

**16<sup>TH</sup> CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.  
State Board of Education Conference Room,  
Building 1241, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

Swearing-in of the Student Representative – Ms. Dionne Monique Sakisat Torres, a senior student from Kagman High School, was appointed by the Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres. The Oath of Office was administered by Vice Chair Herman M. Atalig at 8:20 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 8:51 a.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 (Via Teleconference)  
Paul T. Miura

**Members absent:**

Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D.

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

**BOE/PSS Staff Present:**

Jackie Quitugua – Acting Commissioner/Associate Commissioner for Instructional Services (ACIS)  
Lynette Villagomez – Associate Commissioner for Accountability, Research and Evaluation (ARE)  
Charley Kenty – Interim Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services  
Suzanne Lizama – Director, Special Education Program  
Lucretia Borja – Human Resources Office Director  
Kimo Rosario – Acting Finance Director  
Lathania Angui – Early Head Start/Head Start Program Director  
Tiberius Mocanu, Esq. – BOE Legal Counsel  
Robert L. Coldeen III – SARC Coordinator, BOE  
Jessica H. Estrada – Certification & Licensure Officer, BOE  
Valerie K. Malwelbug – Administrative Officer, BOE  
Rachel Fusco – FDM Director  
Ferdinand Ngirmekur – Acting Infrastructure Technology (IT) Director  
Dale Roberts – Child Nutrition Program Director  
Shawn San Nicolas – Office of Pupil Transportation Manager

### 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 as amended to change the order of V. NB 2 & 3 to 1&2. Secretary/Treasurer MaryLou S. Ada seconded. All four (4) members voted yes, motion carried.

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**ACTION NO. 01** Secretary/Treasurer Ada moved to adopt the Minutes of the September 12, 2019 Regular Board meeting. Vice Chair Atalig seconded. All four (4) members voted yes, motion carried.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

### REPORTS

Madam Chair Tenorio stated that the Chair's report was emailed to all members.

ISA-Committee Chair Andrew Orsini reported briefly stating the meeting was informative. Among the discussions was Home economics, the Bilingual program; proposal to extend throughout the schools and early warning policies.

SARC – The Report was emailed to all the members.

Madam Chair Tenorio asked the Board if the Proclamation of Education Day be moved first since the students and teachers are present to read aloud the Proclamation. There was no objection, the schools were recognized to read aloud and have the Board Proclaim November 21, 2019 as Education Day.

### NEW BUSINESS

**ACTION NO. 02** Secretary/Treasurer Ada moved to approve the Proclamation of Education Month with November 27, 2019 proclaimed as Education Day for the CNMI PSS. Vice Chair Atalig seconded. All four (4) members voted yes, motion carried.

A break was called at 10:29 a.m. and resumed at 10:44 a.m.

### REPORTS

Acting Commissioner Jackie Quitugua informed the Board that Acting Director of Finance Kimo Rosario will report on the local funds; Federal Programs Officer Tim Thornburgh will report on the Federal funds; and Early Head Start/Head Start Program Director Lathania Santos will report on the Head Start Program.

CNMI Project Restart grant was introduced. ADoF Rosario asked FPO Thornburgh to request for more buses. FPO Thornburgh shared the Recruitment & Retention Bonuses (R&RB) for Teachers, Principals, Vice Principals, and Instructors; covers 700 teachers.

Secretary/Treasurer Ada asked who determines who gets a bonus? What happens if they get their bonus and then say bye-bye? What are the criterias? Is there a way of holding them back? What is the whole intention?

Vice Chair Atalig and Member Orsini asked if it includes the support staff. FPO Thornburgh said it does not. There is a stipulation in the grant that it is strictly for teachers, principals and vice principals.

Member Miura asked if there is a timeline? FPO Thornburgh responded that it is a 2-year grant but asked the Board if they could act quickly and promptly. The information has been sent out to the schools and they are expecting it.

Member Orsini shared that it is hard to keep secrets around PSS. At least temporary discreetness; it will create a morale issue. It should be disseminated first to the committee of the Board before it goes out; not comfortable that others will not be included.

Madam Chair Tenorio advised to table this matter and get more information. It will be referred to the FPA Committee.

Member Ada inquired on the status of repairs and renovations. As far as the grant's concern, is there another program to help with the repair and renovations? We are almost into the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and schools are still in double session.

FPO Thornburgh responded that FDM Director Fusco and staff are working very hard.

Madam Chair Tenorio directs FPO Thornburgh to send a detailed report on projects and email Acting Commissioner Quitugua to send to the Board.

Lunch break was called at 12:17 p.m. and resumed at 12:47 p.m.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

***ACTION NO. 03*** Secretary/Treasurer Ada moved to approve the School Year 2019-2020 Updated Calendars for K-12. Member Orsini seconded. The change was to declare December 23, 2019 as a make-up day. Member Miura shared that in the current calendar, December 23, 2019 starts the Christmas break and some teachers who purchased their tickets in advance and are just being notified after-the-fact may have to pay penalty or lose their tickets. Member Ada chooses not to change it but to have the teachers deal with it. Acting Commissioner Quitugua said there was a survey that went out but Member Miura said the tickets were purchased way before the survey. Two (2) members votes yes, (Ada and Tenorio), two (2) members voted no (Atalig and Orsini), motion did not carry.

***ACTION NO. 04*** Secretary/Treasurer Ada moved to ratify the BOE Letter of Support for SLDS Grant dated September 16, 2019. Member Orsini seconded. All four (4) members voted yes, motion carried.

***ACTION NO. 05*** Secretary/Treasurer Ada moved to ratify the BOE Letter of Support for FY'19 Supplemental Disaster Assistance dated November 12, 2019. Vice Chair Atalig seconded. All four (4) members voted yes, motion carried.

***ACTION NO. 06*** Secretary/Treasurer Ada moved to approve the Board Resolution No. 2019-16-003. This is to include the Interim Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services, Charley Kenty for the period up to November 29, 2019. Vice Chair Atalig seconded. All four (4) members voted yes, motion carried.

*ACTION NO. 07* Secretary/Treasurer Ada moved to approve the CLO Report No. 2019-012 with nine (9) Basic I, one (1) Instructor I, one (1) Basic I Instructor, one (1) Specialized, four (4) Basic II, five (5) Standard, and two (2) Professional. Vice Chair Atalig seconded. All four (4) members voted yes, motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Secretary/Treasurer Ada moved to descend into executive session at 1:28 p.m., Vice Chair Atalig seconded. All four (4) members voted yes, motion carried. Secretary/Treasurer moved to rise out of executive session at 2:04 p.m., Member Orsini seconded. All four (4) members voted yes, motion carried.

Legal Counsel Mocanu stated that matters discussed in executive session was regarding the Commissioner of Education JVA, Certification matters and the legal counsel position. Matters discussed were appropriate in executive session.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Secretary/Treasurer Ada has recused herself from the Interviews of the COE position due to familial relation. The interview is scheduled for November 26, 2019 with the four (4) voting members (Atalig, Orsini, Long and Tenorio) and one (1) legal counsel.

*ACTION NO. 08* Secretary/Treasurer Ada moved to approve the Legal Representation proposed by Tiberius D. Mocanu. Legal Counsel Ryan Meyerhoff leaves the CNMI Public School System on December 6, 2019. Legal Counsel Mocanu will provide legal services to both the Board of Education and the CNMI PSS. Vice Chair Atalig seconded. All four (4) members voted yes, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT- The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 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.