

**16<sup>TH</sup> CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EMERGENCY SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.  
Board of Education Conference Room,  
Building 1241, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members present:**

Janice A. Tenorio, M.Ed.  
Herman M. Atalig, SGM (Ret)  
MaryLou S. Ada, J.D.  
Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIFA, RF  
Andrew L. Orsini  
Paul T. Miura

**Members absent:**

Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D.  
Dionne Monique S. Torres

Four (4) voting members present, a quorum was established. Member Orsini arrived at 8:47 a.m. and Miura arrived at 9:42 a.m. after the roll call.

**PSS/BOE Staff Present:**

Charley Kenty – Interim Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services (ACAS)  
Yvonne R. Pangelinan – Associate Commissioner for Student & Support Services (SSS)  
Kimo Rosario – Interim Director of Finance (IDoF)  
Tim Thornburgh – Federal Programs Office (FPO) Director  
Joserin Mendiola – Interim Comptroller  
Edward Tenorio – PSS Financial Consultant  
Lucretia Borja – Human Resources Office (HRO) Director  
Marian Tudela – Office of Accountability, Research and Evaluation (ARE)  
Fasefulu Tigilau – ARE  
Jessica Taylor – Career & Technical Education, OCI  
Donna Flores – Special Education Program  
Lathania Angui – Head Start/Early Head Start Program  
Dale Roberts – Child & Nutrition Program Director  
Eric Magofna – FDM  
Glenn Smith – FDM  
George Palican – Internal Auditor, COE  
Rizalina Liwag – Hopwood Middle School  
Leila Staffler – Kagman High School

**PSS/BOE Staff Present:**

Phyllis Ain – William S. Reyes Elementary School  
Jesse Tenorio – Infrastructure Technology (IT)  
Ferdinand Ngirmekur - IT  
Tiberius Mocanu, Esq. – Legal Counsel  
Valerie K. Malwelbug – Administrative Officer

**Members of the Public:**

Matt Guerrero  
Lori Lynn Lirio – Marianas Variety News  
Kim Bautista – Media

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Member MaryLou S. Ada moved to adopt the agenda, Member Herman M. Atalig seconded. All five (5) members voted yes, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Matt Guerrero spoke about Economic Research.

Jeremy Rother voiced that he is opposed to any proposed cut. He further asked if PSS is paying ASC and Aetna and stated that it is fraudulent to put the amount on the pay stub and then not pay it. He asks to please file the injunction immediately.

Phyllis Ain shared that recent destructive events have hurt the children. Teachers are taking out loans, obligations based on salaries, based on austerity cuts. They need a plan to carry out their duties to the communities. Contract renewals of health insurances show that payment is behind three (3) pay periods. We are all adults and community members and hope we can be transparent. Filing the injunction, we feel, is the only way to get there.

**NEW BUSINESS**

***ACTION NO. 001*** Vice Chair Atalig moved to approved the Proposed Austerity Measures as presented by Key Management, Madam Chair Tenorio seconded. The Board went into discussion in Executive Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Member Orsini moved to descend into executive session at 11:10 a.m. for the purpose of discussing the Proposed Austerity Measures. Secretary/Treasurer Ada seconded. All five (5) members voted yes, motion carried.

Member Long moved to rise out of executive session at 12:28 p.m., Vice Chair Atalig seconded. All five (5) members voted yes; motion carried.

Legal Counsel Mocanu stated that matters discussed in executive session included potential litigation and proposals 1 and 2. Matters discussed were appropriate in executive session.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Continuation of ACTION NO. 001* Member Orsini moved for the approval of the Proposed Austerity Measures as presented provided Commissioner will inform the Board as far as the measure is implemented. Secretary/Treasurer Ada seconded.


Member Miura wanted to state for the record that he still opposes the reduction of 16 hours during the summer for the 190-days employees for work that have already been completed. Member Long asked Administration that when they give notice to the staff, employees and teachers, that they make it clear that this may be just a start; that this may not be the last cut; showed in the presentation, it is still \$3M deficit after this cut; make sure it is clear to PSS that we might be back here again. All five (5) members voted yes, motion carried.

*ACTION NO. 002* Member Orsini moved to approve the Amendment to Instructional Minutes as included in the Proposed Austerity Measures and subject to the approval of the Legislative bill. Vice Chair Atalig seconded. All five (5) members voted yes, motion carried.

*ACTION NO. 003* Member Ada moved to schedule a Board meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. at the Marianas High School Cafeteria with only two (2) agenda items; (1) Injunction (2) COE, Member Long seconded. Member Orsini wanted clarification that the COE agenda item be discussed in executive session as it is a personnel matter. Legal Counsel clarified that the injunction is reaffirmation of the votes and COE matter may be discussed in executive session. Three (3) members voted yes (Ada, Long, Orsini) and two (2) members voted no (Atalig and Tenorio)

**ADJOURNMENT-** Member Long moved to adjourn, Member Orsini seconded. All five (5) members voted yes; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.<sup>1</sup>

**CERTIFIED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MaryLou S. Ada, J.D.  
BOE Secretary/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
05/29/2020  
Date

**CONCURRED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice A. Tenorio, M.Ed.  
BOE Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
05/29/2020  
Date

<sup>1</sup> This Minutes was adopted at the May 29, 2020 Special Board Meeting.