



**ANGEL R. SABLAN**  
Chair

# GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

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

## GUAM EDUCATION BOARD REGULAR BOARD MEETING Tuesday, September 23, 2025

4 pm

Gallery, GDOE Building B

### MINUTES

#### VOTING MEMBERS

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

#### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Kohen Diego  
IBOGS Representative

Timothy Fedenko  
GFT Representative

Mayor Brian Jess Terlaje  
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 4:02 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  
Angel, Felicitas B.  
Guthertz, Dr. Judith  
Gutierrez, Maria A.  
McNinch, Dr. Ron L.

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

Fedenko, Timothy – GFT Representative  
Diego, Kohen – IBOGS Representative  
Matthew Wolff - Legal Counsel

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

Baleto, Christine W. (Excused)  
Ada, Peter Alecxis D

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

Terlaje, Brian Jess - MCOG Representative

Dr. Swanson announced that six (6) members of the Board were present in person, constituting a quorum.

**II. CELEBRATE SUCCESS** – The following were recognized: Okkodo High School Marine Corps JROTC earns the designation of naval honor school, John F. Kennedy High School's Jonas Wallace and Jason Perez for receiving their private pilot license, JFKHS retirees: Franklin R. Perez, Francis A. Aguilar, Jesus Quintanilla, Anthony Ballares, FBLGMS retirees: Emma Alarcon, Virginia Aromin, Marina Camacho, 2025 Presidential Awards in Mathematics and Science Teaching: Colette Beausoliel (JFKHS) Science Finalist, Elaine Cortez (SSHS) Mathematics Finalist, and Mark Villaverde (VSABMS) Mathematics Finalist.

**III. CONSENT CALENDAR** - Not discussed.

1. Minutes of August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting
2. Superintendent's Report August 19, 2025

**IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - Mr. Sablan addressed concerns regarding the possible closure of Tiyan High School (THS) and other schools, emphasizing that no decision has been made to close any school, including THS. He acknowledged the public's concerns, noting that transparency is important, and reassured everyone that their concerns would be fully considered by the committee tasked with addressing the double session issue at JFKHS, SSHS, OHS, and FBLGMS. He proposed that instead of continuing with individual testimonies, it would be more effective to hold a special meeting or town hall where students, parents, and teachers from all the affected schools, including THS, could present their views in a more thorough and organized manner. He believed this would allow for more meaningful discussion and ensure the Board and committee fully understand the impact of any decisions. He left the decision up to the audience but encouraged them to consider this approach for the sake of clarity and fairness.

Someone from the crowd said they're there now.

Mr. Sablan acknowledged that and mentioned that the chairperson looking into the recommendations is also a member of the Board.

Mrs. Gutierrez explained that she had provided her report to the Ad Hoc Committee and addressed rumors regarding the potential closure of THS. She clarified that the committee was focused on addressing double sessions at JFKHS and SSHS, and only those directly impacted by these schools were included in the discussion, such as the principals, mayors, parents, and IBOGS from JFKHS and SSHS. She acknowledged that redistricting was briefly mentioned but was not discussed, as the committee's primary focus was on exploring options for ending double sessions. She reassured that as the committee moves forward, they will include principals and IBOGS from other schools, including THS, in future discussions. She emphasized that no decision about THS has been made and that such a decision requires a majority vote from the Board, not just her own. She also noted that while there would be no surveys, teacher feedback would be gathered through the GFT, as they represent the teachers under the CBA. The committee plans to meet by the first week of November to continue exploring options and will provide a written report outlining their findings. However, she made it clear that the planning stage is still ongoing, and no final decisions have been reached.

Mr. Sablan emphasized that this was a democracy and acknowledged those who were going to testify.

**DR. McNinch motioned to reorder the agenda to put public participation below the executive session because they have a lot of decisions to make initially that may affect what people have to say.**

Dr. McNinch said the Board always welcomes public input, but he prefers to hear it during regular, pre-noticed sessions where they can adjust and extend the schedule if needed. He noted this is his personal preference and that the other Board members could vote against it. He expressed concern about young people being encouraged to attend Board meetings based on inaccurate information, emphasizing that having correct information is important for the public process and for citizens' understanding.

**Dr. McNinch motioned to move public participation to below item 8: New Business.**

No one seconded Dr. McNinch's motion.

Dr. Rachel Flores (THS Academy Coordinator) - Dr. Flores expressed concern that while adjustments are being made to address double sessions and student overflow, THS might be impacted. She emphasized that THS is more than just a school; it is a driving force for innovation and workforce readiness in Guam. She compared removing THS to taking the engine out of a vehicle: the body might look good, but the vehicle won't move forward. She highlighted that THS is Guam's only nationally certified model career academy, offering over 700 students 12 pathways in career readiness, in partnership with GCC and GDOE. These programs focus on leadership, problem-solving, and time management, and are essential for students' futures. Closing THS would be a step backward, she argued, and instead called on the Board and the public to recognize its value to students, families, and Guam's future workforce. She urged them not to dismantle a successful model but to continue supporting it for the benefit of the island's economy and education system.

Mr. Sablan apologized for not addressing her by her proper title, explaining that the sign-in sheet only listed her name. He acknowledged that in her humility, she had not included her title as "Doctor."

Dr. McNinch stated that they openly declared there was no intention to close THS at all.

Dr. Marlene Quintanilla - Ms. Quintanilla stated that she would like to defer her time to Charlie Hermosa.

Charlie Hermosa (ACTE President) - Mr. Hermosa acknowledged the difficult decisions ahead regarding JFKHS and SSHS, and said he respects that THS is not being considered for closure. He strongly supported keeping THS off the table, emphasizing its crucial role in workforce development. He said THS has been a leader in building pipelines with teachers and the private sector, producing successful, meaningful programs for the island's future. He urged the Board to recognize THS's current and future value, noting its strong work with Guam's ACTE program, and stated he wanted to go on record in support of THS.

Marianna Hernandez - Ms. Hernandez, a 19-year teacher at THS, addressed the Board to express her concerns about the potential closure of the school, even though it has been stated that it's only a suggestion. Despite assurances from a board member that THS would not be closed, she expressed frustration that the issue continues to be discussed behind closed doors. She stressed the importance of transparency and equity in decision-making and emphasized that THS plays a vital role in the community, contributing significantly to students' futures. She highlighted THS's unique programs, such as their emergency learning plans and their consistent success in public health inspections, which reflect the school's commitment to excellence. She stressed that THS students and faculty are a positive, collaborative community that should not be disregarded. She called for THS to be involved in solutions for the double-session issue, stating that the school

deserves a place at the decision-making table. She also urged the Board to make fiscally responsible and equitable decisions, keeping the needs and well-being of all students in mind, and ensuring that the GDOE mission is upheld. She concluded by stressing that THS is a model of innovation, community, and collaboration, and that closing it would harm the future of its students and Guam's workforce readiness.

Dr. McNinch questioned whether any Board member had ever said THS was being closed, stating he was unaware of such discussions at any Board meeting. He asked who made the comment—not negatively, but so he could advise fellow Board members that they should not be making such statements.

Dr. Quintanilla said that during the April Board meeting, Mrs. Gutierrez had asked who was protecting THS, noting that she didn't believe anything was happening at the school since it has only about 440 students. She added that this exchange is recorded in the meeting minutes.

Dr. McNinch apologized and asked whether any past or present Board member had ever discussed closing THS. He said the Board has never addressed that issue, and he personally has never suggested it. He apologized if something was misheard or misunderstood, but reiterated that, to his knowledge, the topic had never been discussed by the Board.

Dr. Quintanilla suggested he review the April meeting notes, explaining that this is where they obtained that information.

Dr. Guthertz stated she would never support closing THS, noting she once taught there. She said the only recent discussion she recalls involved exploring whether unused space in the two administrative buildings could house SSHS to eliminate double sessions. She emphasized that her comments should not be misunderstood and that students are her top priority.

Mr. Sablan made a joke, suggesting that the central office staff would likely come forward at the next meeting to speak about why they can't be relocated.

Dr. Guthertz said the only THS-related idea she suggested was reallocating the two administrative buildings—and unused THS space—to help end double sessions by providing room for SSHS, with GDOE offices potentially moving to vacant Tamuning schools. She praised THS's strong history, leadership, faculty, staff, and innovation, noting she served on its first faculty. She affirmed that no Board member has ever discussed closing THS and said she can personally attest to that.

Mrs. Gutierrez attended a town hall meeting with Senator Borja, where a parent, teacher, or student raised concerns about the potential closure of THS. She clarified that there had been a miscommunication, as it was understood that THS was never intended to be a high school. She addressed confusion about Mr. Sablan's earlier statement that THS wouldn't close, and now it seemed like it might. Mrs. Gutierrez emphasized that no decision had been made and encouraged people to review the meeting minutes on the website, as there was nothing official stating that THS would close.

Mr. Sablan stated that they would not continue with back-and-forth rebuttals, as this was a presentation. As Board Chair, he said he remembered the meeting in question and recalled standing up during it. He asked if the meeting being referenced was the one held at OHS.

THS responded that it was not the OHS meeting; they were referring to a Board meeting that took place in April.

Mr. Sablan reassured the group that there is strong support within the Board for keeping Tiyan High School (THS) open, citing that he, Dr. Guthertz, Dr. McNinch, and likely Ms. Fely all support the school's continued operation. He emphasized that the Board's priority is to avoid closing successful schools like THS. He also pointed out that a decision on school closures or redistricting requires five votes, and based on the discussions so far, THS has already secured three votes in favor. He urged the community to continue expressing their support, advising that statements and letters should be submitted in writing for the Board's official record. This would help create a comprehensive package of recommendations in favor of THS, ensuring that all voices are considered in the decision-making process.

Dr. McNinch said the April 15 minutes only noted THS's success, suggesting the concern may be due to a miscommunication or a different meeting.

Dim San Nicolas Diaz - Ms. Diaz explained that THS pioneered Standards-Based Grading (SBG) in the district and continues to train new teachers, refine the system, and support its full implementation. THS has also adopted all GDOE initiatives, including student PLCs that use behavior and academic data to identify and support students at all levels. She emphasized that even if THS were ever to close—though she believes it should never happen—teachers would remain committed to their students. She noted that THS is the only high school fully implementing SBG and the only one with academies and GCC instructors who use SBG to assess students in their career pathways.

Nina Aguilar - Ms. Aguilar, a proud THS Class of 2019 graduate and former IBOGS member, spoke before the Board to passionately oppose the closure of THS. She described the school as a home that shaped her life, providing transformative experiences and lasting relationships. She emphasized that THS was created in 2014 to relieve overcrowding in other high schools, and despite having no mascot or uniform in its early days, it was built with determination by students, staff, and families. She warned that closing THS would undo nearly 12 years of progress, leading to overcrowded classrooms, compromised academics, and strained families. She highlighted the negative impact on students, teachers, and the overall quality of education. While acknowledging concerns about double sessions and limited resources, she questioned whether closing THS would truly solve the problems or create new ones. She stressed that the decision isn't just about budgets or buildings but about protecting the future of the island's youth. She urged the Board to consider the long-term consequences for THS students, advocating for public education and reminding the Board that their decisions will affect generations of students who call THS home.

Tia Jackson - Ms. Jackson addressed the rumors of THS's possible closure, saying students deserve proper advocacy and the right to speak, especially since past Board meetings implied closure was an option despite statements to the contrary. She argued that THS is directly involved in the proposed solution to end JFK's double sessions, meaning the situation affects more than just JFK and SSHS. She questioned why solving one school's issue should come at the expense of another and asked the Board to stop rebutting student concerns. She challenged arguments about THS's "legacy," noting that in 11 years the school has earned national academic recognition, built strong programs, and supported over 700 students in career pathways. Legacy, she said, is measured by impact, not age. She argued that closing THS would be costly and ineffective, especially with increased busing expenses. She said THS should not be used as a bargaining chip to fulfill unmet promises and warned that closing it risks worsening conditions for multiple schools. She emphasized that THS is not disposable—it has a strong identity and community and

should not face ongoing uncertainty. She concluded by requesting clear, logical reasoning from the Board regarding THS's future.

Jules Bigueras - Ms. Bigueras spoke from an outsider's perspective, emphasizing that school decisions affect real people—students, alumni, and dedicated faculty—beyond abstract discussions. She shared that her 4–5 years at THS transformed her as an educator and deepened her commitment to the community, making her advocate for keeping the school open for current and future students. She highlighted THS's research- and data-driven support system, developed under Ms. Duenas, which helps all students—from AP achievers to those frequently absent—prepare for college and careers. This system, presented nationally at the National Career Academy Coalition, reflects the faculty's dedication and the strong community they've built. She warned that closing THS would dismantle these programs, jeopardizing students' well-being, academic success, and opportunities. She emphasized that THS is more than "just another school," playing a vital role for its students and the island's future, and urged the Board to consider these impacts in their decision.

Daniel Taitano - Mr. Taitano expressed concern about fairness and transparency, responding to claims that THS was spreading rumors. He said only double-session schools were initially included in the Ad Hoc Committee, but all schools could be affected by ending double sessions, especially if redistricting occurs. He noted that THS administrators and IBOGS representatives were denied participation. He urged the Board to involve all potentially affected schools from the beginning, so every school has a voice in the process rather than being added later after decisions are made.

Dr. McNinch emphasized that Guam's Open Government Law allows the public to attend and observe all government meetings, including Board subcommittee meetings. He stressed that no meeting should be closed without notifying the Board and that he will remind members to ensure transparency, as nothing should be done in secret.

Gutierrez explained that the committee's initial focus was on ending double sessions at SSHS and JFKHS. The first meeting involved hearing from students, parents, mayors, teachers, and the principals of those schools to understand their concerns. She emphasized this was just the beginning, with other schools to be included later. Suggestions like redistricting were not considered because they were outside the first meeting's scope. The meeting was properly noticed, and she followed instructions to start with the schools most affected.

Mr. Sablan stated that anyone is welcome to attend any announced meetings, whether or not they are on the agenda.

Dr. Quintanilla said she overheard Mrs. Gutierrez on the phone stating that only JFKHS and SSHS members should be on the committee. She added that if the intent is to invite all schools, then everyone should indeed be included.

Mr. Sablan said all should be invited.

Dr. McNinch said that's the law.

Shirley Cruz - Dr. Marlene Quintanilla said it wasn't at the April meeting, but at the May 6th meeting. She stated that her cousin, Ms. Cruz, asked her to read a letter at the May 6th meeting. She noted that, as a GovGuam employee, she isn't off work before 5 pm, and she read the letter into the record.

Kim Santos - Guam Police Department Major Santos, a former student of Drs. Guthertz and McNinch spoke to the Board about how double sessions at JFKHS and SSHS could impact the Police Department. He noted that students participate in two GPD programs—the school resource officer program and the new criminal justice law enforcement career path at THS—which could require personnel adjustments. He clarified he was not discussing school closures or relocations, but only informing the Board about the programs’ operational impacts, and he praised THS staff and students.

Mr. Sablan thanked him for his service.

Treva Atoigue - 35th Guam Youth Congress Vice-Speaker and Chairman of the Committee on Education and Youth Affairs. Mr. Atoigue, a JFKHS sophomore and Chair of the Youth Congress Committee on Education and Youth Affairs, highlighted THS’s strong school pride and raised concerns from his peers about returning to a regular school schedule after years of double sessions. He emphasized that JFKHS students are proud to share their school with SSHS and are not trying to displace them, while recognizing the challenges SSHS faces in obtaining its own campus. He noted that double sessions have limited opportunities for school spirit and activities. He expressed support for THS, affirmed the Youth Congress’s role in representing Guam’s youth, and thanked Dr. Adamos for her assistance with biannual education reports.

Mr. Sablan acknowledged the presence of Senator Vince Borja and Mr. Mark Mendiola and concluded Public Participation. He emphasized that anyone is welcome at future meetings, especially if they are on the agenda. He clarified that there is no decision to close THS, and as chair, he presents all options for transparency, but any decision requires five Board votes and will only occur after the Ad Hoc Committee completes its study and recommendations. He noted that no actions will be taken regarding any schools until then and addressed questions about preparing JFKHS and SSHS for returning to a regular schedule, explaining that planning is still in progress.

Mrs. Gutierrez clarified that they are the Ad Hoc Committee, CMDR is the GDOE committee, and requested that Mr. Sablan have IBOGS present their brief report due to members attending to family matters.

**V. COMMUNICATIONS – Not discussed**

**VI. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS**

1. Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report – Kohen Diego read his report for the record.

**Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to go into executive session. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 6-0. The motion passed.**

The Board went into executive session at 5:36 pm.

The Board rose out of executive session at 6:45 pm.

2. Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report
3. Mayor’s Council of Guam (MCOG) Report – N/A

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Superintendent’s Report –
  - a. JFKHS/SSHS Double Session Status Report –

- b. FEMA Project Status Report –
- c. FBLG Renovation Status Report –
- d. Mold Mitigation/Fencing Status Report –
- e. Dashboard Status Report –
- f. Management and Curriculum Audit Status Report –
- g. Status of De-commissioned Schools –

## 2. Executive Committee

- a. National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) –
  - i) NASBE Exchange
- b. Search Committee Updates – Mrs. Gutierrez, as committee chair, thanked Dr. McNinch, Mrs. Angel, and Mrs. Ada for their collaboration on the Superintendent search. She reported that the position closed on September 19, 2025, and application screening will begin on September 29, 2025, to verify eligibility and document completeness. The committee will then present their findings to the Board, and she will share emails with her colleagues showing applicant questions and clarifications.

Mr. Sablan asked what time they were meeting on September 29th.

Mrs. Gutierrez responded that the committee will begin screening at 1 pm and continue until all seven applications are reviewed for eligibility and document completeness.

Mr. Sablan stated that only applicants with complete applications will be publicly announced, while those who don't qualify will be notified individually. If all applicants meet requirements, they will be announced after scoring begins on September 29 at 1 pm. A media-only press conference will be held on October 13 at 12 pm to introduce qualified candidates, with the media allowed to ask at least two questions per applicant. The committee aims to select a superintendent on or after October 21, 2025. If additional review is needed, the Board will wait until the search committee completes all assessments and interviews before making a final decision, ensuring no appointment occurs before October 21.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she does not know the applicants and does not rely on hearsay. She said applicants are free to speak to the media, but the Board will first screen applications for requirements. She noted that a press conference will follow the screening, and selecting a superintendent requires six votes from the Board.

Mr. Sablan confirmed that no current Board member has applied for the superintendent position.

**Dr. Okada motioned to recess the meeting.**

Mr. Fedenko said he would like to give his report since IBOGS has given theirs.

**Dr. Okada withdrew her motion.**

Mr. Fedenko recognized SSHS library tech Vivian Fukui for over 32 years of service and highlighted widespread library tech shortages across schools. He



detailed which schools qualified for library techs, which positions were budgeted, and whether FTE requests were submitted, noting discrepancies and long-standing vacancies, such as JRMS, which hasn't had a tech in 15 years, and SSHS, whose tech resigned in July. He expressed frustration over HR delays and inconsistencies, urged the Board to enforce the signed CBA, and stressed that he's been patient, calling for action to address the unfair labor practice.

Dr. Okada asked HR whether there are current job announcements for library clerks and library technicians, and if they are posted on the website today.

Personnel Specialist Dolores Faisao explained that HR has posted and closed job announcements for library positions once informed to act on the CBA, but they cannot proceed without an approved RTF. Only positions with approved RTFs, often due to resignations or retirements, are actively being recruited. The final approval comes from the superintendent, and Deputy Paul can provide further details.

Deputy Paul explained that active recruitment is limited to previously filled or budgeted positions, focusing on vacancies they can identify at headquarters. He noted that while the budget included 152 locally funded CBA positions, only 40 have been filled so far, leaving 112 vacancies. Due to resignations and other changes, this month's report shows 124 vacancies. He acknowledged the situation is ongoing and said they will review Mr. Fedenko's notes to assess each school's status regarding library techs and clerks.

Dr. Okada stated that they are currently actively recruiting to fill 11 vacancies.

Deputy Paul said yes.

Dr. Okada inquired about the total number of library technicians and clerks required under the CBA.

Ms. Faisao stated that the CBA requires 15 library technicians and 16 library clerks.

Dr. Okada stated that 15 techs and 16 clerks are needed to meet CBA requirements, totaling 31, and asked how many applicants have applied for these positions.

Ms. Faisao apologized for not having the data on hand, noting that many applications have been submitted and the information can be provided later.

Dr. Okada stated that a meeting will be held to discuss FY26 spending priorities, with all CBA positions funded first before any other expenses.

Ms. Faisao acknowledged.

Mrs. Gutierrez told Dr. Swanson that, as superintendent, he can make decisions regarding GDOE-operated cafeterias. She asked if they would be closed, noting that Board Policy assigns overall accountability to Food & Nutrition Services, but each school's cafeteria is under the principal's direct

supervision. She raised concerns over circulating rumors about potential closures.

Dr. Swanson stated that they are still following the mandate to transition the cafeterias operated by the GDOE to be run by a contractor. He mentioned that Mr. Sean Monforte could provide more details on the matter.

Mr. Monforte explained that no decision has been made yet, but GDOE cafeterias must be outsourced since they are not allowed to hire more staff. Current cafeteria staffing does not meet the Guam Food Code. While they've reallocated staff to maintain safety, continued staff loss without hiring could lead to cafeteria closures. He clarified that FNS will report to Dr. Swanson, who will present the findings to the Board for a recommendation, but FNS does not make the final decision.

Dr. Okada asked if the law requiring the assessment to be done had been researched, noting that the law states Food Service must continue to be outsourced until the assessment is completed.

Mr. Monforte said that was correct.

Dr. Okada mentioned that Mr. Monforte had submitted a proposal, which she reviewed and responded to by requesting DFAS to validate the financial numbers before the proposal was presented to the Board.

Mr. Monforte clarified that no decisions have been made about closing and that no one has communicated with the schools about it. He explained that recommendations have been made, driven by legal requirements, and not by Food & Nutrition or the schools themselves. While they seek expansion and have had prior support, the need to make recommendations is based on the law.

Mrs. Gutierrez mentioned that a school was told its cafeteria would be closing, and employees were concerned. Although the recommendation hasn't yet been submitted to the Board, the school with the GDOE-operated cafeteria had already been informed.

Dr. Guthertz explained that she authored the bill that amended the law to require GDOE to conduct a cost-benefit analysis. If the analysis shows it is more cost-effective for GDOE to operate the cafeterias, then they should be allowed to do so. She asked if everyone was aware of this law.

Dr. Okada mentioned that they were discussing the assessment.

Dr. Guthertz questioned why the cost-benefit analysis for the publicly operated cafeteria had not been done, suggesting it would improve Mr. Pangelinan's maintenance operations by providing the necessary staffing. She asked who was responsible for conducting the analysis.

Mr. Monforte said they have already started on it.

Dr. Guthertz asked if they had the ability to conduct the cost-benefit analysis in-house. She expressed concern about the delay, noting that it had been 9 years since she amended the law to require it when she was a senator.

Mr. Monforte said they're down to three cafeterias at the moment.

Dr. Guthertz suggested he could bring up the issue, justify it, and comply with the law to make it happen.

Mr. Monforte responded that they are already working on it and are at that point in the process.

Dr. Guthertz expressed frustration over the 9-year delay in conducting the cost-benefit analysis, despite the law requiring it. She noted that the law was amended during her time as a senator because she disagreed with Senator Robert Klitzkie's stance on the issue.

Mr. Monforte said he thought so, too.

Dr. Guthertz remarked that Senator Klitzkie's approach would have crippled GDOE.

Mr. Monforte said he would love to open all the cafeterias back up. He said that would be okay, but they would have to follow the law. He said Dr. Okada was very clear in their direction.

Dr. Guthertz said she was venting and reiterated that she doesn't understand why the law was never enacted by GDOE in the past. He said it's not Dr. Swanson's fault or anyone here, but it's been on the books for over 9 years.

Mr. Monforte said they actually have data showing that 4 cafeterias maximized the reimbursements. He said they've turned everything in. He said Dr. Okada's got it. He said he's not sure how a cafeteria is saying they were closing, nobody's made a recommendation, nobody's talked to the school.

Dr. Guthertz commented that the food was a lot better when GDOE provided it.

Mr. Monforte agreed, and it's still a lot better. He said they did move people around to ensure they have safety in the cafeterias.

Dr. Guthertz said at least they can say on Guam, the law is the law.

Mrs. Gutierrez said the cafeteria is. Dr. Guthertz emphasized that she doesn't care who oversees it, but if the GDOE cafeteria is needed at the school, it should be kept operational under the school principal.

Mr. Monforte stated that no one has spoken to DL Perez Elementary School about cafeteria closures. He explained that any recommendations to even out the cafeterias are driven by food safety concerns for the students.

Mr. Sablan urged everyone to stop listening to rumors and wait for the Board's decision. He also denied being told that the superintendent would be selected from among the Board, calling it untrue.

3. Instructional & Academic Support Committee – Not discussed
  - a. September Head Start Report
4. Safe & Healthy Schools Committee – Not discussed
  - a. Facilities & Maintenance
5. Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee – Not discussed
  - a. Dr. Guthertz Proposal Re: Temporarily Place the Guam Department of Education under the Administrative Purview of the Guam Community College in Order to Enhance GDOE Financial Management, Operational Efficiency, and Student Learning Outcomes
  - b. Dr. Guthertz Proposal Re: Temporary Designation of Guam DOE Public Schools as Charter Schools
6. Fiscal Management Committee – Not discussed
  - a. GDOE Financial Report
    - i) Accounts Payable Aging Report
    - ii) Declaration of Financial Status Designation – April, May, and June
    - iii) Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2025
    - iv) Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2025
  - b. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report
  - c. FY 2024 Audit Progress

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS – Not discussed**

- a. Ad Hoc Committee Update
- b. SY26-27 Calendar
- c. Amended Board Policies
  - i) 105 – Board Officers – Election
  - ii) 105.10 – Duties of the Board Officers
  - iii) 115 – Committees
  - iv) 120.2 – Board Policy Dissemination
  - v) 120.4 – Administration in the Absence of Board Policy
  - vi) 125.3 – Distribution of Board Meeting Materials
  - vii) 125.12 Executive Sessions at Board Meetings
  - viii) 130 – Board Work Sessions
- d. Speech Therapists' Licensure Requirements

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- X. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT** – Deputy Paul requested recognition for GDOE retirees at Tiyan Headquarters, highlighting an employee who has worked with the department for 50 years.

Mr. Sablan said all retirees should be recognized, but the Board can only do so if their names are provided.

Dr. Guthertz said that HR should be responsible for providing the Board with this information.

Mr. Sablan said HR must inform Ms. Lamorena so she can prepare the certificates.

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Dr. Guthertz, to go into recess until October 21, 2025. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

The Board recessed at 7:15 p.m. and will reconvene on October 21, 2025, at 4 pm.


**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:**

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


**Date:** October 24, 2025

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2025, REGULAR MEETING:**

- ☒ Approved as submitted  
☐ Approved subject to corrections  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Date:** 11/28/25

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

**Date:** 11/25/25