

**FINAL MINUTES**  
**12<sup>TH</sup> CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.**  
**BOE Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,**  
**NMI Retirement Fund Bldg., Capitol Hill, Saipan**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

The meeting was called to order at 9:13 a.m. Chair Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita corrected a typo on the type of meeting from Special as written on the agenda to Regular Board Meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members present:**

Marylou S. Ada  
Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita  
Herman T. Guerrero  
D. Tanya King

**Member absent:**

Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero

**There is a quorum.**

**PSS Staff Present:**

Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D. – Commissioner of Education  
Richard Waldo – Director of Finance  
Charley Kenty – Director, Human Resource Office  
Tim Thornburgh – Federal Programs Officer  
Peter Lea'u – Associate Commissioner for Administration  
Kelley M. Butcher, Esq. – Legal Counsel  
George Hasselback, Esq. – Legal Counsel  
Valerie K. Malwelbug – BOE Administrative Officer

**Members of the Public Present:**

Val Welch – San Vicente Aquaculture  
Scott Norman – Calvary Christian Academy  
Moneth Deposa – Saipan Tribune

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Vice Chair MaryLou S. Ada moved to adopt the Agenda, Member D. Tanya King seconded; Member Herman T. Guerrero asked to include the Proposed GO Bond Projects and Proposed Tax Credit Bond Projects as approved by the FPA and CIP Committees; four members voted yes, the Agenda was adopted as amended.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES** – Vice Chair Ada moved to adopt the Minutes of May 26, 2010 SBOE Meeting, Member King seconded; Chair Blanco-Maratita stated that the written reports submitted during the meeting should be attached to the Minutes; Four members voted yes, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Val Welch stated that in the prior times he has attended the board meetings, he was complaining; today, he just simply wants to thank the board for the opportunity to be heard.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Member King moved to go into executive session at 9:35 a.m. for purposes of discussing legal updates, personnel matters and other issues. Vice Chair Ada seconded, all four members voted yes, motion carried. The board rose out of Executive session at 11:45 a.m.

Legal Counsel Kelley M. Butcher reported that the Board was apprised of legal updates on pending cases, Kabir vs. Barcinas, GBI, EEOC, potential liabilities i.e. WCC, CUC, Retirement; the board was also apprised of different liabilities and actions; advised not to discuss personnel issues in public meetings; BOE Administrative staff's contract renewal was discussed and approved for 2 year term with training to be done by Legal Counsel's Office.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

***ACTION:*** Member Guerrero moved to take the agenda out of order to take up unfinished business since it was just taken up at Executive Session; He moved for the Contract Renewal of BOE Administrative Staff for a two-year term, Member King seconded, four members voted yes, motion carried.

**REPORTS**

- a. **Chair** – Chair Blanco-Maratita reported on a meeting with Commissioner Rita A. Sablan and attending the training institute by McRel.
- b. **Board Committees:**
  - i. **CIP** – Committee Chair MaryLou S. Ada stated that the committee met on July 12, 2010 and updates were provided on projects under Public Law, GO Bonds, Tax Credit Bonds; Notice to Proceed (NTP) will be going out to contractors; Ms. Liz Balajadia of EM Chen was present at the meeting and updated on the ARRA Projects and other on-going CIP Projects.
  - ii. **FPA** – Committee Chair Herman T. Guerrero stated that the committee met on June 28, 2010 and July 12, 2010; In the June meeting, the Audit Report was finalized, he pointed out that it was slightly different from the previous years; there was updates on Praxis, up to 76% became HQT; in the July meeting, the GO Bonds Projects and Tax Credit Bonds Projects were discussed and approved; updates given on Federal and Local funds; the committee approved the FY2010-2011 Consolidated Grant application which is under New Business today; the Retirement Contributions and the

Head Start revised policy/regs were tabled for further review; the JROTC Annual Reporting is just a reminder for management; The PSS Forms also a reminder to start collecting and numbering the forms; revision of travel regs policy of pre-authorized trip report is not necessary as it is a policy to report and submit documents after travel.

- c. **Commissioner of Education** – Commissioner Rita A. Sablan briefly touched on SAT10 academic achievement; SBAs and Alternate tests are not ready yet; graduated 597 students last year, promoted 725 Jr. High students; did an exit survey at school level; 358 or 60% have indicated the desire to enter colleges/universities; high number of students joining the armed forces; small percentage – undecided; Rota and Tinian are ready to go full time with Kindergarten; informed that Board of invitation to Commissioner for round table to focus on reauthorization of ERSEA; PSS presentation requested thus, Commissioner will be doing presentation with Associate Commissioner for Instruction, Jackie Quitugua; updated the Board on HQTs; Federal Programs Officer, Tim Thornburgh reported on the status of Federal grants; almost all schools left to spend their IAPs; Finance Director Richard Waldo reported on local funds; He stated that payment was made to NMI Retirement Fund for the rent that was not paid since 2008 and the Retirement Contributions; Mr. Bob Schrack has agreed to pay \$31 million dollars to PSS; Head Start will be giving \$92,000 to pay for retirement's 36%.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **ACTION:** Vice Chair Ada moved for the endorsement of hiring of the PSS Finance Director; Member Guerrero seconded; 3 members voted yes (Chair Blanco-Maratita, Vice Chair Ada and Member Guerrero), one member voted no (Member King), motion carried.
2. **ACTION:** Member Guerrero moved for the approval of the FY2011 Consolidated Grant Application, Member King seconded; the total grant of \$8.6 million dollars; assessment and Title I is \$7 million, \$50,000 for reading program, \$220,000 for student competition (i.e. National Forensic League, etc.); \$50,000 for monitoring; all four members voted yes, motion carried.
3. **ACTION:** Member King moved to approve the Single Audit Report ending FY2009; Member Guerrero seconded; for the record, Member Guerrero stated that this Audit is just different from the previous ones; one finding – traveling inter island should be changed to another term besides travel, maybe commute, etc.; review trip report to amend policies; with the intention of eliminating all paper works; streamline process as it is a burden on staff; all four members voted yes, motion carried.
4. **ACTION:** Vice Chair Ada moved to approve the Proposed GO Bond Projects; Member King seconded; all four members voted yes, motion carried.

5. **ACTION:** Vice Chair Ada moved to approve the Proposed Tax Credit Bond Projects; Member Guerrero seconded; Chair Blanco-Maratita would like a friendly amendment to pass but to address the concern of the Tinian High School Gymnasium; to be taken up in the next CIP and FPA meeting as requested by Chair; all four members voted yes with the understanding of facilitating the project of Tinian High School Gymnasium, motion carried.

There is still a question on the tentative date of the next Special Board meeting of August 2, 2010. Commissioner Sablan and the other members will check their schedule and get back to Chair Blanco-Maratita.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.<sup>1</sup>

**CERTIFIED BY:**




**D. Tanya King**  
**BOE Secretary/Treasurer**

7-30-10

**Date**

**CONCURRED BY:**



**Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita**  
**BOE Chairperson**

July 30, 2010

**Date**

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<sup>1</sup> The CNMI State Board of Education adopted this Minutes on the July 30, 2010 Special Board Meeting.