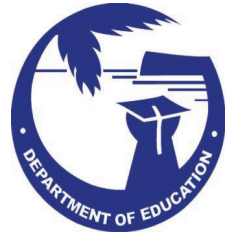




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K. ERIK SWANSON, PH.D.
Superintendent of Education

March 1, 2025

To: All Members, Guam Education Board

From: Superintendent

Subject: Superintendent's Report – March 4, 2025 GEB Meeting

Simon Sanchez HS Construction Project: The Superintendent, Deputy Adamos, and Principal Masnayan and her staff are meeting weekly with the project team led by Guam DPW. The team includes the DPW Director, construction manager, architect, OAG, GSA Procurement, GEDA, and others having a role in the project. The work currently centers on finalizing the detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) to identify a developer for the project. Details cannot be provided at this time to protect the integrity of the procurement process. GDOE is having direct input into the process and plays a significant role in it. The timeline for the solicitation and award is on track. The team anticipates the RFP will be advertised mid to late March 2025 and be awarded by June 2025. All other timelines can be made public once the RFP is awarded. Great care is being taken to ensure all roles are considered going forward and RFP language is clear and concise.

Alternative for SSHS to leave JFK Double Session: Outcomes for developing an alternative site are limited by available land that can be immediately accessed to support temporary classrooms. Legislation proposed in the 37th Legislature to access GHC land near SSHS did not get to a hearing or to the floor for a vote. Under current law, that land can only be used for housing development. The initial alternative was to place a temporary campus on the SSHS parking lot. This alternative was also supported by FEMA for cost sharing. Changes in the phasing plan for the new school took the parking lot access away to shorten construction time for the new permanent facility. We are currently working on locating ten extra classrooms on the FBLG campus which would result in 80 available classrooms for SSHS and FBLG to double session on the Yigo site. Recent changes brought on by US Ed policy changes accessing federal reimbursable funds and the contractor's loss of his labor force are impacting the work schedule. The FBLG campus will not likely open on time.

FBLG Middle School – Northern Construction states their loss of labor force will delay completion until December 2025. Change orders are pending funding that will allow the contractor to order materials that will affect the pace of work as well. The added costs derive from Mawar damage that was not in evidence during the solicitation and bidding process. Collateral equipment for FBLG needed to be re-ordered as the original procurement was disallowed by the AG. Further procurements using reimbursable ARP funds are now delayed due to changes in the drawdown process with US Ed. Executive Branch decisions regarding US Ed are driving changes to reimbursement processes for ARP approved projects that significantly impact multiple projects.

School Refurbishment Projects: Core Tech is currently working at 9 of the selected schools. Also see the supplemental sheet in your packet. Initial work at GWHS and AIJMS revealed that concrete crack and spall damage being corrected is significantly more extensive than the damage specified in the Corps of Engineers facility study that was the source document for the original solicitation and resulting bid. Full repair of roof cracks and concrete spalls is requiring additional funding. The contractor has projected the needs across the twelve schools and is

requesting a change order to offset the cost over the entire project. The planned change order will total approximately \$8.3M for additional work at all included schools. We plan to fund this change from local funds to be drawn against personnel costs from ARP obligated dollars. Delays in accessing these funds could result in work stoppage, impacting on-time completion. Active work sites are GW, AIJMS, OCPES, JQ San Miguel. ES, Benavente MS, and Finegayan ES. Once we have submitted and been reimbursed for expenditures to CoreTech, the pace of work can be better understood.

Status of FEMA Projects: I refer you to the supplemental document in your packet, GDOE-FEMA Typhoon Mawar Report. Several schools have received estimated awards, and several are awaiting determination by FEMA. The campuses already approved are being evaluated for work already completed and how it was funded to determine possible reimbursement. Remaining and FEMA approved repairs will be completed using local funds to be eligible. FEMA is also impacted by federal rule changes regarding reimbursements. Pay first with local funds and file for reimbursement.

Management Audit: Solicitation period closed Feb. 13th at 3 PM. A winning bidder has been selected but cannot yet be announced in keeping with local procurement law.

Auditor Pay Adjustment – Per the letter from DOA dated November 21, 2024, same subject (copy included in the packet). “The Auditor I, II and III positions are shared positions government wide. The DOA has classification and compensation authority over these positions. The Auditor IV (GDOE) and Chief Auditor (GDOE) positions are specific to GDOE. Aside from determining that the assigned pay grades for Auditor I through Chief Auditor (GDOE) positions remain status quo, we also found that the classification specifications of all these positions do not need amending.” This determination has been formally appealed to the Department of Administration. (See supporting letter in the packet).

Respectfully,

K. E. Swanson, PhD
Superintendent