DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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JON J.P. FERNANDEZ
Superintendent of Education

May 11, 2018

GL#34-18-1874
Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz

MAY 11 2018
Time: 150 [ ] AM [ ] PM File No. ____
Received By:

Honorable Benjamin J.F. Cruz
Speaker, 34th Guam Legislature
155 Hesler Place
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Speaker Cruz:

Håfa Adai! I am submitting the Guam Education Board packet for the Special Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 6 pm, at the Supts. Conf. Room, Bldg. A, Tiyan.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 300-1627.

Attachment
- GEB Meeting Packet

cc: File

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Public Notices

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

500 Mariner Avenue
Barrigada, Guam 96913-1608
Telephone Number: (671) 300-1627
Facsimile Number: (671) 472-5001
Website Address: www.gdoe.net/geb

MARK B. MENDIOLA
Chairman

MARIA A. GUTIERREZ
Vice Chairwoman

8th Guam Education Board
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 16, 2018
6 PM
Superintendent's Conference Room, Building A., Tiyan

AGENDA

I. **Meeting Call to Order**

II. **Roll Call of Members**

III. **Unfinished Business**

1. Reassignment of Attendance Areas

IV. **Adjournment**

VOTING MEMBERS: Maria A. Gutierrez, Chairwoman, Mark B. Mendiola, Vice Chair, Peter Alecxis D. Ada, Lourdes M. Benavente, Robert A. Crisostomo, James C. Lujan, Ronald L. McNinch, PhD, Lourdes B. San Nicolas
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Ernie Samelo (SHS), IBOGS Representative, Mark McCarthy (AHES), GFT Representative, Mayor, Rudy M. Matanane, MCOG Representative
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Jon J. P. Fernandez, GDOE Superintendent

Gubernatorial candidates talk political status options

By Kevin Kerrigan
kevin@postguam.com

Four Democrats and one Republican hoping to be Guam's next governor took up the issue of Guam's future political status during one of the first debates in the 2018 gubernatorial race, held Tuesday night at the University of Guam Calvo Field House.

While Guam does have the option of voting for statehood, independence or free association, but not status quo, it wasn't clear from most of the candidates if they're ready to draw a clear line between moving closer to, or away from the U.S. political family.

The "One Guam" gubernatorial debate on decolonization started with "Joe Guam" warming up the crowd with CHamoru songs. Each camp broke into raucous cheers as their candidate arrived and took the stage.

UOG President Robert Underwood set the tone at the start, welcoming the five candidates "to the gubernatorial debate for the next governor of the colony of Guam."

"Decolonization is not just a change of political status, it's a process that frees us from the experience of colonialism," Underwood said.

"The CHamoru people of Guåhan are the legitimate inheritors of the right to decolonize."

After that welcome, each candidate was called to the podium to declare his or her position on decolonization: Should Guam choose statehood, free association or independence?

Where they stand

"I stand here in full support of CHamoru self-determination," said Democrat Sen. Dennis Rodriguez Jr. Referring to his Filipino heritage, he declared, "We know what it's like to be free. ... We must stand with our chelus in this fight and demand that their rights be recognized as well."



DEBATE: *Gubernatorial candidates debate Tuesday night at the University of Guam Calvo Field House. Norman M. Taruc/The Guam Daily Post*

Former Democrat Gov. Carl Gutierrez said, "The only solution for decolonization is independence." He said he has been involved in the quest for self-determination for five decades, and what the island needs is "someone who can hit the ground running to get this situation finally resolved."

Democrat Lou Leon Guerrero called the decolonization issue complex. "I commit that if elected governor, I will continue the fight to hold a vote to correct the historical injustice against Guam," she said. "But the most important question of this debate, is this: Is Guam prepared for whatever option we might choose?"

"We must right the wrongs," said Republican Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio, "by enabling native inhabitants, the CHamorus, to declare their fundamental right to self-determination."

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But he said he continues to support a continuing relationship with the United States.

Democrat Sen. Frank Aguon Jr. said "decolonization is a fundamental inalienable right which must be realized and achieved." He said the process should begin with "a campaign to educate the community on the three statuses – independence, statehood and free association."

Concerns over resources, military presence

Debate questions ranged from how best to manage Guam's water and other natural resources, to the role of the U.S. military and how to build Guam's economy.

"Lets face it, ladies and gentlemen, no matter what we push for on our self-determination ... who says the military is not going to be in the mix?" asked Gutierrez. "We are so important to the national security of the United States, that if we sit down with them that's one of the big things they're going to say: 'We gotta stay.' "

Leon Guerrero said, "It's important to fight against the militarization of our island," adding that "it will injure our environment."

Rodriguez suggested one self-determination option worth pursuing is "to go the Native American route," an option he said he has given some thought.

"It's very critical that the self-governance study be conducted," said Aguon, "so that these key questions on national defense, on cultural preservation and other issues are part of the information disseminated, so that our people can make a well-informed decision."

"Reunification, Micronesia, I'm totally for that," Leon Guerrero said.

Tenorio added, "No matter what our status is, we need an economy that employs our people."

Supporters out in force

What did emerge from Tuesday night's debate is that the gubernatorial race has just heated up, with supporters from each camp showing their vocal support for their candidate.

The bleachers were segmented into the five gubernatorial camps, each full of partisan supporters with their signs and slogans to mark their candidate's turf around the field house. The front half of the field house floor was reserved for VIP guests, but a third of those seats went unfilled. The back half was reserved for the overflow of the partisan crowd, and the visiting public.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

8th Guam Education Board
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 16, 2018
6 PM
Superintendent's Conference Room, Building A., Tiyan

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Roll Call of Members
III. Unfinished Business
1. Reassignment of Attendance Areas
IV. Adjournment

Individuals requiring special accommodations or information may contact Leilani Cruz, Administrative Officer at 300-1627 or by email: lmbcruz@gdoe.net.

This advertisement was paid by GDOE local funds.

GUAM ELECTION COMMISSION
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E-Mail: vote@gec.guam.gov Website: www.gec.guam.gov

GUAM ELECTION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

The Guam Election Commission has scheduled its monthly meeting for **Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 5:30 p.m.,** at the Guam Election Commission Conference Room 200, 414 W. Soledad Ave., GCIC Building, Hagåtña, Guam.

The public is invited. For individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services please contact the Guam Election Commission. For more information, you may call Helen M. Atalig at (671) 477-9791 or send an email to vote@gec.guam.gov.

This advertisement is paid with Government funds.

Unfinished Business

A draft resolution will be forthcoming.