THE OFFICE OF THE
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May 2, 2019

35GL-19-0479
Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes
MAY 0 3 2019
Time 3:07 ( )AM, (PM
Received By: Matt

2019 MAY -3 PM 5:08

Mr. Jon J. P. Fernandez
Superintendent of Education
501 Mariner Avenue
Barrigada, Guam 96913

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Mr. Fernandez,

I am in receipt of your response regarding GACS request of Building E. If I read your letter correctly, you are now consolidating special education and facilities and maintenance to be housed at the "broader campus in Tiyan." I applaud your decision. However, you now want to use Building E for the CHamoru Language and Culture Revitalization Center. I am very supportive of the revitalization of the CHamoru language and culture. As a matter of fact, on my last term, this was legislation I sponsored to re-establish I Kumision i Fino CHamoru. I equally support a CHamoru Language Emersion Charter School.

I would like to recap all the events surrounding Building E. First, the building was vacated by Head Start and Federal Programs to move to the main GDOE building. LRC remained because their site was not available. Based on the available information, I penned a letter regarding the use of building E for our public school students housed at the Guahan Academy Charter School. I was confident to procure your support based on your track record of supporting our island students.

I was elated to hear when GDOE decided to consolidate the special education and facilities and maintenance needs to the "broader Tiyan campus." It was an opportunity for our public school students in our Charter School to gain access to Building E to expand its curricular offerings as we develop a stronger college and career ready program for them.

After receiving your letter, dated April 29, 2019, I was plainly disheartened for our public school students here at the Charter School that a loss opportunity for an educational facility was given greater priority to house the CHamoru Language and Culture Revitalization Center at the same building. I've requested for the use of the building to house STUDENTS and programs to meet their needs, specifically for:

0479

Department of Education
Office of the Superintendent
Date: 5/3/19 Time: 2:11 pm
Rec'd By: Maria
Print Name Signature

- Special needs students including speech (Tiny Eye) and other related services
- Life Skills programs for our Special Education children,
- Pocket groups for Special Education students, ESL, and low-performing students
- 2 CHamoru classrooms for 4 CHamoru Language teachers
- 4 Career and Technical Education classrooms to provide high school students to prepare them for college and career readiness
- DI testing room for student placement
- Open space for a Library
- Counselor's office to protect confidentiality of students through Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.
- Continue GDOE's audiology equipment in the building to avoid additional cost of moving and re-calibrating the equipment and for charter school student use and services.

Mr. Fernandez, may I suggest that we work as a team and partners in education to seek alternative sites to house the CHamoru Language and Culture Revitalization Center either in the "broader Tiyan campus" or other GDOE school campuses with vacant classrooms. As a team, we can re-examine the maximum use of the Tiyan campus so our public school students in the Charter School be given a fighting chance for a promising educational opportunities. This concept can easily be achieved through your support.

As the former legislative oversight chair of education, the Tiyan facilities for JFKHS housed a population of 2,700 students. Today, Tiyan HS has a population of 1,300 students. I envision that the Tiyan HS less student enrollment gives us the opportunity to take advantage of the extra vacant classrooms. Alternatively, and with your support, can we consider the use of Building C located directly across the GDOE headquarters.

Mr. Superintendent, the students at the Charter School want to take advantage of your conviction and to champion for them by providing a sound educational facility and programs for them. They are really counting on you for support. For that, I am respectfully appealing to you with a supplication petition to accommodate our students.

I am diligently working with GACS parents and student leaders regarding this matter, and we are excited to hear a positive response from your office. We plan to hold a community meeting to announce your supportive decision.

Doc. No. 35GL-19-0479.

I hope that as partners, you will find routes of opportunities to help Guahan Academy Charter School students.

I remain your partner in education.

Senseramente,

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Chief Academic Officer
Guahan Academy Charter School

Cc: The Honorable Governor Lou Leon Guerrero
The Honorable Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio
The Honorable Speaker, Tina Muna Barnes and Senators, 35th Guam Legislature
Chairwoman, Guam Academy Charter Schools Council
Chairwoman and Members, GACS Board of Trustees
Chairman and Members, Guam Education Board
Director of Dept of CHamoru Affairs
Chair, I Kumision I Fino CHamoru
GACS PTO Officers
GACS STUCO Officers