

FINAL MINUTES
11TH CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Special Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, October 2, 2008 3:30 p.m.
BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Bldg.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Members present:

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

All members present.

PSS Staff Present:

Commissioner Sablan
Jackie Quitugua
Suzanne Lizama
Ramon Diaz, Jr.
Keiko Yamagata
Lori Grizzard
Charley Kenty
Hee Jae Lee
Tim Thornburgh
Karen Klaver, Esq.
Kelley Butcher, Esq.
Valerie K. Malwelbug

General Public:

Kristi Eaton – Saipan Tribune
Moneth Deposa – Marianas Variety
Betty Miller – CNMI ACT

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Agenda was adopted.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – The following Minutes was adopted:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| a. February, 15, 2008 | h. July 11, 2008 |
| b. April 4, 2008 | i. July 25, 2008 |
| c. April 17, 2008 | j. August 1, 2008 |
| d. April 22, 2008 | k. August 6, 2008 |
| e. May 23, 2008 | l. August 9, 2008 |

f. May 28, 2008
g. June 12, 2008

m. August 28, 2008
n. September 6, 2008

REPORTS

CHAIR: Chair Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita reported on her trip sponsored by NASBE in collaboration with the U.S. Army and American Education. She also reported on the Chamorro Conference as well the RWDC Meeting that she attended. As Chair of LIA Committee, she reported on the \$20M Proposed PSS GO Bond requesting to consult community and leaders, determine the needs of schools and write a letter to Rep. Apatang urging him to give us an authority to determine the needs and projects of our PSS, flexibility to conduct study.

CIA Committee: Chair Tanya King reported on ADI to suspend due to lack of budgeting; Portfolio Project, progress report due December and end of the school year; raised concerns on credits between private and public, recommended a revisit of BOE Policy 2510 – no religious course will be accepted; and proposed to adopt revised standards and benchmarks.

CIP Committee: Chair Marylou Ada gave an update on the Tinian Transformer, Tinian Elementary School classrooms, Rota Library, locker rooms and Science building as well as the Garapan Elementary School classrooms. Actions taken and recommended to the Board were the GO Bond Interest Income (PL 16-10), CDBG School Repairs, CIP Projects Reprogram \$1.2M and the Proposed HJR 16-11 re: \$20M GO Bond.

FPA Committee: Chair Herman Guerrero reported on the ADI Budget and the CNMI PSS Book Publication were tabled for further review from the CIA committee; under the Federal Programs, the Physical Education Grant Application and School Leadership Training Grant Application were not approved; the Consolidated Grant Program now getting \$9.2M funding; under Personnel Matters, some staff will attend the ASHA Conference on November 20-22, 2008 as a recruitment effort; on Actingships issues, COE will be meeting with Principals to determine their goals and how PSS can support them and that COE will offer recommendations to the Board. In the Alignment of Praxis II requirements, the Leadership will look at whether we can offer reciprocity to teachers who have taken old Praxis test that is no longer on list at ETS; Under the Retirement Unfunded Liability proposal, it was recommended to restore PL 14-98 to change contribution rate to 24%, for BOE to meet with the Board of Trustees, to request to reduce penalties and interests (return rate of investment) and there was a motion for a letter to the legislature requesting provision added to budget bill to increase contribution to 24% and reduce penalties. The line of command between Principals and DAIs was clarified; under Administration Matters, it was confirmed that the busses are ok and that the new busses are due to arrive on November 30, 2008. The Leadership was told to review wellness policy and come back with recommendations regarding the conflict between canteens and school lunch programs. Action taken and recommended to the Board was the Proposed Organizational Chart with the amendment of a dotted line going from Federal Programs Monitor to BOE.

SCHOOL REFORM: Chair Galvin Deleon Guerrero reported that the Committee met last night with Kagman Community (3 schools) and issues on Special Education, HQT vs. HET and Food service. The concerns brought up for SpEd were that there was only one SpEd teacher per school, very few related service providers, unusually high percentage of kids. Options were outsourcing provision services, waive for Praxis for SpEd teachers, more aggressive recruiting and build local capacity. On HQT vs. HET, options were to have peer observations, portfolio and Praxis not the only assessment to determine HQT. As for the Food Service, kids still go home hungry.

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION: Commissioner Sablan started her report on the student enrollment as of September 22, 2008 having 11,132 students; She reported on ETS books, PREL, online group support, the JROTC and Energy Conservation patrol. Under the Commissioner's report, Keiko Yamagata reported on the 2007-2008 Program Information Report

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION: Vice Chair Guerrero moved to adopt the \$20M Proposed PSS GO Bond to include the WASC reports re: infrastructure; consider the Guam military build-up and the whole to give the Board the flexibility to decide how to use the funds; Member Ada seconded, motion carried.

ACTION: Vice Chair Guerrero moved to adopt the Organizational Chart re: Auditors [financial Auditors & Federal Program Monitors] to be amended; Member King seconded, motion carried;

ACTION: Vice Chair Guerrero moved to adopt the Retirement Unfunded Liability Proposal to include a request to the Legislature to bring us up to 24% contribution as well as to reduce the 25% penalty to align with the return rate of investment; Member Ada seconded, motion carried.

ACTION: Vice Chair Guerrero moved to adopt the PD Fund allocation for FY '09; Member Deleon Guerrero seconded; Vice Chair Guerrero moved for a subsidiary motion of the PD Fund allocation with the voting members getting \$7,000, the Non-voting getting \$3,300, with the balance going to BOE Operations including legal counsel office and that any funds for Teacher Representative, Student Representative to be pro-rated and go to BOE Operations Account until the position is filled; Member King seconded, motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

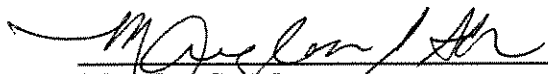
Member Deleon Guerrero moved to go into Executive session at 7: 28 p.m. for purposes of discussing legal matters and updates; Member Ada seconded, motion carried. Member Deleon Guerrero moved to rise from Executive session at 8:39 p.m., Member Ada seconded, motion carried.

Legal Counsel Karen Klaver reported on updates on the Lisa Black case, Guerrero Bros., Century Insurance case in post-trial case, and the Governor's shutdown of schools.


ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.¹

CERTIFIED BY:




Marylou S. Ada
BOE Secretary/Treasurer




Date

CONCURRED BY:



Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita
BOE Chairperson



Date

¹ This Minutes was adopted on October 30, 2008 at the Regular Board Meeting.