

FINAL MINUTES
11TH CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Regular Board Meeting
Wed.-Thur., April 22-23, 2009
1:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Napu Room and Annex Room, Pacific Islands Club
San Antonio, Saipan

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present:

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

All members present. There is a quorum.

PSS Staff Present:

Dr. Rita A. Sablan - Commissioner of Education
Mr. Charley Kenty – Human Resource Officer
Mr. George Palican – Federal Programs Monitor
Ms. Kathleen Keiko Yamagata – Head Start Director
Mr. Tim Thornburgh – Federal Programs Coordinator
Ms. Suzanne Lizama – Acting Special Education Coordinator
Ms. Betty Miller – SVES Acting Vice-Principal/ACT President
Ms. Lynn Corella – Special Education Behavioral Specialist
Ms. Karen Borja – MHS Principal
Mr. Robert Florian – Procurement & Supply Officer
Mr. David Loan – CIP Coordinator
Mr. Stephen Smith – CIA Accreditation Acting Coordinator
Mr. Ed Tenorio – PSS Financial Consultant
Ms. Kelley Butcher – Legal Counsel
Ms. Karen Klaver – Legal Counsel
Valerie K. Malwelbug – BOE Administrative Officer

Members of the Public Present

- Ms. Joann T. Aquino – Little Darlings Daycare
- Ms. Moneth Deposa – Saipan Tribune
- Ms. Carol Hosono – NMC-CDI-UCEDD
- Ms. Gemma Q. Casas – Marianas Variety News

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – The agenda was adopted.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – The Minutes for the February 25, 2009 SBOE Meeting was tabled until the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Betty Miller as ACT President briefed the Board on the ACT Proposal; Ms. Miller added that ACT followed procedures instructed by BOE Chair in the last Board Meeting; ACT met with Commissioner Rita A. Sablan regarding their proposal; she reminded the Board that they can't act on ACT HQT Proposal until ACT meets with Board of Education.

REPORTS

- a. Chair – Chair Blanco-Maratita reported on the WASC visits to schools; she noted improvements and findings; Attended the Workshop sponsored by the Tinian Chamber of Commerce; reported briefly on the trip she took with WIA Director Edith Guerrero, NMC's Tee Abraham and Kagman High School's Vice-Principal Eric Magofna; She also shared about her trip to San Diego to attend the 69th Annual NSBA Conference; She also met with the Legislative Delegate on Tinian Transformer;
- b. Committee Reports:
 - i. CIA – Committee Chair Tanya King stated that the committee met on Tuesday, March 3, 2009; discussed BOE Policy 2510 Religious Courses; Associate Commissioner for Instructional Services-Jackie Quitugua gave Portfolio updates during the meeting; She mentioned concerns on scholarships, salutatorian-valedictorian; Commissioner Sablan asked Ms. Jackie Quitugua to have an Action plan on Reading Assessment at the Elementary level;
 - ii. CIP – Committee Chair MaryLou S. Ada said the committee met on Tuesday, April 14, 2009; There were updates from CIP Coordinator Dave Loan on GTC renovation; RFQ for the Rota Delegation Project List; Tinian Transformer; \$20M CIP Bond per ARRA; MHS Ribbon cutting for Bldg. J on April 17, 2009;
 - iii. FPA – Committee Chair Herman T. Guerrero updated the board on the SCIP & PSS Stimulus FY 2010 plan discussed on March 4, 2009; On March 23, 2009, the E-rate documents were scanned and emailed to the Feds; the NMIRF Lease Agreement; RFP for the School lunch program; HQT/Non-HQT issues; updated PSS positions to be in line with PSS Organizational Chart; PSS Email

- System is down; On April 7, 2009, the letter from the four Governors to U.S. President was signed and sent out;
- iv. LIA – Committee Chair Blanco-Maratita stated that the Comments due on HR 1324 to Amend Child Nutrition Act of 1966 was signed and transmitted;
 - v. School Reform – Committee Chair Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero passed copies of his reports on the March 4, 2009 meeting at Saipan Southern High School and April 15, 2009 in Rota;
 - vi. Student Representative – Ms. Francine R. Babauta reported on several events she attended; Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) established by Commissioner Sablan; shared about the PSS Rock event on May 8, 2009 at the Hard Rock Cafe; The Youth Summit on May 25, 2009; attended the Rotary Club meeting on February 17, 2009; attended the Tinian Youth Summit on March 13, 2009; Reminded everyone of the Parent Summit tomorrow, April 23, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.; she shared the attendance with Chair Blanco-Maratita, Legal Counsel Kelley Butcher, Board Administrative Officer Valerie K. Malwelbug at the 69th Annual NSBA Conference in San Diego, California and that she learned a lot of valuable things except for a negative on her student governance.
 - vii. Private Schools & Non-Public School Representative – No report.
- c. Commissioner of Education-
- i. CIP Coordinator Loan asked to present his report first as he needed to be excused shortly; Tinian Transformer, IFB should be published by Friday, April 24, 2009 now that Procurement & Supply Officer Robert Florian has been hired; GTC is also for bid by next week Friday; Sinapalo project is also ready to go to bid but project can't be started until the school breaks for summer; Stimulus projects would be aircondition replacement, roof replacement, general maintenance; the rest of the projects have been submitted to public assistance to meet NEPA compliance; San Vicente Kindergarten classrooms ready for bidding but no funds yet;
 - ii. Head Start Director Kathleen Keiko Yamagata presented Head Start Monthly reports;
 - iii. Federal Programs Coordinator Tim Thornburgh and Financial Consultant Ed Tenorio reported on both Federal and Local accounts; Mr. Thornburgh started on the FSR for April 11, 2009; Latest update from U.S. Delegate Gregorio Sablan "Kilili" is that USDE and USDOJ have yet to meet and decide on the allocation of \$268M funds as to how it would be divided; Insular areas one more year in transition to Title VI; Vice Chair Guerrero requests for the rate of return of kids being given scholarships from PSS; Mr. Thornburgh will go back and do an analysis; Mr. Tenorio reports on the local funds; \$34.6M which is higher than the \$33M requested; money still coming in from stimulus; law allows us to restore funding back thus \$35.8M; anticipating to stay at the 34.6M funding level however, PSS has a prior year CUC obligation of \$1.5M; FY '09 about \$9M on spending

money from stimulus; \$1M set aside to pay for the new teachers; Part of the approved budget, \$2M is embedded (from Compact Impact source) to give us the total of \$34.6M; in addition, allowed us to use \$1M for textbooks; lastly continue to pay our Retirement Fund based on 11%; someone asked if we could pay more than 11%; if we have money at the end of the year, we could pay more; supposed to be paying 36.7%, every year it goes up; that's the issue-employer's contribution; stimulus money is only good for 2-3 years; by 2012, we need to maximize and use it wisely; spending plan; \$3M in utilities but hopefully we could slash it down by half; that would be dedicated for renewable energy (combination of solar and wind); Member Deleon Guerrero asked for the total liability for retirement fund; Mr. Tenorio replied with \$3.8M so far, maybe about \$10M-\$11M; keep in mind it's based on 36%; pay attention to an actuarially which is coming up (every five years);

- iv. Associate Commissioner for Instructional Services Quitugua reports on WASC visits; reading results shared earlier this year pointed out definite growth from 2nd-8th consistently from 4-6th; power point presentation hand outs were passed; CIA Accreditation Coordinator Stephen Smith reports on results-4th, 8th, 11th;

The meeting recessed at 5:24 p.m. and reconvened at 3:00 p.m. on April 23, 2009 at the Annex Room, Pacific Islands Club, San Antonio, Saipan.

Members present:

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

All members present. There is a quorum.

PSS Staff Present

Dr. Rita A. Sablan - Commissioner of Education
Mr. George Palican – Federal Programs Monitor
Ms. Kathleen Keiko Yamagata – Head Start Director
Mr. Tim Thornburgh – Federal Programs Coordinator
Ms. Suzanne Lizama – Acting Special Education Coordinator
Ms. Betty Miller – SVES Acting Vice-Principal/ACT President
Mr. Ed Tenorio – PSS Financial Consultant
Mr. Eric Magofna – KHS Vice Principal
Ms. Kelley Butcher – Legal Counsel
Ms. Karen Klaver – Legal Counsel
Valerie K. Malwelbug – BOE Administrative Officer

Members of the Public Present

Ms. Tee Abraham – NMC

Ms. Edith Deleon Guerrero – WIA

Ms. Moneth Deposa – Saipan Tribune

OLD BUSINESS

ACTION: Vice Chair Herman T. Guerrero moved to approve the Adoption of Proposed Rules and Regulations re: Amendments to HQC published in the 2-25-09 Commonwealth Register; Member Tanya King seconded, motion carried.

ACTION: Vice Chair Guerrero moved to approve the Adoption of Proposed Rules and Regulations re: Special Education Hard to Fill Pay Differential published in the 2-25-09 Commonwealth Register; Member Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero seconded, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION: Vice Chair Guerrero moved to approve the CNMI-wide Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP); Member MaryLou S. Ada seconded, motion carried.

ACTION: Vice Chair Guerrero moved to approve the ratification of ARRA SFSF Grant Application (PSS Stimulus); Member Ada seconded, motion carried.

ACTION: Member Ada moved for the approval of the \$20M CIP Plan for ARRA Tax Credit Bond; Vice Chair Guerrero seconded, motion carried.

ACTION: Member Ada moved for the approval of the revised Standards and Benchmarks; Member King seconded, motion carried.

ACTION: Vice Chair Guerrero moved for the endorsement of the Annual Report for 2008; Member Ada seconded, motion carried.

ACTION: Vice Chair Guerrero moved to approve the ratification of the LIA Comments re: HR 1324 to Amend Child Nutrition Act of 1966; Member Ada seconded, motion carried.

ACTION: Vice Chair Guerrero moved for the approval of Building Lease for additional Space on 2nd Floor (Retirement); Member Ada seconded, motion carried.

The Setting of Goals and Objectives for 2009-2010 and System-wide Evaluation (BOE, PSS, COE) were tabled for further review and discussion.

Chair Blanco-Maratita explains about the Setting of BOE Committee meeting times. She asked Board Members to please be mindful of staff time after working hours. It's more a balancing issue.

Chair Blanco-Maratita also brought up the setting of BOE regular and special meeting times. Member Scott Norman thinks, if all possible, they did this a few years ago and it really worked well; if we can determine that the Board meeting be held on a second Thursday of the month; staff and committees will prepare in advance because they are aware of the schedule regularly.

Ms. Edith Deleon Guerrero from WIA, Ms. Tee Abraham from NMC and Mr. Eric Magofna of KHS reported on their San Francisco Trip to attend the Collaborate for Success Action Clinic re: U.S. Apprenticeship Program. Ms. Deleon Guerrero stated that an MOU was signed by Mr. Al Valez of the U.S. Department of Labor. PSS and NMC will be the key-drivers of the Apprenticeship Program. Ms. Tee Abraham stated that an MOU was signed by Governor Benigno R. Fitial and NMC President, Dr. Carmen Hernandez. The Group will also be going to Guam on May 1, 2009 for the Action Clinic.

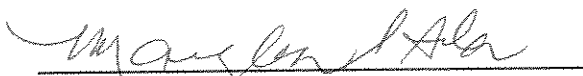
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chair Guerrero moved to go into executive session. Member Ada seconded.


Legal Counsel Karen Klaver reported on discussions made during the executive session on legal updates, personnel and other matters.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.¹

CERTIFIED BY:



Marylou S. Ada
BOE Secretary/Treasurer



Date

CONCURRED BY:



for Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita
BOE Chairperson



Date

¹ The CNMI State Board of Education adopted this Minutes on May 14, 2009 Special Board Meeting.