

**FINAL MINUTES**  
**11th CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.**  
**BOE Conference Room,**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor NMI Retirement Bldg.,**  
**Capitol Hill, Saipan**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Members present:**

Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita  
Herman T. Guerrero  
MaryLou S. Ada  
D. Tanya King  
Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero

**Members absent:**

Francine R. Babauta

**Quorum was met.**

**PSS Staff present:**

Dr. Rita A. Sablan – Commissioner of Education  
Mr. Tim Thornburgh – Federal Programs Coordinator  
Ms. Suzanne Lizama – Acting Special Education Coordinator  
Mr. Ed Tenorio – Financial Consultant  
Mr. Charley Kenty – Human Resource Office Director  
Mr. Peter Le’au – Acting Associate Commissioner for Administration  
Ms. Jessica Barcinas-Taylor – CTE Coordinator  
Ms. Lori Grizzard – Acting Director of Finance  
Ms. Kelley Butcher – Legal Counsel  
Ms. Valerie K. Malwelbug – BOE Administrative Officer

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted as amended to change the order of agenda to have Religious credit adopted first as the Commonwealth Register will be published in the afternoon.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Member Galvin Deleon Guerrero moved to adopt the Minutes of the August 26, 2009 SBOE meeting, Member D. Tanya King seconded; all five members voted yes, motion carried. The Minutes was adopted to print it as one Minute with recess to Thursday and to complete the sentence of “shared on the purpose of the Center for Civic Education.”

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – There were no members of the public present.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Legal Counsel Kelley Butcher updated the Board on legal issues, pending and closed cases as well as the Legal Counsel Position interviews. Member Guerrero submitted written concerns to the Commissioner that she will be replying to by the next Regular Board meeting.

### **REPORTS**

**A. Chair** – Chair Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita reported on various functions she attended during the period of September to December 2009.

### **BOARD COMMITTEES**

1. **CIA-** Committee Chair D. Tanya King shared that the committee met on November 18, 2009. The committee focused on issues relating to strengthening the CCLHS Program and the need to formulate standards and benchmarks for financial literacy.
2. **CIP-** Committee Chair MaryLou S. Ada shared that the committee met on October 29, 2009 and December 21, 2009 and had discussions re projects under American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA); that Notice To Proceed was executed for EMChen; that repairs and renovations can be done during the school, some after school; Buy American regulations is in effect; need to attach regulations to contract so they can comply; Tinian Transformer is up and almost done; staff met with officials of Office of Insular Affairs, some money that need to be deobligated by December 30, 2009; GTC Elementary School, the classrooms is right on target, Bldg F – 5 classrooms should be completed by January 16, 2010; Bldg. G will be done by February 16, 2010 for four classrooms.
3. **FPA-** Committee Chair Herman T. Guerrero stated that the committee met on September 18, October 23, November 20 and December 21, 2009;
4. **LIA-** Committee Chair Blanco-Maratita reported on the meeting of October 15, 2009.
5. **School Reform** – No report.
6. **Ad Hoc-** Committee Chair Scott Norman reported on the meetings of September 23, October 22 and December 10, 2009.
7. **Special Education & Early Childhood** – No report.
8. **Private Schools & Non-Public School Representative** – No report.
9. **Student Representative** – No report
10. **Teacher Representative-** No report.

Recess was called for Lunch at 12:30 p.m. and will resume back in an hour. The meeting resumed at 1:45 p.m.

### ***11. Commissioner of Education***

Tim Thornburgh reported updates of State Fiscal and Stabilization Funds (SFSF), the Career Technical Education, Consolidated grant and ARRA Consolidated Grant. Lori Grizzard reported on the local funding status.

Charley Kenty reported on Praxis updates; received latest reports from Coreen Palacios and Liberty Rabauliman at 1:00 p.m.; emailed to BOE right away; Member King requested for breakdown of teachers, counselors, etc. taking and passing Praxis I and Praxis II; Member Guerrero requests for Charley Kenty to send the school Administrators self-assessment as done by the late Dr. Inos; requested for report to be sent to FPA committee and the next Regular board meeting.

Kathleen Yamagata reported on the Head Start Program; acknowledged new Head Start Policy Council representative – Member MaryLou S. Ada; 1<sup>st</sup> community assessment meeting next month; Reported on the lead screening result by center; latest communications with Department of Public Health is that they are able to confirm initial lead screening by allowing us to have parents get kids in for blood draw; Head Start managers are communicating with parents to be notified for kids to come in for blood draw; data on children’s health insurance – out of 406 – 359 are Medicaid, less than 50 have private health insurance, 55 with no insurance; Medical Services – 419 up to date with well-child-care; immunization – 213 determined to be up to date; dental services - 362 preventive care; 449 families have completed the process of partnership agreement;

Consultant Ed Tenorio did a Power Point Presentation on the Five Year Master Plan.

At 3:21 p.m. Ms. Anna Guerrero was introduced by Commissioner as Special Education Teacher Aide; she passed Praxis I and II while teacher-aide and is now working towards her Masters in Special Education; she is one out of 5 Teacher Aides that received a masters degree and passed praxis; Member King added Sabrina Calvo from Rota, passed Praxis I and II, and got her AA.

At 3:18 p.m., Member Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero moved to suspend the agenda to take up item V.c “Policy 60-20-430(c) – Grade Placement for Transfer Students [formerly 2510(c)]” Proposed as Final; Member Guerrero seconded.

1. ***ACTION:*** Member Guerrero moved for its adoption, Member Deleon Guerrero seconded; need to be adopted first so it may be published in the Commonwealth Register in the afternoon; Legal Counsel Kelley M. Butcher stated for the record that it was properly noticed; 30 day period for public comments, none received and now for its final adoption; all five members voted yes, motion carried.

Continuing with Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner passes the binders of the Draft Annual report; shared strategic plans, initiatives, etc.; lack of universal pre-school program especially kindergarten; from accredited school district; project initiatives – Food and Nutrition Program,

Federal Transit Administration; Shared about her meeting with Peter Cunningham; Instructional Make-up days – end on June 15, 2009; last day for Rota June 16, 2010, Tinian June 17, 2010 and Saipan June 18, 2010; revised School Year calendar due to typhoon to meet the 180 days of instruction; because of that graduation dates have been changed; handed out Commissioner's Report; met with U.S. Congress Delegate Kilili; initiative to support PSS \$200k for Refaluwasch Program and \$100k for Library books; he will be donating books/reference for the schools; writing a letter to each principal; New Statistics – Facts & Figures 2009-2010 passed out by Commissioner; Four schools received a gold star – Rota, Marianas High School; Tinian and Rota tremendous turnover of instructors; Commissioner will be meeting with Colonel Gay on December 23, .2009 at 2:00 p.m.; Congratulates Tinian & Rota for more participants than Saipan.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Amendment to Record Retention for job applications and eligibility lists [ §§60-30.2-112 and 60-30.3-138 of the NMI Admin. Code, ref: 1306] – Member Guerrero recommended it go back to committee for further discussion; in the event that an applicant is not hired, the file may be retained a minimum period of 90 days before it is destroyed; in the event an applicant is hired, the file shall be retained by Human Resource Office for six months after final days of employment; Legal Counsel Butcher and Board Administrative Office Valerie K. Malwelbug to piece it back together again including justification; tabled for next meeting.

NMI History & CCLHS Content Knowledge Tests- Member Guerrero moved for its adoption, Member Deleon Guerrero seconded;

Member King moved for a subsidiary motion; that it is a moot issue since it has already been passed. Member King makes a subsidiary motion to amend....to be amended and take it on the composite score; 2 yes, 2 no; motion did not carry.

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse or Suspected Child Abuse - Proposed Rules – was printed in NMIAC but missing one page. Member Deleon Guerrero moved to table it and forward to School Reform Committee for action at the next board meeting; to resolve the conflict and confusion of the matter.

Legal Counsel Position: need to officially reject applicants and put out new announcement; Member Deleon Guerrero moved to announce the legal counsel position for another 30 days.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The 2009 Annual Report is still in drafting stage thus tabled for the next meeting;

2. **ACTION:** Member Deleon Guerrero moved to accept the FY 2008 Audit Report, Member Guerrero seconded; all five members voted yes, motion carried.

3. **ACTION:** Member Deleon Guerrero moved to approve Head Start's revised Selection Criteria Form, Member King seconded; all five members voted yes, motion carried.

4. **ACTION:** On the Allocations of Fund for BOE Professional Development, Member Guerrero moved for the 1st Quarter for Non-Public School and Teacher Representative be redistributed to Rota and Tinian; Member Guerrero moved to approve the funds for reallocation, Member Deleon Guerrero seconded; all five members voted yes, motion carried.

Emergency Logistics Management Operations Manual-taken out of the agenda as it is still under review.

Policy Update Work: Legal Counsel Butcher is meeting with program managers in reviewing and updating PSS policies & Regulations; huge portion if possible, if we have funds, to outsource it; tabled for review.

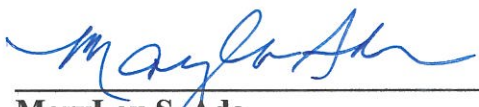
Chair Blanco-Maratita asks if the Evening with the Board could be held in February; Member Guerrero said try not to make it too big and then it becomes ineffective; the whole purpose/intent is to hear people talk; Member Guerrero requests for a synopsis of all the private schools.


Chair Blanco-Maratita tasks Legal Counsel Butcher to take the lead in setting up the Board Retreat and Professional Development Sessions; Boardsmanship, training, ethics, parliamentary procedures, etc.; Member Deleon Guerrero recommends summer to invigorate us for the beginning of the School Year; Member Guerrero says maybe meeting in Rota or Tinian so we could tie it in.

The Board Inaugural Meeting is January 11, 2010. It will be at the BOE Conference room so they could beam it to the Rota and Tinian schools; Member Guerrero said Justice Castro swear them in; invite those coming into office, Board of Regents, principals, etc.;


**ADJOURNMENT-** Member Deleon Guerrero moved to adjourn the meeting, Member Ada seconded, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.<sup>1</sup>

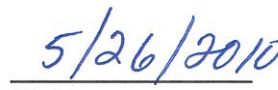
**CERTIFIED BY:**

  
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MaryLou S. Ada  
BOE Secretary/Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CONCURRED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita  
BOE Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

<sup>1</sup>The CNMI State Board of Education adopted this Minutes on April 22, 2010 Regular Board Meeting.