



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, March 18, 2025

4 pm

Gallery, GDOE Building B

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

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

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 4:04 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 (via Zoom)
Angel, Felicitas B. (via Zoom)
Borja, Karlyn RCG
Guthertz, Dr. Judith
Gutierrez, Maria A.
McNinch, Dr. Ron L.

Non-Voting Members:

Fedenko, Timothy – GFT Representative
Siguenza, Kody - IBOGS Representative (via Zoom)

Legal Counsel:

Nasis, Jesse

Absent:

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

Non-Voting Members:

Benavente, Peter – MCOG Representative
Susuico, Keviann - IBOGS Representative

The Superintendent announced that five (5) members of the Board were present in person and two (2) via Zoom, constituting a quorum. Mr. Ada was absent, and Ms. Baleto was excused.

II. Celebrate Success – Dr. Okada was recognized for being one of the “25 Most Influential Women on Guam 2025”.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR – Mr. Sablan said this will go to the 1st Tuesday Meeting on April 1st.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Dr. Guthertz to allow the Attorney General to speak for up to 10 minutes. The Board voted by voice and approved the motion with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

- 1) Attorney General Douglas Moylan – AG Moylan shared that the White House invited Attorneys General (AGs) from 20 states to discuss the consequences of not following executive orders related to keeping men out of women’s sports. Guam was the only territory represented. The discussion focused on the biological differences between men and women, giving men an advantage in sports, and the potential harm to women’s participation. Congress is attempting to address the issue under Title IX, but no legislation has passed. He suggested that the Guam Department of Education should pass a resolution supporting the President's executive order and send it to various U.S. government agencies, including the White House and the U.S. Department of Education. He emphasized the importance of protecting Guam’s interests, especially given the island's lack of a voting delegate in Washington, D.C. He noted that the incident in 2022, where a male athlete from a Department of Defense school hurt a female student from Tiyan High, highlighted the risks of not addressing the issue. He also expressed concern that Guam could lose federal funding if it doesn’t align with the executive order, noting the island’s strategic importance to U.S. interests in the region. He emphasized that Guam’s citizens are U.S. citizens, despite the territory's lack of full representation in Washington, and urged the Board to pass a resolution in support of the executive order to avoid questions about Guam’s compliance. He also mentioned the Governor’s stance on not supporting transgender boys in women’s sports but pointed out that the Board is independent and has control over education-related decisions.

Mr. Sablan shared a copy of the Islandwide Sports Association High School and Middle School Constitution. He said it clearly states that athletes will be determined by sex at birth for all interscholastic sports implemented by ISA but it doesn’t say that they won’t be allowed to participate in a sport whatever their sex is. He said it’s silent on that and might need to be emphasized. He noted that this will be added to the agenda for the action meeting on April 1st.

AG Moylan asked when the provision passed.

Mr. Sablan asked Dr. Adamos when it passed.

Dr. Adamos replied that it was in SY 2022-2023.

Dr. McNinch said it might be helpful if the Board got input from the AG on the policy.

Mrs. Gutierrez said that the constitutional bylaw was developed by the Guam Department of Education and signed by the Board of Directors at that time. She then commented that the Board never had a Board Policy on it– it's only under the ISA Constitution for HS and MS which has had no changes to the constitution from when it was first developed.

AG Moylan said they would review it and get back to the Chairman on their review of it. He recommended that the Board inform the secretary of education that that's the department's policy and it's consistent with the executive orders.

Mrs. Gutierrez said that before the 17th GCA was amended, ISA was under the responsibility of the GEB to develop but this duty was removed from the Board that's why the Board doesn't have a policy. She noted that it only goes through DOE to develop a bylaw constitution.

AG Moylan said that based on their research they didn't see anything specifically on ISA. He said he knows how long it takes to pass the AAA that's why he thinks that the fastest way to preserve the money is for the Board to discuss it. He said he would take a look at the ISA Constitution and see if it's consistent with the executive order or if a Board Resolution might be considered by the Board and sent to the Department of Education.

Mr. Sablan asked Administrative Officer Kathleen Lamorena to include ISA on the agenda for April 1st and any responses from the AG and if it requires any action from the Board it will be done in that meeting.

Dr. McNinch agreed that federal matters are important. He welcomed the leaders on Guam to share with the Board when they attend important meetings. He said it was very commendable that the AG thought it would be important to share the info with the Board. He said they might want to amend their public participation rule to include policymakers and give them more time.

Mr. Sablan told AG Moylan that the bid packet for the SSHS construction will go out by the end of the month for publication. He noted that it's over half a million dollars, and requested that he expeditiously look at it and let it out because JFKHS and SSHS are waiting for it to happen.

AG Moylan said absolutely, 100%. He said he was open to anyone WhatsApping or giving him a call if there's some glitch. He commented that they all have kids and want them to benefit in the schools. He said they have his full support and commitment and calling him directly is always welcome, especially from the Board members.

- 2) Richard Borja – Mr. Borja, President of the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and a parent of a JFKHS freshman, expressed frustration over the lack of a concrete plan to decouple JFKHS from SSHS by the 2025-2026 school year, despite assurances from Dr. Swanson in December. He criticized the status quo, stating that the situation had not improved and was no longer acceptable. As a parent, he refused to accept his child's education being compromised and emphasized that the school communities deserve clarity on what leadership is doing to resolve the issue. He also responded to Dr. Swanson's letter, which he felt misrepresented JFKHS by suggesting

they were selfish and wanted to exclude SSHS students. He clarified that JFKHS was not at odds with SSHS but sought a fair solution for both schools. He called for a task force to focus on returning each school to its full session, with all the necessary resources and time. He expressed disappointment with Dr. Swanson's use of divisive language and emphasized that their goal was not to "kick anyone out," but to ensure all students receive the education they deserve. Borja reiterated that the task force's purpose should be to resolve the issue by SY 2025-2026, with all schools operating on regular schedules.

- 3) Angelo Andres – Mr. Andres, a parent, teacher, and JFKHS alumnus, expressed his frustration over Dr. Swanson's letter, which he felt misrepresented the relationship between JFKHS and SSHS. He reflected on the challenges JFKHS faced during its own double-session period, highlighting that they were able to advocate for and rebuild their school within 1.5 to 2 years. He was confused and upset by the prolonged delays in resolving the double-session issue for SSHS and the ongoing renovations at FBLGMS. He also criticized the letter for creating potential animosity between the two schools and pointed out that it implied JFKHS had not provided SSHS with "stability, dignity, and respect," which he found disappointing. He suggested that the Board members should visit FBLGMS to evaluate the progress and consider forming a task force, similar to past projects, to oversee the renovations. Andres expressed concerns about Dr. Swanson's statements regarding prioritizing long-term solutions over short-term discomfort, especially in the context of the SSHS community's ongoing struggles. He called for clear leadership, decisive action, and transparency, noting that SSHS students have been unfairly affected by double sessions for an extended period. He ended by emphasizing that JFKHS has no ill will toward SSHS and acknowledged the importance of democracy and hearing from the community. He hoped the task force would focus on finding real solutions and ensuring that all students affected by the situation, including his niece at FBLGMS, receive proper education in well-built facilities.
- 4) Colette Beausoleil – Ms. Beausoleil said when she was here 2 weeks ago, she came as the Guam teacher of the year. As a teacher with 36 years of experience in Guam's public schools shared her concerns about the negative impact of double sessions on students, emphasizing the significant reduction in instructional time. She noted that students are receiving one-third less educational time, which has led to lower academic performance. She highlighted the struggle of teachers to provide adequate support and the long-term harm to students' futures, especially as they prepare for higher education or the workforce. She expressed frustration that this issue has persisted for years and questioned how much longer it will continue. She emphasized her responsibility to all children and families on the island, having spent her entire career in Guam. She criticized Dr. Swanson's letter, stating it was insulting and misrepresented the support JFKHS has given to SSHS, citing examples of her own efforts to offer help and resources. She expressed that JFKHS has shown stability, dignity, and respect to SSHS and called for the retraction of the letter to reflect the true sentiments of JFKHS staff. Ultimately, she stressed that the lack of instructional time is robbing students of their future and urged immediate action to address the issue.
- 5) Tara Tydingco – Ms. Tydingco shared that her sentiments were similar to her colleagues, expressing her experience as both a teacher and a parent at JFKHS. She reflected on the struggles following Typhoon Pongsona, the challenges of overcrowding, and the long-standing issues with the school's facilities. She acknowledged the disappointment of entering a third year of double sessions and the skepticism about the completion of FBLGMS. She suggested considering redistricting to alleviate overcrowding and questioned whether nearby schools, like GWHS or THS,

could accommodate more students. She also raised the idea of using VSABMS for FBLGMS students and noted the long delays in rebuilding efforts. As a teacher, she stressed the importance of classroom time and urged additional strategies to address the double session issue, emphasizing that it would take years for SSHS to be rebuilt. She expressed that JFKHS did not blame SSHS for the situation and hoped both school communities would not be pitted against each other. Lastly, she called for better communication and a comprehensive plan to fund the renovation of all island schools.

- 6) Trevor Taitague – Mr. Taitague, a sophomore at JFKHS and Guam Youth Congress Representative, expressed deep concerns about the negative impacts of the double session system between JFKHS and SSHS. He highlighted how shortened class times leave students struggling to grasp important concepts and how teachers are overwhelmed by heavy workloads, limiting their ability to support students. He also noted that extracurricular activities, essential for personal growth, have been reduced, leaving many students without the opportunities they need. He pointed out that families are facing transportation challenges and additional stress due to unconventional school hours, and extending the double session arrangement would only worsen the situation. Drawing inspiration from the CHamoru word "Inafamaolek" (which promotes harmony and mutual support), he urged the Board to explore sustainable solutions such as infrastructure improvements, modular classrooms, and alternative scheduling to alleviate overcrowding without compromising educational quality. As a representative, he called on decision-makers to prioritize the needs of students, teachers, and families, emphasizing that the current system doesn't align with their vision for education in Guam. He shared that his committee in the Guam Youth Congress has received mostly negative feedback on the system and encouraged student leaders to gather testimonials and signatures from students to show the GEB the widespread concern. He vowed to advocate for improvements in education and, as a sophomore, shared how the double session system has affected him and his peers, limiting their school pride and overall experience. He pledged to work together with others to improve the situation, as this was a key issue he was elected to address.
- 7) Dr. Asherdee Rosete – Dr. Rosete expressed her support for the teachers and stakeholders of JFKHS, assuring the leadership and GEB that JFKHS and SSHS collaborate to create a safe and secure environment while meeting educational goals. She mentioned regular meetings with SSHS Principal Ms. Carla Masnayon and acknowledged occasional tensions, comparing them to having visitors in one's home. Despite occasional scheduling conflicts, the schools work together to support students and ensure educational activities are carried out. She emphasized that, despite challenges, both communities are partners in education, committed to providing the best experience for students during their time together. She also wanted to reassure island leaders of this commitment.

Ms. Beausoleil suggested using AI in district mapping to address the issue and proposed involving students in the process. She requested the current enrollment data and distribution map for functional schools from the Board and Dr. Swanson, aiming to find a fair and equitable solution that ensures all students get adequate time with their teachers. She also mentioned that online methods had not been effective.

Mr. Sablan assured Ms. Beausoleil that her suggestion would be acted upon, with Dr. Adamos and the other deputies able to gather the necessary data. He expressed an understanding of the challenges faced by school officers, sharing his own experience as a former PTSA president. He emphasized his high regard for the teachers and mentioned that his daughter, a teacher at SSHS, appreciated JFKHS's support and hoped for

reciprocal assistance in the future. He stressed that the islander way was about cooperation, not division, and assured all parties that he would work to ensure fair treatment for students at JFKHS, SSHS, OHS, and FBLGMS, particularly in terms of learning opportunities. He reiterated that the status of JFKHS and SSHS would be a regular agenda item, and while he wished he could quickly open SSHS, he acknowledged the complexities involved. He also addressed concerns over a letter from Dr. Swanson, expressing the importance of communication, transparency, and a shared vision for students' success. He invited attendees to participate in Board meetings and mentioned an upcoming task force meeting on Friday.

Dr. Guthertz expressed appreciation for the moving testimonies and acknowledged the desire for a solution without further delays. She emphasized the Board's willingness to act but noted uncertainty about their authority in certain operational matters. She expressed her desire to be part of an action-oriented board, willing to take bold steps, even if it means stepping on some toes, to get things done. She expressed her commitment to helping resolve the issues and encouraged the Board members to provide feedback on their efforts. She assured stakeholders that solutions could be found without waiting and that the Board would take action to address the situation.

Mrs. Gutierrez emphasized the lack of communication as the main issue with the department's management team, particularly regarding updates to stakeholders. She highlighted the importance of biweekly updates and urged everyone to bring their concerns to the Board. She noted that at the first town hall meeting at the Yigo Community Center, JFKHS was present but GDOE management, aside from the principals, was not. She expressed that the letter was insulting to JFKHS stakeholders and commended the speakers for their participation. Mrs. Gutierrez compared the situation to children repeatedly asking their parents for attention, and she expressed pride in being an islander, praising JFKHS for providing excellent education to her family.

Dr. McNinch acknowledged that the Board may not always be aware of the operational challenges and expressed that hearing about the struggles is helpful. He also apologized if anything in the letter was insulting, stating it could have been framed better.

Mr. Fedenko agreed with the discussion and emphasized the urgency of redistricting, stating it could be done quickly, possibly within a year. He expressed frustration over the ongoing issues at SSHS questioning what can be done since the issues have persisted for decades. He referenced past promises and the lack of proactive maintenance, agreeing with Ms. Tydingco on the importance of such programs. He said it was ridiculous that students were being shortchanged. He mentioned reading the letter and not seeing the offenses but understanding the points it raised. He also suggested that THS, originally meant to be temporary, may need to be re-evaluated. He urged the Board to take action on these pressing issues.

Mr. Sablan gave assurance that JFKHS and SSHS will never be overlooked again, and their issues will always remain on the agenda. He emphasized that the Board and Dr. Swanson will regularly update everyone on the progress. He also encouraged stakeholders to email the Board with ideas anytime, as their contact information is available on the website. He said BIBA JFKHS!

Mr. Richard Borja said Biba SSHS!

V. COMMUNICATIONS – Not discussed.

VI. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

- 1) Islandwide Board of Governing Students (IBOGS) Report – Kody Siguenza, OHS IBOGS Representative, shared details about the 6th Annual Student Conference and mental health training sessions on April 5, 2025, at OHS from 8 am to 3 pm. The event aims to reintroduce IBOGS, provide mental health resources for students experiencing burnout, and promote inclusivity. It's open to GDOE middle and high school students in grades 6-11, with a cap of 15 students per school on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration forms were distributed, with a deadline of March 21, 2025. The event will accommodate 350-400 students to ensure adequate space for discussion without overcrowding. They've also discussed potential vendors and plan to reflect on the event afterward.

Mrs. Gutierrez spoke about the 6th Annual IBOGS Conference. She said IBOGS was her baby and is very dear to her heart. She highlighted the importance of mental health training and mentioned that Segundo Garrido and Faith Freeman are the first members of the National Association of State Boards of Education Student Advisory Council, with Guam being the only Pacific representative. Mental health is one of the topics they were working on. She noted that some schools hadn't responded to her email and emphasized that the deadline wouldn't be extended to prioritize schools that responded first. She explained that all IBOGS activities, including the event, are done voluntarily and shared that a GDOE School Psychologist, a THS student, University of Manoa interns, and the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center would be facilitating the training. She requested that the Board and GDOE Management donate a case of water for the facilitators. Vendors will also be selling items for no more than \$10 to ensure affordability for students. Schools are welcome to bring lunch for their students, but it's up to the principals. Mrs. Gutierrez reminded the Board that IBOGS does not fundraise and mentioned that former IBOGS members from 2008 have been invited, along with Board members.

- 2) Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT) Report – Mr. Fedenko expressed concerns about staffing and the need to fill positions related to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). He thanked the Budget Committee for providing the staffing pattern for FY25-26 but requested that vacancies be continuously posted until all CBA positions are filled. He mentioned a situation where a teacher was told a library technician position was unavailable due to funding, which he felt was not in good faith by the school board. Fedenko pointed out that many teachers and aides were retiring, and the funds should be used to fill CBA positions. He also noted that the GFT is celebrating its 60th anniversary and will continue advocating for its members. He then raised concerns about school safety, mentioning an incident where a teacher was assaulted by a student and needed medical attention. He emphasized that staffing is crucial for safety, alongside physical measures like fences and cameras, to ensure the protection of staff and students. He expressed hope for the teacher's recovery and stressed that proper protocols should be followed in such incidents.

Mr. Sablan congratulated the GFT on their 60 years and commended Mr. Fedenko for his hard work in supporting their mission.

Mrs. Gutierrez told Dr. Swanson that job announcements should be posted for 10 days according to the rules, but as the Superintendent, he can announce positions continuously. She mentioned that school aides expressed interest in applying for the library technician position but found it already closed. She emphasized that critical positions under the CBA should be continuously open for applications, not closed after 10 days.

Mr. Sablan said he's sure Dr. Swanson took note of that and should take care of it if not the deputy superintendents are there to make sure. He told Justin to tell his superior that the CBA positions should be continuously announced. He also thanked him for including the Board's request in including the position vacancies and notifications.

3) Mayor's Council of Guam (MCOG) Report – Not reported.

Mrs. Angel said she'd been listening to what was going on and asked for consideration because this was her third entry to the Zoom meeting. She expressed her empathy for the JFKHS teachers and stakeholders and her appreciation for the students, faculty, and staff of SSHS. She acknowledged their patience and hoped that progress would be made soon.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Superintendent's Report – Mr. Sablan said Dr. Swanson didn't need to read his report because it was in the packet but he could provide status updates on the JFKHS/SSHS double session situation.

Dr. Swanson shared highlights of his report.

Mr. Sablan mentioned that Dr. Naholowaa has an update regarding the decoupling of SSHS and JFKHS.

Dr. Naholowaa shared that significant progress has been made on various projects, including addressing labor issues with Northern Construction. Despite competition for workers due to numerous projects in Guam and in Saipan, they successfully hired local employees to continue work. She reported that FBLGMS has made notable progress and is expected to be completed by December. Additionally, a plan for a modular classroom at SSHS is in place, and if funding is secured, it will be ready by December as well. Dr. Naholowaa stated that the plan and location for the modular classroom are ready, and she has contacted the governor's office to discuss funding next week. She acknowledged the need for more space and agreed that students are being short-changed. Despite being only on her seventh day, she emphasized that she and her team are working diligently to address the issues and ensure students' needs are met.

Mr. Sablan asked that she keep Mr. Richard and Dr. Rosete up to date as to whatever information she has. He said that they're committed to transparency and to letting them know what the hiccups are along the way so they don't keep expecting. He said Dr. Swanson said it might be finished by September but if it won't be finished then or in December, they should be informed.

Dr. Naholowaa agreed and said the only issues would be funding and manpower.

Program Coordinator III Nik Cruz explained that during the FBLGMS refurbishment, GPA Engineers completed the scope of work, but collateral equipment was overlooked and is

now being procured. The solicitation is in progress with the Attorney General's Office. He also highlighted challenges with change orders, specifically change order #2 from Northern Construction, which Dr. Naholowaa pushed for them to do additional work. The change order is currently with the Legal Office for processing.

Facilities and Maintenance Manager Jimmy Pangelinan stated that they have until June to re-inspect FBLGMS, and if not completed by then, it will need a full re-inspection like it's a brand new school. He mentioned efforts to address smaller issues and seek flexibility from Public Health. Despite facing challenges, he emphasized the department's commitment to meeting the deadline and ensuring progress for the students.

Dr. Okada inquired about the funding source for FBLGMS and emphasized that until the temporary classroom is put out for bid, communication with vendors should be avoided to prevent compromising the procurement process.

Mr. Sablan told Dr. Okada that they will be meeting with the Governor's office sometime this week.

Dr. Okada said they just signed the change order today.

Acting DFAS Justin Castro replied that the funding for the change order came from the supplemental budget – the \$10 million first assigned to them.

Dr. Okada asked if that was the supplemental \$10 million from Senator Barnett's law.

Mr. Castro said yes.

Dr. Okada asked if FBLMS was specifically identified when it was submitted to the Board for the spending priorities.

Mr. Castro said he believes so. He said he was working with Deputy Paul and it was added.

Dr. Okada asked if FBLGMS was included on the spending priorities for the \$266 million.

Mr. Castro repeated that he believes so.

Dr. Okada said that needs to be verified because she sees it funded someplace else but not on the \$266 million.

Mr. Castro said he will verify that.

Dr. Okada asked Mr. Cruz if he was indicating that GPA was to include in their scope the requirement for the collateral equipment or if GPA was contracted to do the scope of work for the construction.

Mr. Cruz replied that the refurbishment never had collateral equipment at all.

Dr. Okada commented that GPA was not responsible for the collateral equipment, the scope of work, or the RFP.

Mr. Cruz replied no, they were not responsible for collateral equipment. He explained that FEMA requested they get a quote from a vendor to start the reimbursement process. The vendor was supposed to submit the quote to FEMA for approval.

Dr. Okada asked if that was still being put out for bid.

Mr. Cruz said yes. He said it most likely will be an RFP.

Mr. Sablan said it was a market research requirement. He then told Administrative Officer Kathleen Lamorena that they need to reinvest in improving the PA system, as both attendees and listeners are frustrated by the poor audio quality. He requested that she arrange for a better system for the next meeting.

Ms. Lamorena responded that she had ordered a new system and was just waiting for it to be delivered.

Dr. Guthertz expressed frustration with the acoustics in the meeting room, which she found painful and difficult to hear, and predicted it would cause her a headache. She then shifted focus to the issue of students being shortchanged in their instructional time, emphasizing the negative long-term impact, especially on their writing skills, which she had observed in university students. She urged the Board to prioritize students and faculty in the school community, suggesting that the problem should be resolved before the next school year. She proposed turning over the current building to SSHS for school-related purposes and suggested relocating the central office and JPTSA to vacant schools in Tamuning. She also recommended utilizing vacant classrooms at THS, along with the gymnasium and fields, to better serve student needs. She acknowledged the difficulty of moving staff but stressed the importance of prioritizing students. She also suggested using CBMES for administrative offices and believed this plan would serve students' needs more effectively than the current use of the building for offices. She proposed adopting this idea as a "Plan B" in case the original plan does not work, suggesting adding SSHS and JFKHS members to the task force led by Dr. Naholowaa. Dr. Guthertz emphasized the importance of sacrifice for students' futures and called for action to better support education.

Dr. McNinch said he seconded her motion.

Mr. Sablan told Dr. Guthertz that her motion had been seconded but it would be placed on the agenda for the April 1st meeting because they didn't take action during the second meeting of the month.

Dr. Guthertz acknowledged.

Mrs. Gutierrez thanked Dr. Naholowaa for her leadership as the new Deputy, praising the positive feedback from the maintenance staff at schools who are now receiving the support and guidance they had long desired. She shared that maintenance employees are excited about their work, no longer having to spend half their day bush-cutting. She also mentioned the leadership of Mr. Jimmy Pangelinan and Mr. Cruz, emphasizing the importance of stability and guidance for the maintenance team. She also pointed out that she hadn't seen FBLGMS listed as a spending priority, only positions to fill. She acknowledged the progress being made under Dr. Naholowaa's leadership, joking about her tennis shoes as she runs fast and encouraging Mr. Pangelinan and Mr. Cruz to keep

up with her. She ended by encouraging continued good work, noting the happy faces she observed among the facilities and maintenance staff.

2) Executive Committee -

- a. National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) – Mrs. Gutierrez announced that Dr. Okada is now a member of the NASBE Finance and Budget Committee under the NASBE Treasurer. She also shared that both she and Dr. Okada received an invitation to attend the Early Childhood Network group, with a Zoom meeting scheduled for 3 am on April 8, followed by an in-person conference from June 2-3. Dr. Okada will attend and cover her expenses, while Mrs. Gutierrez will not be attending due to graduation commitments with IBOGS. She extended the invitation to the Board members to attend the conference, noting that NASBE would provide hotel accommodations. Lastly, she mentioned that they are awaiting upcoming nominations for various NASBE positions.

Mr. Sablan told the Board to let him know if anyone wanted to join Dr. Okada at the conference in Washington DC so the information could be given to Dr. Swanson and be taken from there.

- i) Government Affairs Committee – Not discussed
- ii) Public Education Position – Not discussed

3) Instructional & Academic Support Committee

Dr. Naholowaa informed the Board she wanted to give an update on the dashboard. She asked Legal Counsel Attorney Jesse Nasis to talk about the contract for the dashboard. She continued that they were going to move on to the next vendor because the first one was not able to provide the requirements they were looking for.

Atty Nasis said it's been a back-and-forth between the vendor, the end user, and the AG's office. He said they received feedback from them requiring certain mandated language under the law. He said that the Procurement division and the end user have been discussing with the vendor unfortunately the discussions were not successful in reaching an agreement. He said that for that reason, the end-user has moved to the second vendor.

Mrs. Gutierrez said that the Board has been waiting for a year. She said every time she sees her former colleague, Mr. Crisostomo, he asks about the dashboard. She said that the dashboard would also be for student learning and outcomes but also for the department's facilities and maintenance. She said NASBE has that. She said in the Santa Rita Hearing, somebody had asked about the dashboard. She said that the dashboard is a guide for them to know whether they are improving or stagnant. She thanked Dr. Swanson because Dr. Naholowaa was Naholowaa and will make sure that it goes forward.

Dr. Adamos shared that the Joint Board Union Calendar had met on March 11.

FBLGMS Principal Melissa Mafnas stated that they had agreed to put together a proposal to request a waiver for the 180 school days. She said they adjusted a

calendar to propose a recommendation for all the schools. She said 15 schools need to make up time and that out of the 15 schools, several schools will make up their time to finish by May 22nd. She then continued that FBLGMS will be the only school to finish on May 23rd. She said that the waiver for proposal, it's just in the event something happens moving forward. She asked that the Board take a look at it and if approved also allow Dr. Swanson to decide without having to come to the Board if they need to extend beyond the 22nd and the 23rd for FBLGMS.

Mr. Sablan said this will be placed on the April 1st meeting. He said he doesn't think there will be any objections.

Mrs. Gutierrez inquired about the status of makeup days for the schools that had to close due to a lack of water.

Principal Mafnas said that was inclusive of the 15 schools following the August 22nd.

Mrs. Gutierrez said THS and HSTES closed due to a water outage.

Dr. Adamos shared that 15 schools reassessed their instructional time to ensure they met the equivalent of 174 days. HSTES increased their instructional time from March 10 to May 11 to make up for two days lost due to water issues and one day lost to vandalism. She highlighted that THS is the only high school with an extended learning plan (ELP), where students have binders with assignments and can meet teachers online if they are released early or the school is shut down. She said Board member Ms. Karla Borja can attest to that because her sons attend THS. She mentioned that they discussed with Dr. Swanson how to handle situations where students are released due to issues like no water or other circumstances beyond their control, but they are not factoring in closures due to storms, as everyone is affected by those. She emphasized that this approach helps make up for lost instructional time. She noted that if schools following the August 15 calendar need to make up days, they have teacher workdays and upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences as options for adjustments. She stated that these situations were considered for makeup time, and if needed, schools reassessed their instructional time and increased it, similar to the 15 other schools.

Mr. Sablan inquired if all schools were covered under the current plan, stating that unless unforeseen circumstances arise before May 22nd, no adjustments are needed, and the schools are currently fine.

Dr. Adamos said yes.

Mr. Sablan said he will take this action item for the April 1st meeting.

Dr. Adamos said that the additional request is to amend the August 22nd calendar.

Principal – said they were just changing the end date of the school's 22nd for the other schools and the 23rd for the FBLGMS. She also said that they want to put the request forward because the legislature only meets every other month.

Mr. Sablan said the Board meets twice a month now.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she doesn't think they should give a waiver to the legislature because it means the department doesn't know what they're doing.

Dr. Adamos said they've discussed it in the calendar committee and it's only in the event they should have a storm – it's the last resort.

Mr. Sablan said that if they don't want to see the legislature, they don't have to see them if they don't want to see them.

- 4) Safe& Healthy Schools Committee – Mr. Sablan said Mr. Ada wasn't present to give updates.

Dr. McNinch said they will have a report soon.

- 5) Policy Review & Strategic Planning Committee – Mrs. Gutierrez stated that they will review the department's travel policy to ensure it is implemented, especially with a large entourage leaving soon. She mentioned that Dr. Okada is the chair of the committee, and a proposed policy for both federally and locally funded travel is being considered.

Mr. Sablan said he knows that the Audit Committee has been conducting an audit on travel and HR from the time Dr. Swanson started to current and expects it sooner or later.

- 6) Fiscal Management Committee – Mr. Sablan said that because it requires action, it will be moved to the April 1st meeting agenda.
- a. GDOE Financial Report
 - i) Accounts Payable Aging Report
 - ii) Declaration of Financial Status Designation
 - iii) Unaudited Statement of Appropriation, Expenditures, and Encumbrances for Fiscal Year 2025
 - iv) Grant Status Report for Fiscal Year 2025
 - v) Updated Spending Priorities
 - b. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report –
 - c. Revised FY26 Budget – Mr. Sablan said he didn't believe they were revising any FY26. He asked if it should be FY25.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked Mr. Castro to step forward.

Mr. Castro stated they had met with the Budget Committee two weeks ago to make the revisions.

Dr. Okada explained that the FY 26 Budget originally submitted did not include funding for substitute teachers, which led to the proposed revised budget. She mentioned that the resolution would be updated if it's on the agenda for voting at the April 1st meeting and that the updated budget, which includes an additional \$3 million, still needs to be submitted to the legislature.

- VIII. NEW BUSINESS - None
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Not discussed
- X. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT


Dr. Okada asked Mr. Sablan if the Zoom can be fixed because they have had to log in 4 times.

Mr. Sablan informed that he had instructed Dr. Swanson to pay the bill and mentioned that Dr. Swanson would be passing a letter from the US Department of Education to the Board members for their awareness. He also shared that a letter was sent to the new Secretary of Education, Ms. Linda McMahon, requesting to exempt Guam from the new mandate requiring upfront payment before reimbursement. Additionally, he noted the need to address the Food and Nutrition issue and assured the Board that they would provide updates once they have more information.

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Dr. Guthertz to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

The Board adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:



KATHLEEN LAMORENA
Administrative Officer

Date: March 26, 2025

MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2025 REGULAR MEETING:

- () Approved as submitted
- () Approved subject to corrections
- () Other: _____

ANGEL R. SABLAN
GEB Chair

Date: _____

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

Date: _____