

**16<sup>TH</sup> CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.  
State Board of Education Conference Room,  
Building 1241, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

The meeting was moved to 1:00 p.m. and called to order at 1:09 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members present:**

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

**Members absent:**

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

Five (5) voting members present, a quorum was established.

**BOE/PSS Staff Present:**

Alfred B. Ada, Ed. D. – Commissioner of Education  
Asap Ogumoro – Acting Associate Commissioner for Instructional Services (ACIS)  
Lorraine Catienza – Acting Associate Commissioner for Student Support Services (SSS)  
Marian Tudela – Acting Associate Commissioner for Accountability, Research and Evaluation (ARE)  
Charley Kenty – Interim Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services  
Lucretia Borja - Human Resources Office Director  
Kimo Rosario – Interim Finance Director  
Lathania Angui – Early Head Start/Head Start Program Director  
Tiberius Mocanu, Esq. – BOE Legal Counsel (participated via google hangouts)  
Ferdinand Ngirmekur – Acting Infrastructure Technology Director  
Shawn San Nicolas – Manager, Office of Pupil Transportation  
Valerie K. Malwelbug – Administrative Officer, Board of Education

**Members of the Public**

Lyn Lirio – Marianas Variety News  
Ulysses T. Sabuco – Taro Leaf

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Herman M. Atalig moved to adopt the agenda, Member Andrew L. Orsini seconded. All four (4) members voted yes, motion carried.

The Adoption of the Minutes was tabled for the November 21 Regular and November 26 Special Board meetings. Member Ada advised the Administrative Officer not to include the Minutes on the agenda if the Minutes are not ready. It was noted.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Member Paul T. Miura, as Teacher Representative, asked the Board if it is possible to broadcast the meetings to allow Teachers and Admins to listen or watch the meeting. If not, he submits consideration for board meetings to be conducted after school to allow teachers and staff to attend.

Member Orsini shared that at the last meeting where teachers were allowed to comment under Public Comments were granted admin leave. If they were to just come in and sit then that may require personal leave. They may submit written comments and/or give advance notice to the Board.

Legal Counsel Tiberius D. Mocanu stated that it is the discretion of the Commissioner to determine and grant personal or admin leave.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Retention Incentive – Commissioner Alfred Ada opened the discussion asking the Board to approve the payment for 1&2 since the grant only allows certified personnel and not non-certified. The local funds cannot be used for 3,4,5 and added that since their salaries were cut, they deserve the incentive. Consider it a morale boost.

Secretary/Treasurer MaryLou S. Ada does not want this to be processed because it is not to boost morale but in fact, give what is deserving for the staff and it should be across the board.

Vice Chair Atalig shared that everyone's salaries were cut; everyone's important. Federal Programs Officer Tim Thornburgh should be able to find money in the grant to get a piece of the pie; if not, maybe have 1 & 2 may be paid for now.

After comments shared by the Board members, Legal Counsel Tiberius D. Mocanu advised the Board that the Grant does not cover 3,4,5. FPO Thornburgh's interpretation of the grant is correct.

Member Paul Miura stated for the record, he is in full support of everyone receiving some of the incentive. However, if it is not possible, then is the action to withhold everything going to make the situation better for the support staff?

Madam Chair Tenorio echoed Member Miura's comments. She supports and hope that everyone gets the incentive but we can't do it with the grant. 641 individuals covered by the grant which are teachers that work so hard; 3,4,5 could not be covered because we cannot use/do not have local funds.

Vice Chair Atalig moved to approve the Retention Incentive for 1&2, with 3,4,5 pending federal grants if any, Madam Chair Tenorio seconded. Two (2) members voted no (Ada and Orsini), two (2) members voted yes (Atalig and Tenorio), motion did not carry.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Vice Chair Atalig moved to adjourn, Member Orsini seconded. All four (4) members voted yes; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.<sup>1</sup>


**CERTIFIED BY:**

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

01.14.2020

Date

**CONCURRED BY:**

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

01.31.2020

Date

<sup>1</sup> This Minutes was adopted at the January 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.