



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, May 6, 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
Karlyn RCG Borja
Judith Guthertz, Dr. PA
Maria A. Gutierrez
Ron L. McNinch, PhD

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Segundo Garrido
IBOGS Representative

Timothy Fedenko
GFT Representative

Mayor, Peter Benavente
MCOG Representative

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

K. Erik Swanson, Ph.D.
GDOE Superintendent

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

Voting Members:

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

Non-Voting Members:

Fedenko, Timothy – GFT Representative

Legal Counsel:

Wolff, Matthew

Absent:

Baleto, Christine W. (Excused)

Non-Voting Members:

Benavente, Peter – MCOG Representative
IBOGS Representative

The Superintendent announced that seven (7) members of the Board were present in person and one (1) via Zoom, constituting a quorum.

- II. CELEBRATE SUCCESS** – The following were recognized: John F. Kennedy High School (JFKHS), Okkodo High School (OHS), and Simon Sanchez High School (SSHS), Southern High School (SHS) for their achievements in the 2025 Pacific Regional Drill Meet in Honolulu, Hawaii, and the 2025 Congressional Arts Competition winners, SHS Luna Thomas, OHS Tasi Cepeda, and SSHS Connor Canos.

Mr. Sablan also shared that it was a sad day for the Board because Mrs. Gutierrez would be leaving tomorrow morning for San Francisco to bury her grandson, who was tragically killed in an accident last Thursday. He expressed his condolences on behalf of the Board. He said, may her grandson rest in peace. He said he was an upcoming young man with lots of signs of a successful future, but as he told Mrs. G, to be strong because it's all in God's plan, and they just have to accept it. He expressed his condolences to Mrs. Gutierrez.

He said that they're very happy to recognize the many successes of the department's students from the different ROTC groups. He said they will be presenting the school of recognition to the school while the individual cadets will be given to them either by their commander, instructors, or principal.

Mr. Ada said that before they do that, he wanted to recognize the presence of Senator Vince Borja.

Mr. Sablan said that he was going to do that after they finished this part of the interview. He then recognized the presence of Senator Vince Borja.

Mrs. Gutierrez shared that her grandson started kindergarten at CBMES before he moved on to Saint Paul Christian School. She told the public that he was only 22 years old and to drive safely.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mrs. Angel motioned, seconded by Dr. Guthertz, to approve the consent calendar items – Minutes of April 1, 2025, Regular Meeting, Minutes of April 15, 2025, Regular Meeting, Superintendent's Report for April 1, 2025, and April 15, 2025. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.

- 1) Minutes of April 1, 2025, Regular Meeting Approval
- 2) Minutes of April 15, 2025, Regular Meeting Approval
- 3) Superintendent's Report 4/1/25 Approval
- 4) Superintendent's Report 4/15/25 Approval

- IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Nikolette Salas, a student from Tiyan High School (THS), spoke passionately about the importance of preserving THS' legacy. She said students, staff and faculty were not just fighting for a building but for the community and history they've built since 2017. She emphasized that preserving one school's legacy should not come at the cost of destroying another's. She shared her pride in representing Guam at a national poetry competition. Crediting THS for her growth. She described the school as more than its appearance, highlighting its strong sense of community, achievements, and national accreditation. She invited Board members to visit THS and witness their efforts firsthand, including upcoming events like the TLC boot camp. She urged everyone to see beyond the surface and recognize THS' value, stating that all the schools on the island, including SSHS, JFKHS, and THS, deserve to have their legacies honored and preserved.

Mr. Sablan said he sees a future leader in her.

Dr. McNinch praised Ms. Salas for speaking very eloquently without notes, then asked Mr. Sablan to explain the core issue she addressed for the public's understanding.

Dr. Guthertz expressed her support for Ms. Salas, noting she is a proud former teacher at THS.

Mr. Ada complimented Ms. Salas on her speech and noted he had missed two meetings recently. He asked when the topic of closing TSH was brought up, saying he wasn't sure it was in any recommendations. He assured her, however, that he would not support closing THS.

Mr. Sablan addressed rumors about THS closing, clarifying that the Board never acted on them. At a town hall meeting with Senator Borja, he reassured attendees that THS would not be closing. He emphasized that the issue wasn't on the agenda, showing there were no plans for closure. He also assured that the college and career readiness program would continue and be expanded to other high schools, wishing the THS students continued success as Titans.

Ms. Salas expressed that no legacy should be destroyed now or in the future, emphasizing that everyone, not just THS, deserves to stay.

Mr. Sablan reassured that they are not trying to destroy any legacy. He emphasized the goal of ensuring SSHS, JFKHS, OHS, and FBLGMS have their own spaces. He stated the Board's commitment to giving all students a special place to learn and promised to uphold that.

- V. COMMUNICATIONS** – Dr. Swanson discussed the transmission from Chief State School Officers regarding actions related to US ED ESF/ARP funding. He also mentioned a letter from International Royal Inc. asking about the possibility of leasing CBMES.

Dr. Okada explained that the Procurement Law prevents them from considering unsolicited bids, meaning any proposals must go through the department's established process.

Mr. Sablan stated that Dr. Swanson was instructed to issue an LOI or RFI due to interest in using the CBMES and LBJES facilities. He emphasized the need to first confirm whether the properties belong to the GDOE or the government of Guam to avoid wasting time. He highlighted that this could be a revenue opportunity for the department and that whoever takes it on, whether the Board or the legislature, would likely aim to generate income.

Dr. Swanson mentioned that they have already researched some of the legal requirements.

Mrs. G shared her concern that International Royal is already writing to the Board or to the superintendent. She asked about the other vendors that may want to participate. She said International Royal is a vendor to the department and asked if this was a conflict of interest. She said he shouldn't be preparing a letter requesting the property.

Mr. Sablan said the underlying thing is that it is unsolicited, so they will take it as that. So when they come to the point where interests are put in, then if they are still interested. He said it doesn't stop anyone from putting in their letter of interest – it's all unsolicited, and no decision will be made without the procurement process.

Dr. Guthertz said that it doesn't stop the Board from reconsidering any closure if they find a need for them to keep the school going or put a different or new school in there; they have that option.

Mr. Sablan said that the other thing hanging out there is DODEA – they don't know the future of DODEA, and if it comes to a point where it closes, then they would have to either go to a charter, public, or private school – any school outside of DODEA.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

1) Superintendent's Report – Dr. Swanson read his report for the record and provided updates.

- a. JFKHS/SSHS Double Session Status Report – Mrs. Gutierrez shared that during the IBOGS conference, students from the double session schools felt welcomed at their host schools. She said both students and parents support the arrangement and oppose the CMDR's reassignment plan. She said students want to graduate as islanders, sharks, or bulldogs, reflecting the pride in their current schools. FBLGMS students hope to move on to become sharks. She supports keeping things as they are if that's the recommendation, noting the survey also favored maintaining the status quo until FBLGMS is completed.

Mr. Ada reviewed the survey and understands its results, but he has other ideas. He noted that while JFKHS students aren't opposed to the current setup, they still want their school back full-time, just as SSHS students want to return to their home. He suggested exploring the option of placing temporary classrooms at FBLGMS to allow SSHS students to begin returning, since FBLGMS will eventually feed into SSHS. He proposed a possible morning/afternoon session split, with SSHS in the morning to accommodate part-time jobs. He acknowledged others may disagree, but felt it was important to share his perspective and explore alternatives beyond the survey's recommendation.

Dr. Okada asked Dr. Swanson for clarification on the survey results, specifically how many parents and guardians responded out of 366, and how many students and employees responded out of 959.

Dr. Swanson replied that there are about 3,000 families across the two campuses and around 3,200 employees.

Dr. Okada asked how they were addressing the students' concern about learning loss.

Dr. Swanson asked one of the principals to respond.

Principal Masnayan shared that she and Dr. Rosete included recommendations in the report to address learning loss. They are exploring cross-enrollment for credit recovery and adjusting master schedules to allow flexibility between class periods.

Dr. Okada asked if participation was optional for students, noting that some had expressed concerns about learning loss and were wondering what the department planned to do about it.

Dr. Rosete said the plan would be optional for students. They are preparing by discussing adjustments to teacher prep periods and focusing on facility use to

avoid scheduling conflicts. The goal is to support both credit recovery and dual enrollment opportunities. She mentioned they've spoken with Deputy Sanchrz about cross-enrolling students – having them attend classes at JFKHS in the morning and possibly after school. The plan is to test this approach by merging their summer school programs to explore how it could work.

Dr. Okada asked whether transportation responsibility fell on the parents or the system.

Dr. Rosete said they were working on sorting out and determining the responsibility for transportation.

Dr. Okada raised concerns about whether the department's double sessions meet the necessary instructional time required by the Adequate Education Act. She questioned if the department complied or if legal issues might arise from decisions made without clarification. She emphasized the importance of understanding their legal obligations before proceeding with further discussions, suggesting they may need to defer until this issue is resolved.

Dr. Swanson said he will verify that before the next meeting.

Mr. Sablan asked the two principals of JFKHS and SSHS if they support the continuance of the double session for at least another year.

Dr. Rosete acknowledged that the decision may not be ideal, but emphasized that they are one DOE, listening to their constituents, and making the most of available resources. She confirmed the survey was sent to all the students, parents, and faculty, and stressed the importance of collaboration to meet student needs, regardless of whatever decision the Board and leadership make.

Mr. Sablan asked if this was the least disruptive method.

Dr. Rosete said yes. Dr. Masnayan nodded her head in agreement.

Mr. Sablan acknowledged that the Board has not been able to fully meet the mandates of the Adequate Education Act since its inception. While the Board wants to comply, he said their limited options may require returning to the legislature to formally acknowledge that the law is being violated annually due to practical constraints. He emphasized that learning loss is a real concern for both students and teachers. After reviewing all options, he said the current arrangement is the best they could come up with. He then called on Principals Melissa Mafnas and Dr. Rita Flores, noting that everyone involved in the survey wants students to be in their schools, but given the situation, GDOE must work together to support one another. He asked both principals if they support the current setup at OHS with FBLGMS.

Dr. Flores said that while double sessions with FBLGMS are not ideal, they are the least disruptive option. She acknowledged the instructional loss that comes with this setup but noted that teachers have office hours until 2:15, allowing students to arrange meetings for extra help after lunch. Though FBLGMS uses

about 80% of the campus, the remaining 20% provides space for these additional instructional opportunities. She emphasized that students are aware of this and just need to coordinate with teachers to take advantage of it.

Ms. Mafnas explained that since the beginning, it has been understood that they are one GDOE, and they've always worked together. She acknowledged that while moving away may not be ideal, it would be the least disruptive and most cost-effective solution until funding can be secured for FBLGMS to relocate back. She noted that they have discussed increasing instructional time and need to work out bus operation with JFKHS and SSHS, as it affects FBLGMS and OHS, which will be further discussed over the summer.

Dr. Okada thanked her for her candor and expressed appreciation for their willingness to support. She emphasized that the issue should have been addressed much earlier, as it has been ongoing since Mawar. She expressed concern that decisions are now being made with inadequate planning and incomplete information. While they understand the need to decide, she stressed that student requests for more time haven't been fully considered or included in the report. She called for a more comprehensive report that addresses these concerns before final decisions are made.

Mr. Sablan said learning loss is an ongoing issue that must be addressed, but at the same time, they need to prepare SSHS, JFKHS, FBLGMS, and OHS for the upcoming school year. He urged Dr. Swanson to ensure his deputies work closely with principals on this, warning that students were not going to make the issue go away and would hold the Board accountable if they failed to live up to the 14 Points of an Adequate Education.

Mr. Ada told Ms. Masnayan and Ms. Mafnas that he wants to see temporary buildings at FBLGMS because SSHS won't be completed for 3-5 years. Since FBLGMS lacks enough classrooms for SSHS students, the temporary classrooms can be used while SSHS is still under construction.

Ms. Masnayan shared that before discussions began about SSHS's future for the next school year, she met with her satellite and elective teachers, mainly in performing arts, who require more space, to discuss the possibility of relocating to FBLGMS. The teachers said they could adjust to the space and accommodate students. She explained that ideally, SSHS would need 83 classrooms if every teacher had their own, but they've operated with as few as 65-66 when sharing classrooms, which they're willing to do again to return to the village. She emphasized that the community is eager to return once FBLGMS is ready and sees it as a meaningful step toward reuniting the school with its home community.

Ms. Mafnas explained that they've repeatedly discussed the idea of placing temporary buildings at FBLGMS to accommodate SSHS, but the main obstacles have always been funding and space. Parking was also a concern, and while various options were explored, including alternating schedules to reduce learning loss, the parent survey ultimately supported keeping the current arrangement. She emphasized that although the situation isn't ideal, they've tried to find workable solutions within existing limitations. She and Ms.

Masnayon have a plan to share the FBLGMS campus once it's completed, since both schools are in the same village and serve the same community, making shared resources and bussing more manageable. She said they've communicated these options to Dr. Swanson for his recommendation to the Board. She noted that they're still looking into ways to address learning loss, including adjusting school hours and release times, especially now that enrollment is down. She said it's now up to the Board to decide how to move forward based on Dr. Swanson's recommendations.

Mr. Ada acknowledged that funding is the main issue and said he won't second-guess the legislature's decisions. However, if funding for the temporary classrooms is found, he asked Ms. Mafnas or Ms. Masnayon if they would have any objections to that.

Both principals said no.

Mr. Ada said that's all he needs to hear from both of them.

Mrs. Gutierrez reminded Mr. Sablan that she, he, Dr. Okada, and Dr. Won Pat visited Saipan on January 17 at their own expense to observe temporary classrooms at Hopwood Junior High. She said Dr. Okada presented the funding to GDOE management, but no action was taken. She criticized the lack of planning, stating "taya plan." She noted that Senator San Agustin had introduced a bill to use GHURA land near FBLGMS for classrooms, but GDOE did not support it at the time. Now, she said, they are suddenly pursuing a two-story temporary classroom and questioned whether it would have an elevator, how much it would cost, and why it wasn't done earlier. She urged Senator Borja to retrieve and support Senator San Agustin's bill, saying it could help both SSHS and FBLGMS. She accuses GDOE management of focusing instead on a failed plan involving Tumon Mall for SSHS, calling the effort "leche flan." She emphasized that the CMDR was the one taking action and questioned the location and accessibility of the proposed two storey classroom. She concluded by expressing disappointment in the continued lack of a clear, timely plan.

Mr. Sablan assured Ms. Masnayon and Ms. Mafnas that they are actively pursuing the completion of FBLGMS and will find the necessary funds. He also mentioned that SSHS is expected to break ground in July.

Mr. Fedenko asked if the master schedules for the double sessions were finalized, if course listings were given to teachers, and if all teachers had been assigned. He also inquired whether any classes had to be cut or if students were missing classes due to the challenge of double sessions.

Ms. Masnayon said they will have classes.

Mr. Fedenko said he was just curious about that and emphasized that students shouldn't be slighted because of the double campus setup.

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to keep the double session status quo for Simon Sanchez High School and John F. Kennedy High School for School Year 2025-2026 until the completion of F.B. Leon Guerrero Middle School.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she made the motion because it's what the four principals from JFKHS/SSHS and FBLGMS/OHS want. She shared that students have told her that they don't want to be reassigned - the SSHS sharks don't want to be geckos (GWHS) or islanders (JFKHS), they want to continue being sharks because when they bite, they're going to get it.

Mr. Fedenko reminded the Board that they had previously raised concerns about instructional time and questioned whether they planned to vote without first resolving that issue.

Mr. Sablan said that, based on Mrs. Gutierrez's motion, the current situation at the schools will remain status quo. He added that concerns about learning loss will be addressed separately with Dr. Swanson and his deputies. He emphasized the urgency of making a decision.

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Dr. Guthertz, to amend the motion to require the resolution of the instructional time before the academic year starts in August. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 6-0, 2 abstentions. The motion passed.

Dr. Okada said they must resolve the instructional time requirement before the academic year begins in August.

Mr. Sablan asked if Mr. Fedenko was referring to learning loss.

Mr. Fedenko replied that they have to find out.

Mr. Sablan explained that the discussion was about the use of the facility. He mentioned Dr. Okada amended Mrs. Gutierrez's motion to require a resolution on instructional time before the school year starts in August and asked the principals if they could work on it.

Dr. Rosete said they are considering extended time and will consult with bus operations due to related concerns. She gave JFKHS as an example, noting staff report early, and asked if additional pay for night differentials would be considered when staff work earlier or later, or if they should only focus on Carnegie units.

Mr. Sablan said they can put that into their recommendation before they make the final resolution. He repeated that the double session for SSHS and JFKHS will remain status quo until the completion of FBLGMS, which they anticipate will be in December or the months after that. He said that in the meantime, instructional time has to be addressed and presented to the Board before the school year starts.

Dr. Okada commented that while completing FBGLMS construction is important, ordering necessary collateral equipment is equally crucial. She asked that the Board not be asked to remain status quo through the academic year due to equipment delays. If the move is expected in December, the equipment must also be ready then to allow a smooth transition back to FBLGMS.

Mr. Sablan clarified that responsibility for the funding and equipment falls on Dr. Swanson and the legislature, relying on a \$51 million reimbursement and \$3.5 million for FBGLMS collateral equipment. He said they are regularly coordinating with Senator Borja to secure funds, covering both student and cafeteria equipment. Guam's request is reportedly among the first batch of resolutions on the desk of the US DOE, but they have not received a response yet. He also stated he will recuse himself from voting due to a conflict of interest.

Mr. Ada said he was not voting.

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to keep the double session status quo for F.B. Leon Guerrero Middle School/Okkodo High School until the completion of FBLGMS.

Dr. Okada motioned, seconded by Dr. Guthertz, to amend the motion to require the resolution of the instructional time before the academic year starts in August. The Board voted by voice with a vote 8-0. The motion passed.

Ms. Mafnas urged everyone to collaborate in finding funding, emphasizing that securing funds is key to setting all of the wheels in motion.

Mr. Sablan said they promise to do that.

Ms. Mafnas emphasized the need to identify and maintain all necessary resources, including collateral, for the plan to work. She noted the process will take time and asked if Senator Borja or other legislators could assist Dr. Swanson and the Board in moving forward. She stressed that everything currently depends on completing FBLGMS to support SSHS.

- b. FEMA Project Status Report
- c. FBLG Renovation Status Report
- d. Mold Mitigation/Fencing Status Report – Dr. Swanson said the fencing contracts are on hold because the Department of Administration needs clarification on specifications, causing a pause in the process.

Mr. Ada asked Dr. Swanson if any classrooms still had mold, mentioning he saw bad mold outside a southern school, inquired if there was any report on indoor mold issues.

Dr. Swanson said he has no reports on mold in classrooms and asked Mr. Pangelinan to respond.

Mr. Pangelinan replied that none had been brought to their attention.

Mr. Ada asked if nothing had been brought to his attention by the principals.

Mr. Pangelinan said that by anyone.

Mr. Ada noted that the outside of a school he visited in the south had significant mold, though he wasn't sure about the condition inside.

Mr. Pangelinan asked Mr. Ada to provide him with the name of the school so he could go down to take a look at it.

Mr. Ada said Southern High School.

Mr. Pangelinan said he lives in the south, and he didn't see any mold.

Mr. Ada said he will escort him and show him the exact spot.

Mr. Pangelinan said that after meeting with GSA, they found the department's scope of work unclear. GSA recommended that the department first address air control, assess the results, and then use that to prepare the bidding.

Mr. Ada said that makes sense.

Mr. Pangelinan said they submitted all required documents and answered all of their questions, gave them the scope of work, but haven't received a response yet. The fencing scope of work is done, the package is together, and they're waiting for GSA to push it out. He asked Mr. Ada if he wanted to escort him to the school tomorrow. He joked that he's holding up progress.

Mr. Sablan asked about the funding.

Dr. Swanson replied that the funding is through DOA (Department of Administration) – money set aside for post-Mawar repairs, noting it's refundable.

Mr. Sablan said they need to follow up with GSA now that things are clarified. He noted an email from DOA stating that procurement delays weren't their fault, but because the department hadn't provided needed clarifications.

Dr. Swanson said they've cleared that up.

Mr. Sablan said now that they've done it, they should fire someone's dagan (butt) and get it going.

Dr. Swanson said yes to get it going.

Mr. Sablan said that by the next meeting, hopefully, they should have the correct bid specs out and schedule.

Dr. Swanson said that it should be on the streets by then.

- e. Dashboard Status Report – Mrs. Gutierrez expressed strong frustration over the lack of progress on the department's dashboard. She pointed out that Dr. Swanson began in July 2023, and shortly after, she started asking about the dashboard. Now, nearly a year later, he is requesting input on what data to include, which she sees as unacceptable. She questioned what the staff responsible for the dashboard has been doing, especially since key data like attendance, discipline, and graduation rates are already available. She criticized delays, the switch to a second vendor, and excuses involving procurement and

legal issues, saying Dr. Swanson isn't using legal support properly. She called for accountability, asked about the salary of the dashboard staff, and said this delay was a failure. She emphasized that the dashboard is essential, referencing its value in other states and how it could help track issues like maintenance. She urged the department to stop any distractions, like field trips, and focus on completing the dashboard.

Mr. Sablan said he hears and sees her passion and frustration. He told Dr. Swanson to prepare the dashboard report for the May 20th meeting, no extensions. He thanked Senator Borja for attending on his way out. He also recognized former speaker, senator, and now education liaison Judith Won Pat. He told her she would be given an opportunity to come up and say something.

- f. Management and Curriculum Audit Status Report – Deputy Paul said they submitted the SEFRAD (Schedule of Federal Receivables and Deferrals) last Friday, and Ernst & Young (EY) returned it, asking for a more detailed version. He said his two audit people have been working on it today.

Mr. Sablan asked Deputy Paul to explain what the acronyms stood for.

Deputy Paul said EY is the one performing the audit for the OPA for GDOE. He said the goal was to have everything that EY still needs in by Wednesday.

He asked if this was the same report that the DOA director wanted.

Deputy Paul said no; he wants a balance sheet as of February. To provide that, they must first complete the SEFRAD and make necessary changes based on it.

Mr. Sablan asked if he had responded to Mr. Birns.

Deputy Paul said that he replied today.

Mrs. Gutierrez stated that the report is required by public law, not Board policy, and must be completed by June 30, 2025. She said this was funded in the FY25 budget. She said Dr. Won Pat should know about it and that it's the department, not the Board, that is violating the law, noting the report hasn't even gone out.

Deputy Paul said Procurement had questions that needed answers from legal counsel, and the matter is currently with the legal team.

Attorney Matt Wolff replied he had given feedback but couldn't discuss specifics due to the ongoing procurement. He emphasized that Procurement needs to address the issue, and it likely doesn't go to the Attorney General because it's under \$500 thousand.

Mr. Sablan said that even after the vendor is selected, approved, and processed, the department will not reach the June 30th deadline.

Deputy Paul said they're not going to make the June 30th deadline.

Dr. Okada said they knew about this for more than a year; the law was passed more than a year ago, but with just a month before the report deadline, they still haven't even issued the Purchase Order.

Deputy Paul said he will push to get it out within the next week, noting the contractor has already been selected, and only the letter of notification remains.

Mr. Sablan noted that Mrs. Gutierrez and Mr. Ada have to leave before 6 pm. He said they have other important issues they have to act upon, and he'd like them to still be here so they can get their official votes. He went to discuss the New Business.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Not discussed

- 1) Executive Committee
 - a. National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)
 - i) NASBE 2025 Nominations
 - ii) New Member Institute Attendees
- 2) Instructional & Academic Support Committee
 - a. May Head Start Report
- 3) Fiscal Management Committee
 - 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 –
 - b. US Department of Education Specific Conditions Report –

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Travel Policy – Not discussed
- 2) Assignment of School Attendance Areas and School Boundaries – Student Support Services Division Administrator Christopher Anderson, standing in for Dr. Adamos, invited Principal Darlene Castro to come up in case there are any granular questions he cannot answer. He noted that each member received a map and corresponding documents showing attendance areas and the number of students identified to attend Ligan Elementary School (LES) and JM Guerrero Elementary School (JMGES). He praised Ms. Castro for putting together the map and explained it to the Board.

Mrs. Gutierrez explained that bus stops are determined by the mayor and the Department of Public Works, not GDOE. She said mayors ensure bus stops aren't on private property and advised verifying this, noting that when parents requested a bus stop at TAMES, DPW said only the mayor could designate it.

Mr. Anderson said he believes Dr. Adamos has been attending the DPW meetings and verifying bus stops with them. He said he would confirm with her, and if she has, to also consult with the mayors. He believes these are the bus stops that currently serve CBMES students.

Mrs. Gutierrez said that the bus stops in her area are cement. She mentioned that Mr. Mendiola, whose children attend Father Duenas, worked with Mr. Garcia to relocate the bus stop near 7-Day Mart because it was very close to the road.

Mr. Anderson said that Ms. Castro also confirms that the bus stops are all concrete.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she cleans the bus stop.

Mr. Anderson continued to explain the presentation. He thanked Ms. Castro for putting together the data.

Mr. Sablan asked if the distribution was disseminated to the affected students and parents.

Ms. Castro said yes, they were already informed back on March 5th.

Mr. Sablan asked if the CBMES student registration is ongoing at the schools.

Ms. Castro replied that they weren't taking any registrations for the next school year. She said that the students currently attending CBMES will automatically be reassigned to their new district schools, Liguán Elementary School (LES) or Juan M. Guerrero Elementary School (JMGES).

Mr. Sablan said that's what he was trying to ask – the students already know where they're going to go.

Ms. Castro said that was correct.

Mr. Sablan asked if the other students were going to TAMES.

Ms. Castro replied that none of the students were going to TAMES unless they were out of district.

Mr. Sablan said they were only talking about fewer than 200 students.

Ms. Castro replied that it was from Kindergarten to 4th grade. They're not including 5th graders because the 5th graders will be going to LP Untalan Middle School (LPUMS).

Mrs. Gutierrez inquired about the housing near the CBMES fence and asked which schools the students living there attend.

Ms. Castro replied that they will go to TAMES.

Mrs. Gutierrez mentioned an apartment located before the airport and asked whether the students living there attend TAMES or JMGES.

Ms. Castro responded that if they referred to the map, she wanted to make sure they were talking about the same area because their road, behind Kmart, is the line, and everything back there are businesses. She said that's supposed to be their district area in the event that there are any homes or apartments in that area.

Mrs. Gutierrez said that when they were working on the maximization, they were told that there would be about 60 students who would go to TAMES/LBJES, and the rest would go to LES and JMGES.

Ms. Castro said she understands that. She said there was a reassignment; the line shifted because when they were having meetings along with TAMES, and a possibility of a merge, they were considering the numbers as well, so that the LBJES could fit in TAMES. She said students in their area could fit in LES and JMGES comfortably.

Mr. Sablan asked if he had to approve the assignment of school attendance areas and the school boundaries report.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked if they were asking the Board to approve the bus stop.

Mr. Sablan said no, he thinks it's the movement of the students to either school.

Mrs. Gutierrez said that when they did the decommissioning, they should have already known which students were going to go. She asked if this was final.

Mr. Anderson said that he believes this is final. He said it's his understanding that they have to brief the Board – that if there were questions and inquiries about the distribution of students from CBMES to LES and JMGES, they were to provide an update, answer questions, or clarify. He said this was the plan as it stands right now.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked if all the 221 students at CBMES are all for LES and JMGES.

Mr. Anderson said that was correct. He also mentioned that the Head Start students at CBMES will be consolidated to TAMES and JMGES.

Mr. Sablan said the Board does not have to formally adopt this.

Mr. Anderson said he would defer to Dr. Swanson because he wasn't sure what was required, but noted that this was the plan for how the students would be distributed.

Mr. Ada asked Mr. Anderson if he had been consulting with the bus operations.

Mr. Anderson replied not he personally but Dr. Adamos has been in regular meetings with DPW. He said he himself has personally met with the mayor of Dededo. He said they got counsel from the mayors who were impacted in different community meetings.

Mr. Ada said the mayors and DPW have been consulted regarding bus operations.

Mr. Anderson said he's clarifying that he personally has not, but he believes Dr. Adamos has been in consultation with DPW, and he can confirm that with her just to make sure he's giving the correct information.

Dr. Okada said that based on Board Policy 318, a list of attendance areas is not necessarily approved by the Board, but it must be available on file in each of the principals' offices of the affected schools and at the central office. She said it doesn't require the Board to approve it; it provides the Superintendent authorization to establish the attendance areas.

Mr. Sablan asked Dr. Won Pat if she wanted to say a few words.

Dr. Won Pat, speaking as a lifelong educator (not on behalf of the governor), expressed deep disappointment with the Board's decision, saying children were not prioritized. She shared that parents are considering moving their kids to charter schools due to instructional loss from double sessions. She noted the law requires 300 minutes of instructional time and 180 days of school, but students currently only get about 4 hours daily. She criticized the idea that making up instructional time would be voluntary, which would likely benefit only college-bound students. She stressed that students are tomorrow's leaders and deserve better. Reflecting on past experiences, she recalled extending school days to make up lost time, which was supported by teachers. She said the current approach falls short and called it a sad day for students and educators because of the failure to put children first.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Mr. Sablan said they were going to go into executive session, but they've determined there's no need to do so for transparency and the public. He explained that during the last meeting, the Board had asked Dr. Swanson to respond to a list of charges, which he did. After consulting with the Attorney General's office and a court reporter, they were advised that to terminate Dr. Swanson, they must either buy out his contract or hold a public hearing with an appointed hearing officer. Dr. Swanson requested that the hearing, if pursued, be public. To move forward, Mr. Sablan appointed Dr. McNinch and Mr. Ada to coordinate the selection of a mutually agreed-upon hearing officer. He hopes this process will be ready by the May 20th meeting so they can authorize necessary expenses and schedule the hearings. He then asked Dr. McNinch and Mr. Ada to confirm their acceptance of the task.

Dr. McNinch and Mr. Ada agreed.

Mr. Sablan asked them to review Dr. Swanson's contract regarding the selection of a hearing officer and to collaborate with Dr. Swanson on it. Hey, said they would proceed based on that. He also noted that a previous motion didn't pass due to only having four votes, as Mr. Ada was off-island. Dr. Guthertz requested reconsideration of her motion, and Mr. explained that it could be reconsidered, but they would need five votes to do so.

Dr. Guthertz motioned, seconded by Mr. Ada, for Dr. Swanson to provide a written progress report addressing the specific department related concerns listed in the Board's April 4, 2025 letter to him to be submitted no later than May 15, 2025, which would be reviewed by the Board in conjunction with the continuing evaluation of Dr. Swanson. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 5-3. The motion passed

Dr. Guthertz said that in the last meeting, she asked the Board to reconsider the process because Dr. Swanson's response focused on procedural issues rather than addressing the substance of the concerns raised. She repeated her motion, aiming to clarify the status of all the issues brought to Dr. Swanson's attention. Since she's new to the Board and wasn't involved in the original evaluation, she feels important information is missing. She wants her motion to be reconsidered and passed before proceeding with the hearing process.

Mr. Sablan reminded her that May 15 is coming up next week.

Dr. Guthertz said if someone wants to amend the motion to extend it longer, it is fine with her.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she didn't understand the extension. She said that on the contract, it states that every quarter there should be a self-appraisal. She said she has not seen any self-appraisal other than the monthly report. She said last year, July, it wasn't a report but a self-appraisal written by somebody else. She told Dr. Guthertz that she respected her motion, but she wasn't in support of it.

Dr. Guthertz replied that the motion was based on the fact that the response they received did not address those concerns. She said the response they received was an assessment of the process of the evaluation, what Dr. Swanson felt were deficiencies in the process. She said that was fine, but she wants to know the status of these concerns – what has been accomplished, what hasn't been, what the status is at least before she can move forward, before she has enough information to be able to make any kind of decision.

Ms. Borja, Mrs. Gutierrez, and Dr. Okada voted no.

Mrs. Gutierrez said he should know better than to respond to those charges and questioned where his self-appraisal was. She noted that the dashboard, which is part of the evaluation, had not been provided. She referenced the contract requirement for self-appraisals after October 2023, stating that none had been submitted. She also criticized the monthly reports as being cut and pasted, adding that she was simply stating the facts.

Mr. Sablan told Dr. Swanson that if he doesn't understand the motion, he asked that he refer to Dr. Guthertz so she could clarify what kind of response is needed from him. He then told his colleagues that the process has already started – two Board members have already been appointed to collaborate and find an acceptable hearing officer. He said this process moves forward until somebody on the Board decides that they want to discontinue it. He told Dr. Swanson that he needs to submit his answers for his evaluation, which is coming up on June 30th.

Dr. Swanson acknowledged. He asked the Board to clarify specifically the elements of the charge. He said there were no clear questions in it.

Mr. Sablan said he could discuss it with Dr. Guthertz.

Dr. Swanson acknowledged.

Mr. Sablan expressed his condolences to Mrs. Gutierrez and told her to have a safe trip, and they'll see her when she gets back.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she'll be back for the next meeting.

Mr. Sablan asked if there were any other actions that needed to be taken care of on the agenda.

Ms. Lamorena said NASBE.

Mrs. Gutierrez said they could wait until the next meeting since the matter isn't due until June 13. She then shared that NASBE had a meeting this morning with all the state boards, discussing requests for reconsideration of liquidation submitted to US Ed. She mentioned that Kansas was disapproved for a teacher training grant due to a lack of student achievement improvement and persistent absenteeism. She added that more states were still waiting for decisions. She also clarified that the May 12 date for hearing from US Ed wasn't mentioned in their meeting, and even the states hadn't received any updates.

Mr. Sablan said that May 12 is a mystery date, but the good thing is the department's requests are in, and hopefully will be addressed soon. He hopes that the Kansas determination is not a precursor to any other state or territory asking for assistance. He stated that there would be no briefing this Thursday unless new information comes in, and the remaining items on the agenda will be moved to the May 20th meeting. He also noted a request to meet back on a monthly schedule starting in June, at least until the school year begins, so those who have plans can plan ahead.

Mr. Ada left at 6:10 pm.

Mrs. Gutierrez motioned, seconded by Mrs. Angel, to revert to once-a-month meetings starting in June 2025. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

Mrs. Gutierrez said she wants to revert because they're getting paid twice a month, and they only budgeted for once a month. She proposed giving the extra money to the schools instead.

Mr. Sablan asked if the meetings would be on the first or the third Tuesday of the month.

Members of the Board meet on the third Tuesday of the month.

Mr. Sablan said they have a meeting on May 20, but starting in June, meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

Dr. McNinch asked if they could still call for special meetings anytime.

Mr. Sablan said yes.

Mrs. Gutierrez asked Mr. Sablan to direct Dr. Swanson to have HR check with all schools about employees who are retiring. She mentioned a school aide at Machananao, who has been there since the school's opening and is retiring at the end of May. She emphasized the need to recognize long-time employees for their hard work and are show them appreciation.

Mr. Fedenko said today was National Teacher's Day and expressed gratitude to all teachers for their hard work and sacrifices.

Mr. Sablan thanked the teachers and also expressed gratitude to Mr. Fedenko for always supporting the teachers.

Dr. Okada said it was also National Nurses' Month.

Mr. Fedenko said tomorrow was National Nurses' Day.

Mr. Sablan joked it's everybody's month.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Angel 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 6:17 p.m.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:


KATHLEEN LAMORENA
Administrative Officer


Date: May 30, 2025

MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2025 REGULAR MEETING:

- ☒ Approved as submitted
☐ Approved subject to corrections
☐ Other: _____


ANGEL R. SABLAN
GEB Chair

Date: 6-17-25


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

Date: 6/17/25