



ANGEL R. SABLAN
Chair

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 1, 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 4:01 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:

Freeman, Faith - IBOGS Representative (via Zoom)
Hernandez, Maiya - IBOGS Representative (via Zoom)

Legal Counsel:

Wolff, Matthew

Absent:

Baleto, Christine W. (Excused)

Non-Voting Members:

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

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

11
12 **II. CELEBRATE SUCCESS** – The following were recognized: 2026 Guam Teacher of the Year Program
13 Semifinalists - Julieta Anitok from Simon Sanchez High School, Acie Jo Sablan Cruz from Simon
14 Sanchez High School, Janice Evangelista, D.L. Perez Elementary School, Welma Gentural, Ed.D.
15 from Agana Heights Elementary School, Valerie Ann Mendiola from D.L. Perez Elementary
16 School, and Elaine Macalinao from Tiyan High School; Certified Government Financial Managers
17 - Franklin Cooper-Nurse, Leana M. Willes, and Justin B. Castro, and Dr. Mary Okada for being
18 recognized as one of the “25 Most Influential Women on Guam 2025”.

19
20 **EXECUTIVE SESSION –**

21
22 **Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by, to go into executive session. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The**
23 **motion passed. The Board moved into executive session at 4:16 pm.**

24
25 **Mr. Ada motioned, seconded by Dr. Okada, to rise from executive session at 5:24 pm. The Board voted by voice with a**
26 **vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

27
28 **III. CONSENT CALENDAR**

29
30 **Mrs. Angel motioned, seconded by Dr. Guthertz, to approve the consent calendar items – Minutes of March 4, 2025,**
31 **Regular Meeting, Minutes of March 18, 2025, Regular Meeting, Superintendent’s Report for March 4, 2025, and March**
32 **8, 2025. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.**

- 33
34 1) Minutes of March 4, 2025, Regular Meeting Approval
35 2) Minutes of March 18, 2025, Regular Meeting Approval
36 3) Superintendent’s Report 3/4/25 Approval
37 4) Superintendent’s Report 3/18/25 Approval
38

39 **IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**

40
41 Mr. Sablan acknowledged Dr. Judith Won Pat, the Governor’s Advisor for Education, for
42 attending the meeting. He noted she was leaving for a trip the following day and expressed his
43 prayers for her safe travels.
44

45 **V. COMMUNICATIONS** –

46
47 Dr. Swanson shared that the Board received three letters from the US Department of Education. The
48 most concerning letter addressed the withdrawal of the ability to draw funds against ARP
49 commitments. He also mentioned a letter about updates to student privacy and FERPA
50 requirements, as well as one requiring a response to a report by April 30th. He assured the Board
51 that any new letters would be forwarded to them.
52

53 Mr. Sablan expressed concern that the letters received from the US Department of Education
54 contained bad news, particularly the withdrawal of ARP funds, which would negatively impact the
55 schools. He mentioned that Dr. Swanson was working on a plan to address this. He then informed
56 Dr. Won Pat that the Board had requested to meet with the Governor, likely by Friday, and asked if
57 she could help coordinate the meeting. He stressed the importance of aligning with the Governor on
58 how to handle the ARP issue. Lastly, he asked Dr. Swanson if he had received a draft resolution from
59 the Attorney General.
60

61 Dr. Swanson said yes.

62
63 Mr. Sablan stated that communication received after March 18, 2025, should have been included
64 and asked for it to be added to the agenda for the next Board meeting on April 15th. The
65 communication dealt with sports and gender. He informed the AG that no action would be taken on
66 it during the current meeting, and it would be postponed until the next one after proper review. He
67 requested that Legal Counsel review it and provide input. Additionally, he instructed Mr. Ada, as the
68 chair of the Safe & Healthy Schools committee, to also review the resolution and provide feedback
69 before the April 15th meeting.
70

71 Ms. Borja joined the meeting in person at 5:26 pm.
72

73 Dr. Won Pat shared that the Governor requested Dr. Swanson write a letter to the Secretary of
74 Education, asking for a teleconference. The Governor expressed her intention to participate in the
75 call to advocate for GDOE.
76

77 Dr. Swanson acknowledged.
78

79 **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – Mr. Ada expressed dismay after reviewing Dr. Swanson's report,
80 particularly regarding the reduction in funding. He had hoped for some relief between SSHS and
81 JFKHS, but now had doubts about the situation. While acknowledging that the department wasn't
82 entirely at fault, he pointed out other contributing factors. He expressed disappointment and
83 concern, giving a heads-up about his doubts regarding the closure of the SSHS/JFKHS double session.
84

85 Mrs. Gutierrez expressed frustration with the maximization plan, noting that Dr. Okada had raised
86 concerns about focusing savings only on elementary schools and not on middle and high schools.
87 She mentioned there was no update on the realignment and reassignment discussions. She criticized
88 the lack of progress and repetitive reports, questioning Dr. Swanson about what his team had been
89 doing. She emphasized that a clear plan was needed, particularly for SSHS to end the double session
90 by the school year's end. She expressed concern that the school readiness meeting wasn't reflected
91 in Dr. Swanson's report. Mrs. Gutierrez urged the need for quick action, even if not everyone would
92 be happy with the decisions.
93

94 Mr. Sablan discussed that in the meeting with Senator Borja, other senators, Dr. Adamos, Dr.
95 Naholowaa, and Dr. Won Pat, various options were presented for addressing the JFKHS/SSHS and
96 OHS/FBLGMS double sessions. He mentioned that, since it was the task force's first meeting, no
97 concrete plan had been made yet. He set a deadline of April 30th to make a decision on the issue,
98 with the goal of finding an alternative before the school year starts. He suggested reviewing all
99 options, including using the central office, in one meeting to make a final decision, as staff, students,
100 and principals of the four schools were eager to know the outcome.
101

- 102 1) JFKHS/SSHS Double Session Status Report - Mr. Sablan mentioned that there were no
103 updates on the SSHS/JFKHS double session but noted that Dr. Swanson could provide
104 an update on the SSHS bid specifications.

105 Dr. Swanson shared that the RFP for the construction, maintenance, and operations
106 of SSHS over the next 30 years was released last Friday, with a site visit for potential
107 bidders scheduled for tomorrow. The solicitation process will run until mid-May, and
108 screening and evaluation will begin on June 2nd, with the winner expected to be
109 announced by mid-June.

Mr. Sablan added that there was positive progress, noting that about 10 companies had already picked up bid packets for SSHS, indicating interest, though it didn't guarantee all would submit bids. He mentioned that the bid specifications were 3000 pages long.

Dr. Swanson agreed, acknowledging the detailed nature of the bid specifications.

- 2) FEMA Project Status Report - Dr. Swanson updated the Board that a handout in their packet listed the schools awarded funding and those with pending claims. He mentioned the option to request temporary funding, though it would require upfront construction costs and could take one to two years to receive refunds from FEMA.

Mr. Sablan emphasized that all items under unfinished business required upfront expenses, and Dr. Swanson confirmed this. Mr. Sablan also stated there would be no more drawdowns and explained to Dr. Won Pat that meeting with the government was necessary to find a way to move forward without jeopardizing the schools.

- 3) FBLG Renovation Status Report - Dr. Swanson updated the Board on the FBLG Renovation Status, explaining they were seeking additional funding due to ARP complications to complete the project locally. He stated the project was on track, with an estimated completion between mid-September and December.

Mr. Sablan asked if this timeline excluded collateral equipment, to which Dr. Swanson confirmed, adding that the procurement for collateral and kitchen equipment was in progress and under legal review by the AG's Office.

- 4) Member Dr. Guthertz Motion Re: Simon Sanchez Option –Mr. Sablan reiterated that it would be included in the list of options Dr. Adamos was working on, which outlined the pros and cons.

Dr. Guthertz acknowledged.

- 5) LBJES merge with TAMES – Mrs. Gutierrez said there was a request to reconsider because she said Dr. Swanson had told her that both schools recommended merging the two schools. She said since this was their recommendation, it should be honored. She said the LBJES/TAMES Principal/Vice Principal was present earlier to see if the Board would approve the merger of LBJES and TAMES.

Dr. McNinch asked if there was a study done on this merge.

Mr. Sablan replied that there was.

Mr. Ada motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez, to accept the Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary School with Tamuning Elementary School. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.

Mr. Sablan said this would be effective school year 2025-2026. He said it should be a peaceful transition because the principals and the board agreed to the merger.

- 6) Mold Mitigation/Fencing – Dr. Swanson shared that the mold mitigation is stuck in protest, and GSA is rewriting the specs. He said that the first process would be to do air

quality sampling in all the schools, with the recommendation for mediation. He said that the fence contract is also in Procurement with GSA.

Mr. Sablan asked if this was part of the ARP encumbrance.

Dr. Swanson replied that it was the COVID-19 Relief Funds that were appropriated. He said it was FEMA recoverable, not ARP money.

Mr. Sablan asked if fencing was also under protest and when it would be pushed out.

Dr. Swanson doesn't have the date for it, and GSA hasn't been able to provide it.

Mrs. Angel asked if there was a timeline for when the fencing would be done.

Dr. Swanson said none that he can count on.

Mr. Sablan told Mrs. Angel that it's still in the requisition stage at GSA; the purchase order has not been issued yet.

Mrs. Gutierrez said he was at OCPES and saw guys putting up fences by the road. She asked if this was part of the fencing project.

F&M Manager Jimmy Pangelinan responded that it was for the re-inspection.

- 7) WASC SPRING Commission Meeting – Burlingame, CA – April 28-29, 2025 – Dr. Swanson shared that WASC had asked him to attend, but he preferred not to because there was plenty to keep them busy here. He said that after last week's events, he'll gladly skip the meeting.

Mr. Sablan said that he appreciates Dr. Swanson's decision.

- 8) Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon Municipal Planning Council CBMES Resolution – Mr. Sablan explained that this resolution was to transform CBMES into a middle school. He said this should be sent to a committee. He also said there was a past resolution that was presented in 2019. He said they met again and updated the resolution. He said they were requesting the Board to consider their resolution and for the Board to make a resolution supporting the change for CBMES from an elementary to a middle school.

Mrs. Gutierrez said they received the updated resolution from the Tamuning Municipal Planning Council Resolution 2025-001. She asked that the Board take action tonight since it's under Information/Action.

Mr. Ada asked if it was to take action or to accept the resolution presented by the Tamuning Municipal Planning Council.

Mrs. Gutierrez clarified that the Board accepts Resolution 2025-001, which reaffirms the support for the conversion of CBMES into a middle school.

Mr. Ada asked if her motion was to accept the resolution as presented by the Municipal Planning Council, not that they were taking action right away to convert. He said that it

still has to go to the department's task force. He acknowledged that it was to accept the resolution.

Mr. Sablan said any action after the resolution gets accepted will be up to the Board to decide how to move forward.

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Ms. Borja, to accept the Tamuning Municipal Planning Council Resolution 2025-001. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.

Mr. Ada left at 5:24 pm.

- 9) Waive 180 Instructional Days for SY 2024-2025 Calendar - Dr. Adamos presented a two-part request: first, to approve the updated School Year Calendar for August 22, 2025, which reflects that classes will end on May 22nd, with May 23rd as a flexible make-up day. She noted that FBLG is the only school needing the make-up day, and HSTES, which was stated on the August 15th calendar, adjusted its schedule to end by May 22nd. The second part involved a draft resolution to waive the 180 instructional days requirement in case of an unforeseen circumstance, like an act of God, which would require schools to shut down. The superintendent would act on it with the legislature if needed.

Mr. Sablan acknowledged the planning and expressed hope that no unforeseen circumstances would arise.

Mrs. Angel motioned, seconded by Ms. Borja, to accept the updated August 22, 2025, SY 2024-2025 Calendar. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Adamos mentioned that it would cost the department \$30,000.00 to pay the teachers and limited-term/part-time staff.

Mr. Sablan joked to start looking for it.

Dr. Adamos acknowledged and said it was for the kids.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) Instructional & Academic Support Committee
- a. April Head Start Report – Ms. Borja stated that there were no actionable items on the report and that the Head Start Policy Council will be meeting next week.

Mr. Sablan stated that he signed off on the application that needed to be turned in today.

- 2) Fiscal Management Committee
- a. GDOE Financial Report
- i) Accounts Payable Aging Report – Dr. Okada read the totals on the reports.

Mrs. Angel left at 6:06 pm.

Mrs. Gutierrez raised concerns about the dire need for local funding, referencing the February 27, 2025, Aging Report that showed

260 consistent vendors like the Retirement Fund, GPA, and Sodexo. She
261 questioned how students would be fed. She noted that some
262 vendors listed in February's Aging Report were no longer present in
263 the March 31, 2025, report. She asked Deputy of Finance &
264 Administrative Services, Morgan Paul, to clarify how locally funded
265 vendors were paid and why Sodexo wasn't paid over Cognia. She
266 pointed out discrepancies in how funds were managed, especially
267 given that Sodexo had a current invoice in February but was no
268 longer listed by March. She also raised concerns about the
269 prioritization of local spending, suggesting that the \$24,600 could
270 have been better used for school awards for students who have
271 been fundraising and holding car washes. Finally, she asked if Cognia
272 is an accreditation company.

273
274 Deputy Paul said it was an accreditation company.

275
276 Mrs. Gutierrez questioned Dr. Swanson about the use of two
277 accreditation companies, noting that the funding was local. She also
278 pointed out a potential conflict of interest since the accreditation
279 companies were paid while other local vendors, like Sodexo (for
280 student meals) and Benson (for school repairs), had not been paid.
281 She asked how vendor priorities were determined, especially since
282 some vendors had been waiting for over 60 days. Mrs. Gutierrez also
283 inquired about the potential impact on interscholastic activities for
284 students, suggesting that the accreditation company was being
285 prioritized over more urgent needs.

286
287 Deputy Paul explained that the Sodexo bill had decreased from \$3.5
288 million to \$113K. However, he mentioned there was still an
289 outstanding bill of \$48,930.31 and promised to investigate why it
290 had not been paid yet.

291
292 Mrs. Gutierrez criticized Deputy Paul, questioning how, as the
293 person responsible for finances, he didn't know about the
294 outstanding bill. She called it inexcusable.

295
296 Deputy Paul apologized for not knowing about that specific amount
297 and reminded Mrs. Gutierrez that the initial Sodexo bill was \$3.5
298 million.

299
300 Dr. McNinch asked that they work on the action items.

301
302
303 Dr. Okada asked Deputy Paul how the department planned to
304 address the outstanding invoices, noting that several services
305 rendered since 2024 remained on the over-90-days outstanding
306 report due to expired funding. She inquired about the department's
307 approach to correcting the situation.

308
309 Deputy Paul explained that they are working with Federal Programs
310 to resolve financial issues, citing that SpEd 21 grant draws were

311 rejected by IAO due to invoice dates, prompting a late liquidation
312 attempt. He described complications with over \$1 million ESF II
313 Carrier contract, originally written by TPFA, which changed from a 5-
314 year to a 3-year service term, leaving the vendor unpaid for the last
315 three services. He noted that paying with local funds would violate
316 the law, but recent guidance from US Ed allowed them to pay bills
317 with local funds and seek ARP reimbursement, which they have
318 been doing for two weeks. He said each item requires detailed
319 research, especially due to the TPDA-to-GDOE transition. He also
320 mentioned a \$358,179 duplication of software under CG21, which
321 couldn't be paid with local funds upfront. He emphasized ongoing
322 efforts with FPD to resolve these issues and pursue late liquidation
323 or authorization from US Ed, though acknowledging it is now more
324 difficult under current grant conditions.

325
326 Dr. Okada asked if the late request for ESF II had been submitted.

327
328 Deputy Paul replied that they were in late liquidation for ESF II, but
329 \$5.9 million would be returned because it was not spent.

330
331 Dr. Okada emphasized that this amount would be returned due to
332 unspent funds.

333
334 ii) Declaration of Financial Status Designation - Deputy Paul said they
335 haven't received from BBMR, but according to Bill Taitingfong, they
336 were all A's and one B.

337
338 iii) Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and
339 Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2025 – No comments

340
341 iv) Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2025 – Dr. Okada said this report
342 gave her heartburn. She pointed out the \$3,079,505 over
343 expenditure in the FY22 SpEd State Grant B. She noted that at least
344 15 grants expired before September 30 with remaining balances and
345 asked if all that money was now lost.

346
347 Deputy Paul explained that some funds have been shifted to a
348 subsequent grant, such as CG'22. He noted that FPD sent out a late
349 liquidation request that day, aiming to move certain FY23
350 expenditures to FY22 under the CG grant.

351
352 Dr. Okada stated that six SpEd grants on the G5 from FY 19, FY21,
353 and FY22, totaling \$7.7 million, had a final draw date of January 30,
354 2025, and the funds are now lost due to not being spent. She
355 highlighted the contradiction of losing these funds while the public
356 is told there's no money for 1:1 aides or to extend their services
357 beyond the academic year. She also mentioned a CLSD grant from
358 FY21 with a final draw date of February 3, 2025, and asked whether
359 a late liquidation request had been submitted for it.
360
361

Deputy Paul said he was not familiar with the history of that grant.

Dr. Okada asked Deputy Paul to review the situation, pointing out that the \$1.8 million from CG21 was lost because the last day to draw funds was August 5, 2024, and no late liquidation request was submitted. She added that for CG22, an \$11 million late liquidation request was only now being submitted, even though the draw deadline was January 30, 2025. She emphasized that if action had been taken on time, the \$11 million wouldn't be at risk, and the department could lose that amount if the request isn't approved.

Deputy Paul concurred.

Dr. Okada mentioned that schools are reporting a lack of classroom supplies and noted that \$5.9 million from ESF II had a final draw deadline on March 28, 2025. She said they are now relying on a late liquidation, or the funds will be lost.

Deputy Paul said that they were already in the late liquidation process for ESF II.

Dr. Okada confirmed that the grant deadline had passed last Friday, meaning the funds were already lost. She highlighted that CG23 still had \$17.2 million remaining, with a September 2025 deadline – just five months away to spend it. She also noted \$24.9 million in CG23 funds expiring by January 2026. She stated that CG24 had expired and there were two other grants totaling about \$59-60 million still available, emphasizing that a significant amount of money remained unspent. Despite this unspent funding, she pointed out there was a new request in the packet for the Board to waive the review period for the Consolidated Grant, which they couldn't approve since it wasn't an action item, and the grant deadline was April 11. She questioned what was being done to safeguard these funds, stating that \$26.8 million had already expired – money that could have supported students and learning.

Deputy Paul said he was working to get FPD and his team to communicate daily to resolve the issue. He agreed with Dr. Okada that too much money was being returned and noted that, as DFAS, he cannot dictate how the funds are spent.

Dr. Okada responded that it isn't finance's responsibility to obligate funds. She explained that program coordinators, directors, and division staff are responsible for managing obligations, ensuring goods and services are received, and submitting invoices promptly to finance. She emphasized that finance can't handle both program and fiscal management simultaneously and stated that this issue needs to be corrected.

Dr. Guthertz expressed strong disappointment, questioning how the finance team, office, and overseers failed to manage the grants and

413 meet deadlines. She said it was unforgivable, unacceptable, and
414 wrong, stating it must be addressed and demanded an explanation
415 from those responsible for overseeing the deadlines.
416

417 Mrs. Gutierrez agreed with Dr. Okada and Dr. Guthertz, criticizing
418 the lack of accountability at the central office. She questioned who
419 was responsible for not submitting payments, like Sodexo, and cited
420 a parent's concern that a student at HBPES went without a 1:1 aide
421 for a semester due to a lack of funds. She also stated that there was
422 no funding available to support the teachers. She urged central
423 office staff to visit schools instead of staying in air-conditioned
424 offices doing nothing, calling the situation ridiculous. She referenced
425 the special conditions requiring qualified staff and said this issue has
426 been ongoing. She accused the department of losing money,
427 prioritizing travel and side trips, and unfairly blaming the Board. She
428 also criticized the hiring of unqualified individuals and expressed
429 concern over the aging report, saying there was too much
430 shenanigans going on.
431

432 Mr. Sablan asked Deputy Paul if he would like to respond.
433

434 Deputy Paul stated that one of his main focuses has been cleaning
435 up the aging report and ensuring grants are obligated on time. In
436 January, he met with FPD to address expiring grants, identify not
437 uploaded invoices, reduce outstanding amounts, apply FIFO
438 methods, and charge items to payroll. He emphasized the urgency
439 of submitting the necessary letter, which was finally sent out today
440 for liquidation.
441

442 Dr. Okada asked who prepared the letter for the late liquidation.
443

444 Deputy Paul replied that FPD did.
445

446 Dr. Okada questioned why the letter wasn't prepared before
447 January 30, when the funding ran out, and expressed concern about
448 the difficulty of managing both financial and program
449 responsibilities simultaneously. She emphasized that program
450 managers should take full ownership of their programs, from
451 requesting goods to ensuring vendors are paid, rather than
452 expecting finance to handle it. She suggested reviewing the job
453 descriptions of Program Coordinators, noting that there are
454 hundreds of them in the staffing pattern.
455

456 Mr. Sablan told Deputy Paul that the report was damaging for GDOE
457 and the Board, as they were requesting more money while \$28
458 million was being returned due to their failure to request an
459 extension. Mr. Sablan expressed that it was unacceptable to return
460 unused funds while requesting more money, especially when the
461 Board was \$37 million short in the FY budget. He stated that they
462 withheld approval of the FY26 Budget Request until they
463 understood the situation with the returned funds. He emphasized

that asking for more money was unjustifiable, and if the FY26 amended budget didn't pass, it was because the Board couldn't accept the mismanagement of the funds.

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Dr. Guthertz, to suspend all hiring (local and federal) and all travel (local and federal), and any request be given to the Board for approval. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 5-0. The motion passed.

Dr. Okada explained her motion, emphasizing that if federal funds are cut, any permanent employee funded by them becomes a local obligation. To manage this, she suggested including all positions, particularly those that need Board approval, to ensure a budget is in place before hiring.

Mr. Sablan questioned whether CBA positions would require Board approval to hire, to which Dr. Okada responded that they should be included to ensure proper handling of CBA positions first. He then expressed frustration over the lack of control and follow-up, noting the department's failure to manage nearly \$27 million. He argued that HR, Finance, and travel divisions must be approved by the Board now, and the Board must take control, similar to conditions imposed by the US Department of Education on the department.

Dr. Swanson acknowledged the point, agreeing that corrective actions were necessary.

Mr. Sablan also raised an urgent matter regarding a grant application under Dr. Leah Beth Naholowaa, which was due before the next Board meeting. Legal Counsel confirmed it was a grant application. Deputy Naholowaa explained that the application was incomplete due to pending submissions from programs. Mr. Sablan suggested submitting the application on time and ratifying it at the next meeting to avoid missing the deadline, which the Board members agreed to.

Deputy Naholowaa also explained that funds weren't spent because the priority was to use the COVID-19 grants first, so the other grants suffered. She mentioned that positions in the grant would be re-budgeted for the programs, and only the 1:1 / teacher assistant positions would be hired.

Mrs. Gutierrez acknowledged that Deputy Naholowaa was new and explained that FPD has a workshop for preparing grant applications. She asked when the issue was brought to her attention, thanked Deputy Naholowaa for being the first to send it in writing, and noted the memo was previously sent just to the Superintendents. She then referenced the organizational chart approved by the Board in December 2023 organizational chart, she emphasized that FPD, F&M, CIP, RP&E, and other special projects were under Deputy Naholowaa's responsibility. While recognizing her fast-paced work, Mrs. Gutierrez made it clear that this was not an excuse, as grant

preparation was an annual task, and she was responsible for it as their deputy.

- b. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report – Not discussed
- c. Revised FY26 Budget/Updated 2025-01 Resolution Relative to Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request for the Guam Department of Education – Dr. Okada told her colleagues that a revised FY26 Budget was submitted and recommended for approval at the last meeting. However, since the other financial items hadn't been reviewed yet, she requested that the Budget not be approved until those items were addressed in the Financial Report.

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Dr. Guthertz, to not approve the Budget until the other items under the GDOE Financial Report were discussed. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 6-0. The motion passed.

Dr. McNinch left at 6:13 pm.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Interscholastic Sports Association (ISA) (Protecting Young Women) – Mr. Sablan informed the ISA personnel that the Board received a resolution for consideration, but it has been tabled for review. He asked them to return at the next Board meeting on April 15th for action on the resolution.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Guthertz motioned, seconded by Mrs. Gutierrez, to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 5-0. The motion passed.

The Board adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:



KATHLEEN LAMORENA
Administrative Officer

Date: April 9, 2025 _____

MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 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: _____