said their reports would be done on the third Tuesday of the month.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked Dr. Swanson to appoint a liaison for the Board committees.

- 2) Consideration for Maximization of Schools –

**Mr. Sablan motioned to put closing CBMES in abeyance until they saw a solid plan in place from Dr. Swanson and his deputies. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 4-4. The motion did not pass.**

Mr. Sablan said that the past two weeks have been a roller coaster ride with what the President is doing with federal programs federal funding and different departments including USDOE. He said they keep hearing that he will abolish USDOE and he's cutting where he wants to cut. He said they're not at the point where they're free to determine what they want to do. He said there are talks that President Trump is planning on shutting down DODEA and if and when that happens, it will be up to the department to absorb the students in the schools. He said whether it's going to happen or not they don't know but the fact that it's talked about makes it scary. He said that even if CBMES were closed, they would still have to spend money to maintain the facilities otherwise what happened to the break-in at Harry S. Truman Elementary School will happen to LBJES. He doesn't think that they should go full force in closing the school without knowing what's going to happen to it. He said the request for CBMES to change it to a middle school won't happen overnight or anytime soon unless someone comes up with the funding to make it standard for a middle school it will just sit there. He said they've instructed Dr. Swanson to put out an RFI to see if anyone would be interested in leasing the school. He asked if they were going to realize the savings because he doesn't know how much damage they will have to expend for the damages at HSTES that happened yesterday. He said until they get a security system into the schools which he says he keeps hammering about, they need to take a second look at closing the schools because 1<sup>st</sup> it's already in the budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> they don't know what's going to happen with President Trump on board. He also mentioned that the format for getting reimbursement from ARP was changed. He asked where were they going to get money up front and the reimbursement wasn't guaranteed. He said they won't save money on personnel because they are just going to other schools. He said it might cost the department money rather than remain status quo. He added that they don't even know if CBMES or LBJES is GDOE's property. He said the building may be ours but the property may not. If it belongs to the CHamoru Land Trust, they won't give

the property to anybody. He acknowledged that they will have to eventually close schools but he said they might be moving too fast and they might have to come back to reopen the schools because they might expect students they didn't expect to have.

**Dr. Guthertz motioned to have the Board work on 3 scenarios together with the administrators and stakeholders.**

Dr. Guthertz said that every school system in America is in the same boat that the department is in – no one knows what's going to happen. She said it shouldn't stop them from planning now. She said that they should plan for 3 different scenarios 1) status quo, 2) federal money with restriction 3) no federal funds at all. She said they should look at all the different federally funded programs with those three scenarios. She said should they lose federal funding, it would also affect programs that are not federally funded. She continued that they should figure out how to stretch money to cover things they want to continue covering based on the three scenarios. She pointed out that they need to do this now, without waiting for the legislature or the Chief Executive to move the need forward. She said that they have the talent to do this in the school system with the administrators who worked so hard on the potential need for school closures. She said they could work with the Policy Review and Strategic Planning Committee on the three potential scenarios. She said they cannot allow the school system to collapse; they have to figure out how to make it work.

Dr. McNinch said he had asked for a one-month extension so the Board could get more off-the-ground information.

Dr. Okada clarified that the Board voted to keep HSTES open, close CBMES, and transfer the students either to LES, TAMES, or JMGES and did not approve the consolidation of LBJES and TAMES. She told her colleagues that currently they can't hire key positions in the staffing request. She continued that there were a lot of unfunded positions and the budget request for next year requests for ~160 positions that are currently not funded. She pointed out that the department is experiencing a \$37 to \$50 million shortfall for the current Fiscal year which they haven't closed the gap on. She noted that the school system at one time had 31k-33k students and closing CBMES which has a capacity of 600 – there's still enough capacity in all the schools to address any influx. She asked what would make them do anything faster if they put CBMES off the table. She stressed that they've been working on this for almost two years now and the current resources on hand were not enough. She said that they need to take the position now to save the resources they have and start to close at least CBMES and maybe delay any future ones. She mentioned that the Tamuning community asked to consolidate and they didn't entertain that. She pointed out that they were right next door to each other. She said if they can't vacate a school and be held accountable and responsible to make sure a school is taken care of then what makes them think they can come up with a strategic plan together to make any other use for it? She said they need to act on any actions they approve and not go backward because they don't have the money to move forward. She said they can't hire enough maintenance workers, they aren't in compliance with the CBA and there are hundreds of positions that need to be filled and there's no money to fill them. She said the estimate was \$1.9 million to keep the power and if it means they use it to allocate it for security it's already in the budget resolution passed which mandates any lapsed funds to be used to cover the CBA and the security at the schools. She said the authority already exists. She said that they should follow through with what they've advised and directed the superintendent to do. She said they can't keep flip-flopping between spending time and resources to identify what schools to consolidate. She said they've done a lot of work

and made recommendations so the Board should follow through with that because the funding is not going to get better in the current situation so they need to address what they can control now. She said they already voted to close CBMES; they should stick to what they voted on and going forward they be held accountable for both federal and local funds to make sure that they're spending it on what they should be spending them on. She emphasized that the status quo cannot be status quo for funding because they don't have enough – the department needs more money. She said in regards to requesting reimbursement federal with restrictions, they are putting themselves to the test in terms of whether the department is spending money on what they told them they were going to spend it on. She said if they don't reimburse it, it would be the department's fault because they didn't meet the requirements of the grant. She said with no federal funds – it would be a lot of money that they would have to deal with – almost an additional \$50 million for just CG and SpEd. She reiterated that they need to work with what they currently have and move forward with what they've already agreed to and ensure Dr. Swanson and his team devise a plan to safeguard CBMES because it was already voted by the Board to decommission.

Mr. Sablan said he heard what Dr. Okada was saying and emphasized that it has been 2 – 3 years that it has been on the table. He said nobody worked on it until recently when they decided to let the parents know what they're doing with the schools. He asked that they put the decision in abeyance until they force Dr. Swanson and the deputies to provide them with a solid plan. He said closing a school with nothing to count on doesn't get them anywhere – they will be in the same position next time. If the legislature reduces their budget again next year, they will be forced to look again at what school to close. He recalls a parent's comments about not stopping to teach kids just because there's no money. He said the financial burden can't be placed on the kids but on downtown. He said that the problems and what needed to be done were identified. He said he's not saying that CBMES won't close but that they just need to move slower until the whole situation with US DOE and the President stabilizes.

Dr. Guthertz added that she doesn't think there's a harm into waiting any longer. She shared her concern regarding Mr. Sablan's comment about who owned the property that the schools were on. She said once they empty it, it could be attached to an executive order for a different purpose. She said that the school system might be able to generate revenue from the schools that are vacated temporarily until they need them again but if the schools will be lost as assets to the school system then she is against closing them and turning them to the executive branch or some other entity's inventory. She said that needs to be clarified; that this is the first time she's heard about it and based on her understanding GDOE owns the school property. She said she doesn't support closing any of the schools but supports CBMES being made into a middle school. She said she doesn't want to lose the schools because they'll need it again in the future as the school population increases. She said she wants clarification on the ownership of the property and if it's not in the department's inventory then they should put it in the department's inventory otherwise they do not give it, do not turn it over, and use the facilities for another purpose.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she researched what the Municipal Council and the Mayor were going to have a meeting. She said Dr. Guthertz was on the 29<sup>th</sup> Legislature when Bill 345 (EC) introduced a bill for the property not to be sold, but to be used as an educational facility. She said she's been checking the history. She said that in the 2022 Masterplan, it didn't say whose property it was, it just indicated that it was the department. She stated her

agreement with Dr. Okada's sentiments to move forward. She said that in the NASBE Meeting, they had shared that they were also closing down their schools due to low enrollment and their budget. She said they were consolidating with their next county. She then stated that the committee worked hard since February. She shared that this took a lot of the committee's time with their 3 meetings a week, then they made their recommendations and gave it to the Superintendent. She added that they also held stakeholder meetings, went out, and also had Zoom. She said they need to move forward and not backward.

Mr. Sablan said nothing in his motion said that they're moving back but to hold it in abeyance until they get a plan. He said this could be 30, 60, or 90 days. He said they will be faced with the closure of schools again. He's explained that he's not saying to unclose it but to hold it in abeyance until they get something solid. He said hopefully they get a company that wants to lease it out so they can use the revenue and turn it into a middle school. He is hopeful the legislature would appropriate money to make CBMES a middle school. He said these were all hopefully; he wants to give it time. He reiterated that his motion is not to go back but to hold it in abeyance before the school year begins.

Dr. Okada said that they haven't resolved the issue with the SSHS and FBLGMS double session. She asked how many more plans they needed to put in front of Dr. Swanson and his team. She said they had enough to address and if they delay or put it in abeyance, she asked what that would do in terms of notifying faculty because they have to know before the end of the academic year. She said they can't wait to tell them because that will leave them in chaos. She recalls the contract requires them to be notified within so many days where their new assignment is. She said this would take a while because people have bumping rights in terms of repositioning them in other schools. She said if they hold it in abeyance, all the other work still needs to continue – they still need a resolution for SSHS and an update on FBLGMS which won't be open by the time the school starts. She said if the Federal Government doesn't reimburse the money, it's not the contractors won't be paid because there a contractual agreement, so it would come out of the department's funds. She said they need to make sure they've got all of this tight; there's no space left. She said she knows they need a plan but the issues with the FBLGMS and SSHS resolved. She said they should move forward with CBMES.

Mr. Ada, Ms. Borja, Mrs. Gutierrez, Dr. Okada voted no.

Mr. Sablan said the motion did not carry nor was it disapproved.

Legal Counsel Attorney Jesse Nasis stated that without a majority, it fails. He said they're not able to move forward. He said to take action, they would need the majority in order to take action on the motion so it doesn't pass.

Mrs. Gutierrez said that she was fortunate to attend both the LES and JMGES faculty and staff meetings. She said Dr. Adamos, HR, and school staff, and counselors. She said they had explained everything and the schools were ready. She said they should move forward She said the school faculty and staff had understood what HR and Dr. Adamos had told them.

### 3) Above-Step Recruitment –

**Mrs. Gutierrez motioned to approve the Above-Step Recruitment for Auditor IV at Step 4 with the 10% differential so there won't be a disparity with an incumbent's salary who holds the same current position.**

Mrs. Gutierrez mentioned that there was a law that anybody can apply for above-step recruitment. She said that the applicant never worked for the department, while an incumbent who has been with the department for over four years, will be receiving less if the applicant is granted a step-10. She said this would cause a disparity and moral problems. He said next year when the applicant gets an increment the applicant will match the incumbent's current salary. The applicant will be approved at Step 4 at \$68,059 plus the 10% differential which comes up to \$74,864.90. She said this would bring the salary up to the incumbent's salary so there would be no disparity. She said they haven't received any documents regarding the applicant's current salary. She said HR failed to provide any additional document or email so feels that they shouldn't hire the applicant at Step 10.

Mr. Ada said he was surprised that the applicants didn't put in how much they make because applicants normally do. He then asked HR if the applicant was offered the position and if he accepted the position.

HR Administrator Katherine Ada replied that the applicant has been offered step 1.

Mr. Ada asked if he would accept the position at Step 1.

Mrs. Ada said no, he requested an above-step petition.

Dr. Okada asked for reconsideration of Mrs. Gutierrez's motion to offer the position at Step 4 based on exceptional qualifications as opposed to abiding by Step 4 so as not to exceed the incumbent's salary. She requested that it be based on exceptional qualifications which are identified in the authorization that the Board has.

Mr. Sablan asked Dr. Swanson if the documents show the applicant's capabilities and proficiency of the applicant for what he's applying for and if he considered it exceptional.

Dr. Swanson replied that the applicant does have the additional certification.

**Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Dr. Guthertz to approve the Above-Step Recruitment for Auditor IV at Step 4 based on exceptional qualifications. The Board voted by voice and approved the motion with a vote of 7-1. The motion passed.**

Mr. Ada voted no.

Mr. Sablan said the applicant can be given the notice that if he accepts based on his exceptional qualifications then he can be employed with the department. If not, it has to be announced again.

- 4) Waive 180 Instructional Days for SY2024-2025 Calendar – Deputy on Educational Support and Community Learning Dr. Barbara Adamos mentioned that the Joint Board Union Committee met last week and came up with an alternative solution to look at each school and considering increasing instructional time to ensure they didn't need to make up the 3-4 days. She said Mr. Sanjay Sharma from the Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) sent them the formula for the number of instructional minutes that should be met and if the school was over then they could offset it. She said if they start tomorrow, in elementary it's a matter of increasing the instructional time each day by 4 minutes, while the secondary schools are over the instructional time allotted each day. She said this would take them up to May 22, 2025. She also said because of the double sessions with OHS and

FBLG, OHS will go until May 23, 2025, and FBLG might have to go 2 days past May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The teachers and staff will have to be paid for these extra days of instruction. She said she was still waiting for the final numbers. She noted that if any of the 15 schools will have to be shut down, there are no makeup days. She said the number of minutes over 311 minutes will not be enough so they might have to be paid extra. She said they might have to push forward with the request to waive the 180 days which has to be legislative. She said there was a proposal in writing but they haven't revised it – when the idea came up to look at the instructional time they had to see if the schools could do it. She said they needed to bring the information to their faculty today and all 15 schools agreed to make the amendment.

Mr. Sablan asked if the 180-day schedule day goes by minutes or days.

Deputy Adamos said it was 900 hours.

Mr. Sablan said they were talking for about 311 minutes.

Dr. Adamos said it was 174 instructional days which is what the current school calendar has, which is 311 minutes and if they were to look at the number of instructional time they lost they would add either 11 or 18 minutes depending on secondary or elementary.

Mr. Sablan said they were meeting with Senator Borja tomorrow and one of the items he had wanted to discuss was the waiver of 180 days. He asked if Dr. Adamos and Mr. Ada could prepare the verbiage in case they need to submit something. He asked if the Board needed to approve the new scheduling.

Dr. Adamos said the new scheduling doesn't have to be approved because they're working within the calendar. She said these are the schools following the August 22<sup>nd</sup> calendar and what the changes to their instructional day would do is bring everyone to the August 15<sup>th</sup> calendar except no Parent-Teacher-Conference and no teacher work day. She also said that HSTES has a teacher work day on May 22<sup>nd</sup> which could be used as an instructional day.

Dr. Guthertz asked how they would make up the minutes.

Dr. Adamos replied that instead of meeting for 311 minutes each day, some schools are at 330 minutes of instructional time already. She said they would just need to calculate how many more minutes they would need between now and May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dr. Guthertz noted that they added to each class a student is in. She then asked if it had an impact on the bus schedule.

Dr. Adamos replied that it didn't impact the bus schedule.

Mr. Sablan asked for the schedule of graduations.

Dr. Adamos replied that the graduations were set and instructional time would end before then. She said the waiver comes in should anything happen between now and graduation to offset the calendar.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked about the schools experiencing no water. She said that the central office was experiencing no water but asked if Tiyah High School was also experiencing the same thing.

Dr. Adamos said she didn't ask THS if they lost water but if they did it would have been at 1:15 pm and they were dismissed at 1:45 pm so they didn't lose any instructional time but if they did they're included in the makeup if they have to.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked if THS was affected when there was no water in February when the Board meeting was moved to GWHS.

Dr. Adamos replied that THS would not have a PTC on March 24 because it would be a makeup day.

Dr. Guthertz informed her colleagues to discourage asking for a waiver from the legislature. She expressed that education is valuable, and time is important. She said they need to take care of it themselves and not ask the senators to waive the required instructional time unless something catastrophic happens.

Mr. Ada expressed his concern about credit since a geometry class has been manned by a school aide since August.

Dr. Adamos replied that because there has been no teacher they could bring on board, there have been some math teachers and administrators providing the lessons, the school aide is carrying out the lessons, and the work is being corrected and graded in Power School. She said she doesn't know if the SA was covering all 5 classes, but some teachers are willing to cover during their prep period for pay. She then told Mr. Ada that there were some vacancies in a particular school in January which might address his concern.

Mr. Ada reiterated his concern that it will affect a child who wants to pursue higher education.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Not discussed**

**X. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Ada left at 6:13 pm.

Mr. Sablan told the deputies who worked hard on the maximization and closures to know that he appreciates their work but he was concerned with what's been happening these past two weeks. He said if it doesn't affect the department, it's good for them but if it does, they need to come back and do something. He said he respects the Board member's opinions.

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

The Board adjourned at 6:15 p.m.



MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:



KATHLEEN LAMORENA  
Administrative Officer

Date: March 26, 2025

MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2025 REGULAR MEETING:

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



ANGEL R. SABLAN  
GEB Chair

Date: 4/1/25



K. ERIK SWANSON, Ph.D.  
Executive Secretary/GDOE Superintendent

Date: 4/1/25



**ANGEL R. SABLAN**  
Chair

# GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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

**GUAM EDUCATION BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, March 18, 2025  
4 pm  
Gallery, GDOE Building B  
MINUTES**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

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

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Segundo Garrido  
IBOGS Representative  
  
Timothy Fedenko  
GFT Representative  
  
Mayor, Peter Benavente  
MCOG Representative

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

K. Erik Swanson, Ph.D.  
GDOE Superintendent

**I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Dr. K. Erik Swanson, Superintendent and Executive Secretary, took the roll call. The following members were **present** for the meeting:

***Voting Members:***

Sablan, Angel R. – Chair  
Okada, Dr. Mary A.Y. – Vice-Chair (via Zoom)  
Angel, Felicitas B. (via Zoom)  
Borja, Karlyn RCG  
Guthertz, Dr. Judith  
Gutierrez, Maria A.  
McNinch, Dr. Ron L.

***Non-Voting Members:***

Fedenko, Timothy – GFT Representative  
Siguenza, Kody - IBOGS Representative (via Zoom)

***Legal Counsel:***

Nasis, Jesse

***Absent:***

Ada, Peter Alexxis D.  
Baleto, Christine W. (Excused)

***Non-Voting Members:***

Benavente, Peter – MCOG Representative  
Susuico, Keviann - IBOGS Representative

The Superintendent announced that five (5) members of the Board were present in person and two (2) via Zoom, constituting a quorum. Mr. Ada was absent, and Ms. Baleto was excused.

**II. Celebrate Success** – Dr. Okada was recognized for being one of the “25 Most Influential Women on Guam 2025”.

**III. CONSENT CALENDAR** – Mr. Sablan said this will go to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Dr. Guthertz to allow the Attorney General to speak for up to 10 minutes. The Board voted by voice and approved the motion with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.**

- 1) Attorney General Douglas Moylan – AG Moylan shared that the White House invited Attorneys General (AGs) from 20 states to discuss the consequences of not following executive orders related to keeping men out of women’s sports. Guam was the only territory represented. The discussion focused on the biological differences between men and women, giving men an advantage in sports, and the potential harm to women’s participation. Congress is attempting to address the issue under Title IX, but no legislation has passed. He suggested that the Guam Department of Education should pass a resolution supporting the President's executive order and send it to various U.S. government agencies, including the White House and the U.S. Department of Education. He emphasized the importance of protecting Guam’s interests, especially given the island's lack of a voting delegate in Washington, D.C. He noted that the incident in 2022, where a male athlete from a Department of Defense school hurt a female student from Tiyan High, highlighted the risks of not addressing the issue. He also expressed concern that Guam could lose federal funding if it doesn’t align with the executive order, noting the island’s strategic importance to U.S. interests in the region. He emphasized that Guam’s citizens are U.S. citizens, despite the territory's lack of full representation in Washington, and urged the Board to pass a resolution in support of the executive order to avoid questions about Guam’s compliance. He also mentioned the Governor’s stance on not supporting transgender boys in women’s sports but pointed out that the Board is independent and has control over education-related decisions.

Mr. Sablan shared a copy of the Islandwide Sports Association High School and Middle School Constitution. He said it clearly states that athletes will be determined by sex at birth for all interscholastic sports implemented by ISA but it doesn’t say that they won’t be allowed to participate in a sport whatever their sex is. He said it’s silent on that and might need to be emphasized. He noted that this will be added to the agenda for the action meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

AG Moylan asked when the provision passed.

Mr. Sablan asked Dr. Adamos when it passed.

Dr. Adamos replied that it was in SY 2022-2023.

Dr. McNinch said it might be helpful if the Board got input from the AG on the policy.

Mrs. Gutierrez said that the constitutional bylaw was developed by the Guam Department of Education and signed by the Board of Directors at that time. She then commented that the Board never had a Board Policy on it– it's only under the ISA Constitution for HS and MS which has had no changes to the constitution from when it was first developed.

AG Moylan said they would review it and get back to the Chairman on their review of it. He recommended that the Board inform the secretary of education that that's the department's policy and it's consistent with the executive orders.

Mrs. Gutierrez said that before the 17<sup>th</sup> GCA was amended, ISA was under the responsibility of the GEB to develop but this duty was removed from the Board that's why the Board doesn't have a policy. She noted that it only goes through DOE to develop a bylaw constitution.

AG Moylan said that based on their research they didn't see anything specifically on ISA. He said he knows how long it takes to pass the AAA that's why he thinks that the fastest way to preserve the money is for the Board to discuss it. He said he would take a look at the ISA Constitution and see if it's consistent with the executive order or if a Board Resolution might be considered by the Board and sent to the Department of Education.

Mr. Sablan asked Administrative Officer Kathleen Lamorena to include ISA on the agenda for April 1<sup>st</sup> and any responses from the AG and if it requires any action from the Board it will be done in that meeting.

Dr. McNinch agreed that federal matters are important. He welcomed the leaders on Guam to share with the Board when they attend important meetings. He said it was very commendable that the AG thought it would be important to share the info with the Board. He said they might want to amend their public participation rule to include policymakers and give them more time.

Mr. Sablan told AG Moylan that the bid packet for the SSHS construction will go out by the end of the month for publication. He noted that it's over half a million dollars, and requested that he expeditiously look at it and let it out because JFKHS and SSHS are waiting for it to happen.

AG Moylan said absolutely, 100%. He said he was open to anyone WhatsApping or giving him a call if there's some glitch. He commented that they all have kids and want them to benefit in the schools. He said they have his full support and commitment and calling him directly is always welcome, especially from the Board members.

- 2) Richard Borja – Mr. Borja, President of the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and a parent of a JFKHS freshman, expressed frustration over the lack of a concrete plan to decouple JFKHS from SSHS by the 2025-2026 school year, despite assurances from Dr. Swanson in December. He criticized the status quo, stating that the situation had not improved and was no longer acceptable. As a parent, he refused to accept his child's education being compromised and emphasized that the school communities deserve clarity on what leadership is doing to resolve the issue. He also responded to Dr. Swanson's letter, which he felt misrepresented JFKHS by suggesting

they were selfish and wanted to exclude SSHS students. He clarified that JFKHS was not at odds with SSHS but sought a fair solution for both schools. He called for a task force to focus on returning each school to its full session, with all the necessary resources and time. He expressed disappointment with Dr. Swanson's use of divisive language and emphasized that their goal was not to "kick anyone out," but to ensure all students receive the education they deserve. Borja reiterated that the task force's purpose should be to resolve the issue by SY 2025-2026, with all schools operating on regular schedules.

- 3) Angelo Andres – Mr. Andres, a parent, teacher, and JFKHS alumnus, expressed his frustration over Dr. Swanson's letter, which he felt misrepresented the relationship between JFKHS and SSHS. He reflected on the challenges JFKHS faced during its own double-session period, highlighting that they were able to advocate for and rebuild their school within 1.5 to 2 years. He was confused and upset by the prolonged delays in resolving the double-session issue for SSHS and the ongoing renovations at FBLGMS. He also criticized the letter for creating potential animosity between the two schools and pointed out that it implied JFKHS had not provided SSHS with "stability, dignity, and respect," which he found disappointing. He suggested that the Board members should visit FBLGMS to evaluate the progress and consider forming a task force, similar to past projects, to oversee the renovations. Andres expressed concerns about Dr. Swanson's statements regarding prioritizing long-term solutions over short-term discomfort, especially in the context of the SSHS community's ongoing struggles. He called for clear leadership, decisive action, and transparency, noting that SSHS students have been unfairly affected by double sessions for an extended period. He ended by emphasizing that JFKHS has no ill will toward SSHS and acknowledged the importance of democracy and hearing from the community. He hoped the task force would focus on finding real solutions and ensuring that all students affected by the situation, including his niece at FBLGMS, receive proper education in well-built facilities.
- 4) Colette Beausoleil – Ms. Beausoleil said when she was here 2 weeks ago, she came as the Guam teacher of the year. As a teacher with 36 years of experience in Guam's public schools shared her concerns about the negative impact of double sessions on students, emphasizing the significant reduction in instructional time. She noted that students are receiving one-third less educational time, which has led to lower academic performance. She highlighted the struggle of teachers to provide adequate support and the long-term harm to students' futures, especially as they prepare for higher education or the workforce. She expressed frustration that this issue has persisted for years and questioned how much longer it will continue. She emphasized her responsibility to all children and families on the island, having spent her entire career in Guam. She criticized Dr. Swanson's letter, stating it was insulting and misrepresented the support JFKHS has given to SSHS, citing examples of her own efforts to offer help and resources. She expressed that JFKHS has shown stability, dignity, and respect to SSHS and called for the retraction of the letter to reflect the true sentiments of JFKHS staff. Ultimately, she stressed that the lack of instructional time is robbing students of their future and urged immediate action to address the issue.
- 5) Tara Tydingco – Ms. Tydingco shared that her sentiments were similar to her colleagues, expressing her experience as both a teacher and a parent at JFKHS. She reflected on the struggles following Typhoon Pongsona, the challenges of overcrowding, and the long-standing issues with the school's facilities. She acknowledged the disappointment of entering a third year of double sessions and the skepticism about the completion of FBLGMS. She suggested considering redistricting to alleviate overcrowding and questioned whether nearby schools, like GWHS or THS,

could accommodate more students. She also raised the idea of using VSABMS for FBLGMS students and noted the long delays in rebuilding efforts. As a teacher, she stressed the importance of classroom time and urged additional strategies to address the double session issue, emphasizing that it would take years for SSHS to be rebuilt. She expressed that JFKHS did not blame SSHS for the situation and hoped both school communities would not be pitted against each other. Lastly, she called for better communication and a comprehensive plan to fund the renovation of all island schools.

- 6) Trevor Taitague – Mr. Taitague, a sophomore at JFKHS and Guam Youth Congress Representative, expressed deep concerns about the negative impacts of the double session system between JFKHS and SSHS. He highlighted how shortened class times leave students struggling to grasp important concepts and how teachers are overwhelmed by heavy workloads, limiting their ability to support students. He also noted that extracurricular activities, essential for personal growth, have been reduced, leaving many students without the opportunities they need. He pointed out that families are facing transportation challenges and additional stress due to unconventional school hours, and extending the double session arrangement would only worsen the situation. Drawing inspiration from the CHamoru word "Inafamaolek" (which promotes harmony and mutual support), he urged the Board to explore sustainable solutions such as infrastructure improvements, modular classrooms, and alternative scheduling to alleviate overcrowding without compromising educational quality. As a representative, he called on decision-makers to prioritize the needs of students, teachers, and families, emphasizing that the current system doesn't align with their vision for education in Guam. He shared that his committee in the Guam Youth Congress has received mostly negative feedback on the system and encouraged student leaders to gather testimonials and signatures from students to show the GEB the widespread concern. He vowed to advocate for improvements in education and, as a sophomore, shared how the double session system has affected him and his peers, limiting their school pride and overall experience. He pledged to work together with others to improve the situation, as this was a key issue he was elected to address.
- 7) Dr. Asherdee Rosete – Dr. Rosete expressed her support for the teachers and stakeholders of JFKHS, assuring the leadership and GEB that JFKHS and SSHS collaborate to create a safe and secure environment while meeting educational goals. She mentioned regular meetings with SSHS Principal Ms. Carla Masnayon and acknowledged occasional tensions, comparing them to having visitors in one's home. Despite occasional scheduling conflicts, the schools work together to support students and ensure educational activities are carried out. She emphasized that, despite challenges, both communities are partners in education, committed to providing the best experience for students during their time together. She also wanted to reassure island leaders of this commitment.

Ms. Beausoleil suggested using AI in district mapping to address the issue and proposed involving students in the process. She requested the current enrollment data and distribution map for functional schools from the Board and Dr. Swanson, aiming to find a fair and equitable solution that ensures all students get adequate time with their teachers. She also mentioned that online methods had not been effective.

Mr. Sablan assured Ms. Beausoleil that her suggestion would be acted upon, with Dr. Adamos and the other deputies able to gather the necessary data. He expressed an understanding of the challenges faced by school officers, sharing his own experience as a former PTSA president. He emphasized his high regard for the teachers and mentioned that his daughter, a teacher at SSHS, appreciated JFKHS's support and hoped for

reciprocal assistance in the future. He stressed that the islander way was about cooperation, not division, and assured all parties that he would work to ensure fair treatment for students at JFKHS, SSHS, OHS, and FBLGMS, particularly in terms of learning opportunities. He reiterated that the status of JFKHS and SSHS would be a regular agenda item, and while he wished he could quickly open SSHS, he acknowledged the complexities involved. He also addressed concerns over a letter from Dr. Swanson, expressing the importance of communication, transparency, and a shared vision for students' success. He invited attendees to participate in Board meetings and mentioned an upcoming task force meeting on Friday.

Dr. Guthertz expressed appreciation for the moving testimonies and acknowledged the desire for a solution without further delays. She emphasized the Board's willingness to act but noted uncertainty about their authority in certain operational matters. She expressed her desire to be part of an action-oriented board, willing to take bold steps, even if it means stepping on some toes, to get things done. She expressed her commitment to helping resolve the issues and encouraged the Board members to provide feedback on their efforts. She assured stakeholders that solutions could be found without waiting and that the Board would take action to address the situation.

Mrs. Gutierrez emphasized the lack of communication as the main issue with the department's management team, particularly regarding updates to stakeholders. She highlighted the importance of biweekly updates and urged everyone to bring their concerns to the Board. She noted that at the first town hall meeting at the Yigo Community Center, JFKHS was present but GDOE management, aside from the principals, was not. She expressed that the letter was insulting to JFKHS stakeholders and commended the speakers for their participation. Mrs. Gutierrez compared the situation to children repeatedly asking their parents for attention, and she expressed pride in being an islander, praising JFKHS for providing excellent education to her family.

Dr. McNinch acknowledged that the Board may not always be aware of the operational challenges and expressed that hearing about the struggles is helpful. He also apologized if anything in the letter was insulting, stating it could have been framed better.

Mr. Fedenko agreed with the discussion and emphasized the urgency of redistricting, stating it could be done quickly, possibly within a year. He expressed frustration over the ongoing issues at SSHS questioning what can be done since the issues have persisted for decades. He referenced past promises and the lack of proactive maintenance, agreeing with Ms. Tydingco on the importance of such programs. He said it was ridiculous that students were being shortchanged. He mentioned reading the letter and not seeing the offenses but understanding the points it raised. He also suggested that THS, originally meant to be temporary, may need to be re-evaluated. He urged the Board to take action on these pressing issues.

Mr. Sablan gave assurance that JFKHS and SSHS will never be overlooked again, and their issues will always remain on the agenda. He emphasized that the Board and Dr. Swanson will regularly update everyone on the progress. He also encouraged stakeholders to email the Board with ideas anytime, as their contact information is available on the website. He said BIBA JFKHS!

Mr. Richard Borja said Biba SSHS!

**V. COMMUNICATIONS** – Not discussed.

**VI. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS**

- 1) Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report – Kody Siguenza, OHS IBOGS Representative, shared details about the 6th Annual Student Conference and mental health training sessions on April 5, 2025, at OHS from 8 am to 3 pm. The event aims to reintroduce IBOGS, provide mental health resources for students experiencing burnout, and promote inclusivity. It's open to GDOE middle and high school students in grades 6-11, with a cap of 15 students per school on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration forms were distributed, with a deadline of March 21, 2025. The event will accommodate 350-400 students to ensure adequate space for discussion without overcrowding. They've also discussed potential vendors and plan to reflect on the event afterward.

Mrs. Gutierrez spoke about the 6th Annual IBOGS Conference. She said IBOGS was her baby and is very dear to her heart. She highlighted the importance of mental health training and mentioned that Segundo Garrido and Faith Freeman are the first members of the National Association of State Boards of Education Student Advisory Council, with Guam being the only Pacific representative. Mental health is one of the topics they were working on. She noted that some schools hadn't responded to her email and emphasized that the deadline wouldn't be extended to prioritize schools that responded first. She explained that all IBOGS activities, including the event, are done voluntarily and shared that a GDOE School Psychologist, a THS student, University of Manoa interns, and the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center would be facilitating the training. She requested that the Board and GDOE Management donate a case of water for the facilitators. Vendors will also be selling items for no more than \$10 to ensure affordability for students. Schools are welcome to bring lunch for their students, but it's up to the principals. Mrs. Gutierrez reminded the Board that IBOGS does not fundraise and mentioned that former IBOGS members from 2008 have been invited, along with Board members.

- 2) Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report – Mr. Fedenko expressed concerns about staffing and the need to fill positions related to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). He thanked the Budget Committee for providing the staffing pattern for FY25-26 but requested that vacancies be continuously posted until all CBA positions are filled. He mentioned a situation where a teacher was told a library technician position was unavailable due to funding, which he felt was not in good faith by the school board. Fedenko pointed out that many teachers and aides were retiring, and the funds should be used to fill CBA positions. He also noted that the GFT is celebrating its 60th anniversary and will continue advocating for its members. He then raised concerns about school safety, mentioning an incident where a teacher was assaulted by a student and needed medical attention. He emphasized that staffing is crucial for safety, alongside physical measures like fences and cameras, to ensure the protection of staff and students. He expressed hope for the teacher's recovery and stressed that proper protocols should be followed in such incidents.

Mr. Sablan congratulated the GFT on their 60 years and commended Mr. Fedenko for his hard work in supporting their mission.



Mrs. Gutierrez told Dr. Swanson that job announcements should be posted for 10 days according to the rules, but as the Superintendent, he can announce positions continuously. She mentioned that school aides expressed interest in applying for the library technician position but found it already closed. She emphasized that critical positions under the CBA should be continuously open for applications, not closed after 10 days.

Mr. Sablan said he's sure Dr. Swanson took note of that and should take care of it if not the deputy superintendents are there to make sure. He told Justin to tell his superior that the CBA positions should be continuously announced. He also thanked him for including the Board's request in including the position vacancies and notifications.

3) Mayor's Council of Guam (MCOG) Report – Not reported.

Mrs. Angel said she'd been listening to what was going on and asked for consideration because this was her third entry to the Zoom meeting. She expressed her empathy for the JFKHS teachers and stakeholders and her appreciation for the students, faculty, and staff of SSSH. She acknowledged their patience and hoped that progress would be made soon.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1) Superintendent's Report – Mr. Sablan said Dr. Swanson didn't need to read his report because it was in the packet but he could provide status updates on the JFKHS/SSHS double session situation.

Dr. Swanson shared highlights of his report.

Mr. Sablan mentioned that Dr. Naholowaa has an update regarding the decoupling of SSSH and JFKHS.

Dr. Naholowaa shared that significant progress has been made on various projects, including addressing labor issues with Northern Construction. Despite competition for workers due to numerous projects in Guam and in Saipan, they successfully hired local employees to continue work. She reported that FBLGMS has made notable progress and is expected to be completed by December. Additionally, a plan for a modular classroom at SSSH is in place, and if funding is secured, it will be ready by December as well. Dr. Naholowaa stated that the plan and location for the modular classroom are ready, and she has contacted the governor's office to discuss funding next week. She acknowledged the need for more space and agreed that students are being short-changed. Despite being only on her seventh day, she emphasized that she and her team are working diligently to address the issues and ensure students' needs are met.

Mr. Sablan asked that she keep Mr. Richard and Dr. Rosete up to date as to whatever information she has. He said that they're committed to transparency and to letting them know what the hiccups are along the way so they don't keep expecting. He said Dr. Swanson said it might be finished by September but if it won't be finished then or in December, they should be informed.

Dr. Naholowaa agreed and said the only issues would be funding and manpower.

Program Coordinator III Nik Cruz explained that during the FBLGMS refurbishment, GPA Engineers completed the scope of work, but collateral equipment was overlooked and is

now being procured. The solicitation is in progress with the Attorney General's Office. He also highlighted challenges with change orders, specifically change order #2 from Northern Construction, which Dr. Naholowaa pushed for them to do additional work. The change order is currently with the Legal Office for processing.

Facilities and Maintenance Manager Jimmy Pangelinan stated that they have until June to re-inspect FBLGMS, and if not completed by then, it will need a full re-inspection like it's a brand new school. He mentioned efforts to address smaller issues and seek flexibility from Public Health. Despite facing challenges, he emphasized the department's commitment to meeting the deadline and ensuring progress for the students.

Dr. Okada inquired about the funding source for FBLGMS and emphasized that until the temporary classroom is put out for bid, communication with vendors should be avoided to prevent compromising the procurement process.

Mr. Sablan told Dr. Okada that they will be meeting with the Governor's office sometime this week.

Dr. Okada said they just signed the change order today.

Acting DFAS Justin Castro replied that the funding for the change order came from the supplemental budget – the \$10 million first assigned to them.

Dr. Okada asked if that was the supplemental \$10 million from Senator Barnett's law.

Mr. Castro said yes.

Dr. Okada asked if FBLMS was specifically identified when it was submitted to the Board for the spending priorities.

Mr. Castro said he believes so. He said he was working with Deputy Paul and it was added.

Dr. Okada asked if FBLGMS was included on the spending priorities for the \$266 million.

Mr. Castro repeated that he believes so.

Dr. Okada said that needs to be verified because she sees it funded someplace else but not on the \$266 million.

Mr. Castro said he will verify that.

Dr. Okada asked Mr. Cruz if he was indicating that GPA was to include in their scope the requirement for the collateral equipment or if GPA was contracted to do the scope of work for the construction.

Mr. Cruz replied that the refurbishment never had collateral equipment at all.

Dr. Okada commented that GPA was not responsible for the collateral equipment, the scope of work, or the RFP.

Mr. Cruz replied no, they were not responsible for collateral equipment. He explained that FEMA requested they get a quote from a vendor to start the reimbursement process. The vendor was supposed to submit the quote to FEMA for approval.

Dr. Okada asked if that was still being put out for bid.

Mr. Cruz said yes. He said it most likely will be an RFP.

Mr. Sablan said it was a market research requirement. He then told Administrative Officer Kathleen Lamorena that they need to reinvest in improving the PA system, as both attendees and listeners are frustrated by the poor audio quality. He requested that she arrange for a better system for the next meeting.

Ms. Lamorena responded that she had ordered a new system and was just waiting for it to be delivered.

Dr. Guthertz expressed frustration with the acoustics in the meeting room, which she found painful and difficult to hear, and predicted it would cause her a headache. She then shifted focus to the issue of students being shortchanged in their instructional time, emphasizing the negative long-term impact, especially on their writing skills, which she had observed in university students. She urged the Board to prioritize students and faculty in the school community, suggesting that the problem should be resolved before the next school year. She proposed turning over the current building to SSHS for school-related purposes and suggested relocating the central office and JPTSA to vacant schools in Tamuning. She also recommended utilizing vacant classrooms at THS, along with the gymnasium and fields, to better serve student needs. She acknowledged the difficulty of moving staff but stressed the importance of prioritizing students. She also suggested using CBMES for administrative offices and believed this plan would serve students' needs more effectively than the current use of the building for offices. She proposed adopting this idea as a "Plan B" in case the original plan does not work, suggesting adding SSHS and JFKHS members to the task force led by Dr. Naholowaa. Dr. Guthertz emphasized the importance of sacrifice for students' futures and called for action to better support education.

Dr. McNinch said he seconded her motion.

Mr. Sablan told Dr. Guthertz that her motion had been seconded but it would be placed on the agenda for the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting because they didn't take action during the second meeting of the month.

Dr. Guthertz acknowledged.

Mrs. Gutierrez thanked Dr. Naholowaa for her leadership as the new Deputy, praising the positive feedback from the maintenance staff at schools who are now receiving the support and guidance they had long desired. She shared that maintenance employees are excited about their work, no longer having to spend half their day bush-cutting. She also mentioned the leadership of Mr. Jimmy Pangelinan and Mr. Cruz, emphasizing the importance of stability and guidance for the maintenance team. She also pointed out that she hadn't seen FBLGMS listed as a spending priority, only positions to fill. She acknowledged the progress being made under Dr. Naholowaa's leadership, joking about her tennis shoes as she runs fast and encouraging Mr. Pangelinan and Mr. Cruz to keep

up with her. She ended by encouraging continued good work, noting the happy faces she observed among the facilities and maintenance staff.

2) Executive Committee -

- a. National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) – Mrs. Gutierrez announced that Dr. Okada is now a member of the NASBE Finance and Budget Committee under the NASBE Treasurer. She also shared that both she and Dr. Okada received an invitation to attend the Early Childhood Network group, with a Zoom meeting scheduled for 3 am on April 8, followed by an in-person conference from June 2-3. Dr. Okada will attend and cover her expenses, while Mrs. Gutierrez will not be attending due to graduation commitments with IBOGS. She extended the invitation to the Board members to attend the conference, noting that NASBE would provide hotel accommodations. Lastly, she mentioned that they are awaiting upcoming nominations for various NASBE positions.

Mr. Sablan told the Board to let him know if anyone wanted to join Dr. Okada at the conference in Washington DC so the information could be given to Dr. Swanson and be taken from there.

- i) Government Affairs Committee – Not discussed
- ii) Public Education Position – Not discussed

3) Instructional & Academic Support Committee

Dr. Naholowaa informed the Board she wanted to give an update on the dashboard. She asked Legal Counsel Attorney Jesse Nasis to talk about the contract for the dashboard. She continued that they were going to move on to the next vendor because the first one was not able to provide the requirements they were looking for.

Atty Nasis said it's been a back-and-forth between the vendor, the end user, and the AG's office. He said they received feedback from them requiring certain mandated language under the law. He said that the Procurement division and the end user have been discussing with the vendor unfortunately the discussions were not successful in reaching an agreement. He said that for that reason, the end-user has moved to the second vendor.

Mrs. Gutierrez said that the Board has been waiting for a year. She said every time she sees her former colleague, Mr. Crisostomo, he asks about the dashboard. She said that the dashboard would also be for student learning and outcomes but also for the department's facilities and maintenance. She said NASBE has that. She said in the Santa Rita Hearing, somebody had asked about the dashboard. She said that the dashboard is a guide for them to know whether they are improving or stagnant. She thanked Dr. Swanson because Dr. Naholowaa was Naholowaa and will make sure that it goes forward.

Dr. Adamos shared that the Joint Board Union Calendar had met on March 11.

FBLGMS Principal Melissa Mafnas stated that they had agreed to put together a proposal to request a waiver for the 180 school days. She said they adjusted a

calendar to propose a recommendation for all the schools. She said 15 schools need to make up time and that out of the 15 schools, several schools will make up their time to finish by May 22<sup>nd</sup>. She then continued that FBLGMS will be the only school to finish on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. She said that the waiver for proposal, it's just in the event something happens moving forward. She asked that the Board take a look at it and if approved also allow Dr. Swanson to decide without having to come to the Board if they need to extend beyond the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> for FBLGMS.

Mr. Sablan said this will be placed on the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. He said he doesn't think there will be any objections.

Mrs. Gutierrez inquired about the status of makeup days for the schools that had to close due to a lack of water.

Principal Mafnas said that was inclusive of the 15 schools following the August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mrs. Gutierrez said THS and HSTES closed due to a water outage.

Dr. Adamos shared that 15 schools reassessed their instructional time to ensure they met the equivalent of 174 days. HSTES increased their instructional time from March 10 to May 11 to make up for two days lost due to water issues and one day lost to vandalism. She highlighted that THS is the only high school with an extended learning plan (ELP), where students have binders with assignments and can meet teachers online if they are released early or the school is shut down. She said Board member Ms. Karla Borja can attest to that because her sons attend THS. She mentioned that they discussed with Dr. Swanson how to handle situations where students are released due to issues like no water or other circumstances beyond their control, but they are not factoring in closures due to storms, as everyone is affected by those. She emphasized that this approach helps make up for lost instructional time. She noted that if schools following the August 15 calendar need to make up days, they have teacher workdays and upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences as options for adjustments. She stated that these situations were considered for makeup time, and if needed, schools reassessed their instructional time and increased it, similar to the 15 other schools.

Mr. Sablan inquired if all schools were covered under the current plan, stating that unless unforeseen circumstances arise before May 22<sup>nd</sup>, no adjustments are needed, and the schools are currently fine.

Dr. Adamos said yes.

Mr. Sablan said he will take this action item for the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Dr. Adamos said that the additional request is to amend the August 22<sup>nd</sup> calendar.

Principal – said they were just changing the end date of the school's 22<sup>nd</sup> for the other schools and the 23<sup>rd</sup> for the FBLGMS. She also said that they want to put the request forward because the legislature only meets every other month.

Mr. Sablan said the Board meets twice a month now.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she doesn't think they should give a waiver to the legislature because it means the department doesn't know what they're doing.

Dr. Adamos said they've discussed it in the calendar committee and it's only in the event they should have a storm – it's the last resort.

Mr. Sablan said that if they don't want to see the legislature, they don't have to see them if they don't want to see them.

- 4) Safe & Healthy Schools Committee – Mr. Sablan said Mr. Ada wasn't present to give updates.

Dr. McNinch said they will have a report soon.

- 5) Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee – Mrs. Gutierrez stated that they will review the department's travel policy to ensure it is implemented, especially with a large entourage leaving soon. She mentioned that Dr. Okada is the chair of the committee, and a proposed policy for both federally and locally funded travel is being considered.

Mr. Sablan said he knows that the Audit Committee has been conducting an audit on travel and HR from the time Dr. Swanson started to current and expects it sooner or later.

- 6) Fiscal Management Committee – Mr. Sablan said that because it requires action, it will be moved to the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting agenda.
  - a. GDOE Financial Report
    - i) Accounts Payable Aging Report
    - ii) Declaration of Financial Status Designation
    - iii) Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2025
    - iv) Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2025
    - v) Updated Spending Priorities
  - b. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report –
  - c. Revised FY26 Budget – Mr. Sablan said he didn't believe they were revising any FY26. He asked if it should be FY25.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked Mr. Castro to step forward.

Mr. Castro stated they had met with the Budget Committee two weeks ago to make the revisions.

Dr. Okada explained that the FY 26 Budget originally submitted did not include funding for substitute teachers, which led to the proposed revised budget. She mentioned that the resolution would be updated if it's on the agenda for voting at the April 1st meeting and that the updated budget, which includes an additional \$3 million, still needs to be submitted to the legislature.

- VIII. NEW BUSINESS - None
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Not discussed
- X. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Okada asked Mr. Sablan if the Zoom can be fixed because they have had to log in 4 times.

Mr. Sablan informed that he had instructed Dr. Swanson to pay the bill and mentioned that Dr. Swanson would be passing a letter from the US Department of Education to the Board members for their awareness. He also shared that a letter was sent to the new Secretary of Education, Ms. Linda McMahon, requesting to exempt Guam from the new mandate requiring upfront payment before reimbursement. Additionally, he noted the need to address the Food and Nutrition issue and assured the Board that they would provide updates once they have more information.

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Dr. Guthertz to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

The Board adjourned at 6:24 p.m.


**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:**

  
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**KATHLEEN LAMORENA**  
 Administrative Officer


Date: March 26, 2025

**MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2025 REGULAR MEETING:**

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

  
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**ANGEL R. SABLAN**  
 GEB Chair

Date: 4/1/25

  
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**K. ERIK SWANSON, Ph.D.**  
 Executive Secretary/GDOE Superintendent

Date: 4/1/25