



ANGEL R. SABLAN  
Chair

# GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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MARY A.Y. OKADA, Ed.D.  
Vice Chair

## GUAM EDUCATION BOARD CONTINUATION OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING Wednesday, May 28, 2025

4 pm

Gallery, GDOE Building B  
MINUTES

### VOTING MEMBERS

Angel R. Sablan, Chair  
Mary A.Y. Okada, EdD, Vice-Chair  
Peter Alexxis D. Ada  
Felicitas B. Angel  
Christine W. Baleto  
Karlyn RCG Borja  
Judith Guthertz, Dr. PA  
Maria A. Gutierrez  
Ron L. McNinch, PhD

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Segundo Garrido  
IBOGS Representative  
  
Timothy Fedenko  
GFT Representative  
  
Mayor, Peter Benavente  
MCOG Representative

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

K. Erik Swanson, Ph.D.  
GDOE Superintendent

### **I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Angel Sablan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Dr. K. Erik Swanson, Superintendent and Executive Secretary, took the roll call. The following members were **present** for the meeting:

#### ***Voting Members:***

Sablan, Angel R. – Chair  
Okada, Dr. Mary A.Y. – Vice-Chair  
Ada, Peter Alexxis D.  
Angel, Felicitas B.  
Borja, Karlyn RCG  
Guthertz, Dr. Judith  
Gutierrez, Maria A.  
McNinch, Dr. Ron L.

#### ***Non-Voting Members:***

#### ***Legal Counsel:***

Wolff, Matthew

#### ***Absent:***

Baleto, Christine W. (Excused)

#### ***Non-Voting Members:***

Benavente, Peter – MCOG Representative  
Fedenko, Timothy – GFT Representative  
IBOGS Representative

The Superintendent announced that eight (8) members of the Board were present, constituting a quorum.

12 **II. CELEBRATE SUCCESS** – Upi Elementary School retiree Marilyn Balajadia was recognized for her  
13 29+ years of service.  
14

15 Mr. Sablan noted that Mrs. Balajadia is from Upi Elementary School but lives in Yona and jokingly  
16 told her husband he'll now have a full-time wife. He thanked her for her dedicated service to the  
17 island's schoolchildren, calling it a noble profession. He wished her a happy retirement,  
18 encouraged her to travel, and hopes she returns if GDOE calls retirees back.  
19

20 Mrs. Balajadia said she's really enjoyed teaching and seeing the children grow.  
21

22 Mr. Ada asked if she wanted to come back.  
23

24 Mrs. Balajadia said she'll think about it.  
25

26 Mr. Sablan introduced and welcomed the department's new Public Information Officer, Damen  
27 Michael Borja.  
28

29 **III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

30 **IV. COMMUNICATIONS**

31 **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

32 1) Superintendent's Report

- 33 a. JFKHS/SSHS Double Session Status Report
- 34 b. FEMA Project Status Report
- 35 c. FBLG Renovation Status Report
- 36 d. Mold Mitigation/Fencing Status Report
- 37 e. Dashboard Status Report
- 38 f. Management and Curriculum Audit Status Report -

39 2) Executive Committee

- 40 a. National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)
  - 41 i) NASBE 2025 Nominations
  - 42 ii) New Member Institute Attendees

43 3) Instructional & Academic Support Committee

- 44 a. May Head Start Report

45 4) Safe & Healthy Schools Committee

- 46 a. Facilities & Maintenance

47 5) Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee

- 48 a. Travel Policy

49 6) Fiscal Management Committee

- 50 a. GDOE Financial Report
  - 51 i) Accounts Payable Aging Report
  - 52 ii) Declaration of Financial Status Designation - January & February 2025
  - 53 iii) Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2025
  - 54 iv) Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2025
- 55 b. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report

56 **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

57 **VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
58  
59  
60

61 **Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez, to go into executive session. The Board voted by voice with a**  
62 **vote of 8-0 The motion passed. The Board moved into executive session at 4:05 pm.**

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Ada announced a Zoom meeting tomorrow at 5 pm to discuss cell phone use during instructional hours in the Guam Public School System. He hopes the meeting will be brief and encourages people to join if they can.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked that documents for the meeting be provided.

Ms. Lamorena acknowledged and said it was the Board Policy.


Mr. Sablan announced that the next meeting is on Tuesday, June 17. He then informed Ms. Lamorena that the Board only received the listing at the meeting, not by email, and requested it be emailed immediately.

Ms. Lamorena acknowledged.

**Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

The Board adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**KATHLEEN LAMORENA**  
Administrative Officer

**Date:** May 30, 2025 \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2025 REGULAR MEETING:**

( ) Approved as submitted  
( ) Approved subject to corrections  
( ) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ANGEL R. SABLAN**  
GEB Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
**K. ERIK SWANSON, Ph.D.**  
Executive Secretary/GDOE Superintendent

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_