

FINAL MINUTES
11th CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, August 26, 2009 9:00 a.m.
BOE Conference Room,
2nd Floor NMI Retirement Bldg.,
Capitol Hill, Saipan

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

Members present:

Chairwoman Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita
Vice Chairman Herman T. Guerrero
Ms. MaryLou S. Ada
Ms. D. Tanya King
Mr. Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero
Mr. Scott Norman

Members absent:

Francine R. Babauta – came in later at 10:25 a.m.

There is a quorum.

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. Jackie Quitugua – Associate Commissioner for Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Lori Grizzard – Acting Director of Finance
Mr. George Palican – Federal Programs Monitor
Ms. Kelley Butcher – Legal Counsel
Ms. Valerie K. Malwelbug – BOE Administrative Officer

Members of the Public present:

Ms. Angela Wheat – new ACT representative
Drew Harvoch and Sandy Baker – Center for Civic Education

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

When there was no objection, Chair Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita requested items to be added. Items added were item c. Corrected Minutes of January 22, 2009; New Business, item l. School Calendar '09-'10, item m. Amendment to regulations 60-20-720 regarding travel policy, n. CCLHS and NMI History Content Knowledge Test o. Commemorative Resolution for Dr. Rita

Inos, p. Legal Counsel Contract q. COE Contract; Misc. Matters Legal Counsel Position; Vice Chair Guerrero moved to adopt the agenda pursuant to Law and requested for recorded vote; Member MaryLou S. Ada seconded; All five voted yes, motion carried; copies of revised agenda distributed to members, Commissioner and Legal Counsel.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of May 14, 2009 SBOE Meeting and June 30, 2009 SBOE Meeting were adopted. The Corrected Minutes January 22, 2009 SBOE Meeting was also adopted with clarification that the Board Action to approve the Special Education Pay Differential was to be retroactive back to October 1, 2008.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Angela Mary Wheat, unofficially, will be appointed as Acting President of ACT due to the elections. Former ACT President Betty Miller wanted her to ask a question regarding a discussion in the last meeting. In the April meeting, the CIA Committee discussed having ACT come and present a study that was done regarding praxis. CIA recommended to the board that they will hear it but there has been no comment or advice one way or the other and teachers are wondering where the board is and or what the status is. She thanked Commissioner Sablan for a productive meeting with ACT.

Member Deleon Guerrero believed the action taken at the CIA Committee was to direct/recommend that FPA receive and allow ACT to come in and present. Member Deleon Guerrero sums it up by asking FPA Committee Chair Guerrero to please add ACT on next meeting.

Ms. Suzanne Lizama of Special Education expressed her "THANK YOU" to the Board, Member Deleon Guerrero, Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ms. Robin Palacios who has been fighting for the request for the past years and Ms. Valerie for having to listen to hours of tapes to clarify on behalf of teachers and Related Service Providers who will be benefiting from the Pay Differential.

Commissioner introduced trainers from Center for Civic Education, Ms. Sandy Baker and Mr. Drew Horvach as they shared about the We, the People Project. They shared on the purpose of the Center for Civic Education.

REPORTS

- A. Chairperson** - Chair Blanco-Maratita shared about her July 1-9, 2009 trip to Japan for the Japan Foundation Conference as well as her August 5, 2009 meeting with Ms. Becky Lizama of U.S. Delegate Gregorio Sablan Kilili's Office.
- B. Board Committees**
 - i. CIA- Committee Chair King addressed the meetings of June 3, 2009 and August 20, 2009; both agendas were short, only goals and objectives and Policy 2510; went

through a very exhausting process; CIA committee made a recommendation; a motion to amend subsection c to read that “no more than 3 credit units will be accepted, grades will not be factored towards GPA; three members voted yes, one abstained; CIA goals and objectives were shortened as they were duplicated in the School Reform goals and objectives;

ii. **CIP** – Committee Chair Ada shared updates on school projects; CIP Projects under Local and Public Law funding, on-going repair and maintenance as well as the status of the Tinian Transformer.

iii. **FPA** – Committee Chair Guerrero reported on the meeting of August 24, 2009; there were updates on federal grants such as ARRA Consolidated, Regular Consolidated, Federal Transit Authorization (FTA), SFSF, NAP updates, Head Start Grants; the committee approved the 2010 Grant application which is included in the agenda for final approval; discussion for reporting procedures for both public and private schools as required by ARRA; approved switching concept of Title V to Title I; staff also updated on local and federal funds; Financial Consultant Ed Tenorio did a presentation on 5-yr financial plan; approved the Supplemental T&TA for Outer Pacific re: Head Start which is an annual grant that we get and requires endorsement; also recommended for approval for board action is CCLHS and NMI History content knowledge test and is included in agenda; HQT and Non-HQT matters; COE reported on her meeting with ACT President-Betty Miller; noted that board requested this to happen before it goes to FPA; endorsed the pay differential proposed amendment to regs and delete section d; effective of retro of sped pay differential which was corrected in the January 22, 2009 minutes; pay differential for Head Start, included in the agenda for endorsement; committee endorsed the proposed regs on mandatory report on child abuse, included under New Business that teachers have to report it to appropriate agencies or we become liable, too; to amend language in employment to expand language; regarding travel and included in agenda, basically to delete the five day requirement for processing of travel for inter-island because it’s still within the Commonwealth and has been recommended for deletion; committee also talks about letter of request for transfer of certification to BOE and is in concept but asked management to return with more data; opening of SY ’09-’10, COE stated that the school is ready and will be opened September 08, 2009.

iv. **LIA**- Committee Chair Blanco-Maratita said the committee met a couple of times on House Bill 16-257; more discussion as it is included in the agenda; also looked at goals and objectives of the committee; Member Deleon Guerrero asked if the committee could look into or follow-up on Juvenile Justice Act of 2008; Vice Chair Guerrero asked also to include on agenda a letter to clarify the status of the Board on USDOE; want to update and understand our end since we’re different from Guam as it’s not the government that runs the education but the Board; the committee continues discussion on the PL 6-10 as Education Enhancement Act;

v. **School Reform**- Committee Chair Deleon Guerrero stated the committee met twice; addressed student discipline; discrepancy between what our policy states and the schools; Commissioner’s working with schools on practice to align with policy.

vi. **Special Education & Early Childhood-** Committee Chair Deleon Guerrero reported on the June 29, 2009 and August 19, 2009 meetings; issue - adequate staffing; using technology to enhance a regular education student's ability to meet the needs of Special Education student; clinical supervision with an eye for regular education teachers; Commissioner will be working on Special Education Program.

vii. **Private Schools & Non-Public School Representative** – Representative Scott Norman stated he is pleased with the direction that they are going; issue is just the Federal funding and other issue is Policy 2510 and will get there; other issue is while public schools start on September 8, 2009, non-public schools have begun and will save comments for new business.

viii. **Student Representative** – There was no report from Student Representative Francine R. Babauta but Commissioner wanted to recognize her support in the Hard Rock event coordinated by the Youth Advisory Panel.

Recess called at 11:40 a.m. and resumed at 11:54 a.m.

C. **Commissioner's Report** - Commissioner Sablan reported on the Opening of School Year 2009-2010 which will begin on September 8; assigned Mr. Peter Le'au to be on Tinian for opening and to provide technical support for the week; assigned Ms. Jackie Quitugua to be in Rota; CD reports of SAT, end of SY '08-'09, school data on HQT, and info on school allocation in terms of local and non-appropriated funds were distributed to the Board members; conversation of Title I.

Recessed for lunch at 12:04 p.m. and resumed back at 1:03 p.m.

Continuing with Commissioner's report, Ms. Jackie Quitugua reported on Students Achievement Assessment Reports. Power point presentation on SBAs and SAT10 test results; consistency as far as performance is concerned; schools monitored for the past four years, great improvement; HJHS, COJHS, TJHS, RJHS; Board Members raised concerns of tracking seniors after graduation, cohort analysis, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and English Language Learners (ELL).

Chair Blanco-Maratita asked if there is no opposition to request from Kelley Butcher to suspend the order of the agenda to go to Agenda IV. Old Business – item B. to meet the deadline of publication otherwise Head Start will lose the funds.

1. **ACTION:** Head Start Personnel Additional Benefits – Proposed Final Rules – Vice Chair Guerrero explained that we have to meet the publication date which is today and Legal Counsel Butcher has asked the Office of the Attorney General to delay it just until today; Vice Chair Guerrero moved to adopt the Regulations to Section 60-60-805 which was published in CR Vol. 31 on July 23, 2009 creating a new section under that Section C, Member Ada seconded, all five members voted yes, motion carried.

Ms. Hee Jae came at 2 p.m. for Commissioner's 10 at 10 Health & Wellness; all staff and board members participated in the ten minute exercise.