clerks@guamlegislature.org

From: Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Clerks Office
Cc: Rennae Meno
Subject: M&C Fwd: GEB August 25, 2020 Meeting - Reporting Requirements
Attachments: GEB Reporting Requirements August 25, 2020 meeting.pdf

09-11-20	9:01 AM	09-08-20	Reporting Requirements for Boards and Commissions-Meeting Agenda, and other documents for Guam Education Board regular meeting held on August 25, 2020.*	Department of Education-Office of the Superintendent	35GL-20-2200

Sinseru yan Minagåhet,

Office of the Speaker • Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources & the Guam Buildup

35th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building | 163 Chalan Santo Papa | Hagatna, GU 96910
T: (671) 477-2520/1
speaker@guamlegislature.org

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Gumai pribilehu yan konfedensia este siha na mensåhi. Solo espesiåtmente para hågu ma entensioña pat ma aturisa para unrisibi. Sen prubidu kumu ti un ma aturisa para manribisa, na'setbe, pat mandespåtcha. Yanggen lachi rinisibu-mu nu este na mensåhi , put fabot ago' guatu gi I numa'huyong gi as speaker@guamlegislature.org yan despues destrosa todu siha I kopian mensåhi. Si Yu'os ma'åse'.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Christie Lyn San Nicolas** <clsannicolas@gdoe.net>
Date: Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 9:01 AM
Subject: GEB August 25, 2020 Meeting - Reporting Requirements
To: Governor's Office - Michael Weakley <michael.weakley@guam.gov>, Speaker Barnes

<speaker@guamlegislature.org>
Cc: Jon Fernandez (Superintendent) <jonfernandez@gdoe.net>, Maria Roberto <mdroberto@gdoe.net>

Hafa Adai,

Please see the attached documents for the Guam Education Board's Meeting held on August 25, 2020.

Please confirm receipt of this email.

Respectfully,

Christie Lyn San Nicolas
Office of the Superintendent
Guam Department of Education
501 Mariner Avenue Barrigada, Guam 96913
Tel: (671)300-1627 |Email: clsannicolas@gdoe.net

Guam Department of Education

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

www.gdoe.net
501 Mariner Avenue
Barrigada, Guam 96913
Telephone: (671) 300-1547/1536•Fax: (671)472-5003
Email: jonfernandez@gdoe.net

JON J. P. FERNANDEZ
Superintendent of Education

September 8, 2020

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
Adelup, Guam 96910

Honorable Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Speaker
Thirty-fifth Guam Legislature
Hagåtña, Guam 96932

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero and Speaker Barnes:

Håfa Adai! Pursuant to Public Law 31-233, Section 38, *Reporting Requirements for Boards and Commissions,* attached are copies of the Guam Education Board's meeting agenda, approved minutes and other documents as discussed at the August 25, 2020 regular board meeting. The meeting was held via Zoom Conferencing.

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

Senseramente,

JON J. P. FERNANDEZ
Superintendent of Education

Attachments

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD

501 Mariner Avenue
Barrigada, Guam 96913-1608
Telephone Number: (671) 300-1627
Facsimile Number: (671) 472-5003
Website Address: www.gdoe.net/geb

MARIA A. GUTIERREZ
Chairwoman

MARK B. MENDIOLA
Vice-Chair

9th Guam Education Board
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Tuesday, August 25, 2020
6 PM
Zoom Conferencing
AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

ACTION 1. Minutes of July 28, 2020 Regular Meeting
ACTION 2. Minutes of August 11, 2020 Special Meeting

III. Public Participation (BP 125.6) Time Limit 3 minutes

IV. Communications

INFO 1. Correspondence
INFO 2. Superintendent's Report and Communication

V. Ex-Officio Member Reports

INFO 1. GFT
INFO 2. Mayor's Council of Guam

VI. Unfinished Business/ Committee Reports

1. **Executive Committee**
   - INFO/ACTION a. Superintendent's Contract
2. **Instructional & Academic Support Committee**
   - INFO/ACTION a. NASBE Stipend Grant
   - INFO b. Head Start Report
3. **Safe & Healthy Schools Committee**
4. **Organizational Efficiency and Development Committee**
5. **Fiscal Management**
   - INFO a. Update on FY20 and FY21 Budget
   - INFO b. USDOE Specific Conditions/High Risk

VII. New Business

VIII. Executive Session

The Board of Education reserves the right to go into executive session during any part of the meeting. Based on the Open Govt. Law specific matters can only be discussed. (Personnel Matters, Collective Bargaining Agreement, Contracts, and Litigation).

IX. Adjournment

VOTING MEMBERS:, Maria A. Gutierrez, Chairwoman, Mark B. Mendiola, Vice-Chair, Felicitas B. Angel, Lourdes M. Benavente, Karlyn RCG Borja, John T. Burch, James C. Lujan, Ronald L. McNinch, PhD
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Vacant - IBOGS Representative, Doris Terlaje - GFT Representative, Mayor, Melissa B. Savares, MCOG Representative
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Jon J. P. Fernandez, GDOE Superintendent

Wildfire spawns fire tornadoes in Northern California

LOS ANGELES (Los Angeles Times) – A massive wildfire in Northern California spawned rotating columns of flames Saturday, prompting forecasters to issue a rare fire-related tornado warning.

Multiple videos posted to social media showed twister-like formations in the path of the Loyalton fire, which started Friday evening in the Tahoe National Forest near California's border with Nevada. The fire quickly grew to 20,000 acres and was 0% contained as of Sunday morning. Authorities were performing updated flight mapping and expected the acreage to rise, said Joe Flannery, public affairs officer for the national forest.

Death Valley heat soars to 130 degrees

(The Washington Post) – In the midst of a historic heat wave in the West, the temperature in Death Valley, Calif., surged to 130 degrees Sunday afternoon, possibly setting a world record for the highest recorded August temperature.

If the temperature is valid, it would also rank among the top-three highest temperatures ever reliably measured on the planet at any time and may be the highest.

The temperature in Death Valley hit 130 degrees at 3:41 p.m. Pacific time on Sunday, according to the National Weather Service.

Right-wing groups clash with protesters in several states

By Andrew Hay
Reuters

Right-wing demonstrators fought with leftist counter protestors in Georgia, Michigan and Oregon on Saturday drawing in riot police and SWAT teams.

Groups ranging from an anti-government patriot group in Portland, Oregon to alt-right Proud Boys in Kalamazoo, Michigan battled anti-fascists and Black Lives Matter activists as months of anti-racism protests increasingly pitted Americans against one another.

Several dozen demonstrators, many armed and carrying Confederate battle flags, staged a rally in the Atlanta suburb of Stone Mountain next to a park famed for its giant monument to leaders of the breakaway slave-holding states.

A mix of militia members, Confederate followers and supporters of President Donald Trump faced off against more than a hundred left-wing protesters, some armed, many carrying signs or wearing T-shirts supporting Black Lives Matter.

After hours of shouting, and the burning of a Confederate flag, the protest devolved into scuffles and fist fights, drawing in police backed by a SWAT team.

In Kalamazoo, the all-male Proud Boys group staged a rally in support of police, clashing with members of the anti-fascist Michigan People's Defense League and other counter protesters, leading to several arrests, according to a statement by the city's Department of Public Safety.



GEORGIA: *An armed far-right militia member fist-bumps a police officer in riot gear as various militia groups stage rallies at the Confederate memorial at Stone Mountain, Georgia, on Aug. 15. Elijah Nouvelage/Reuters*

Several dozen right-wing demonstrators, some of them armed, also gathered in Portland on Saturday to oppose anti-fascists and back police after 80 days of protests against racism and police violence in the Oregon capital, local television station Koin 6 News reported.

Scuffles broke out between the Portland-based Patriot Prayer members and Black Lives Matter activists, with a Koin 6 photographer tweeting that he heard gunshots.

Portland Police did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A pattern among the clashes was rising tensions between right- and left-wing groups after nearly three months of protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody and President Donald Trump's "law and order" response to demonstrations.

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
01 Mariner Avenue
Barrigada, Guam 96913-1608
Telephone Number: (671) 300-1627
Facsimile Number: (671) 472-5003
Website Address: www.gdoe.net/geb

MARIA A. GUTIERREZ
Chairwoman

MARK B. MENDIOLA
Vice-Chair

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Tuesday, August 25, 2020
6 PM
Teleconference – via Zoom Conferencing
AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Approval of Minutes
III. Public Participation
IV. Communications
V. Ex-Officio Member Reports
VI. Unfinished Business/ Committee Reports
VII. New Business
VIII. Executive Session
IX. Adjournment

The public is welcome to view the meeting via live stream at https://www.facebook.com/DOEGuam.

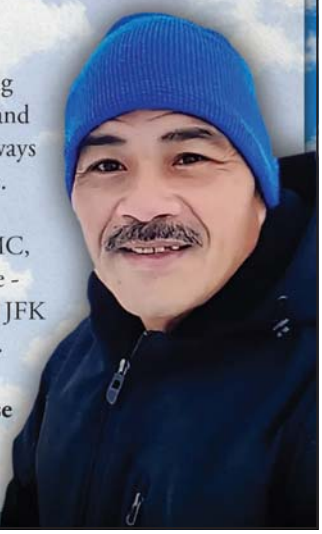
If you plan to provide public testimony please download the Zoom application on any of your devices and attend the meeting using this link: https://gdoe.zoom.us/j/99867156102. Individuals requiring special accommodations or information or wish to submit public testimony via email may contact Christie San Nicolas, Administrative Officer by email: clsannicolas@gdoe.net.

Agenda to be available on GEB website at least 72 hours before the meeting.
This advertisement was paid by GDOE local funds.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION
FROM THE FAMILY OF THE LATE

Leroy Patrick Aflleje Cruz

FONDLY KNOWN AS "LEE, ROY, AND LA"



We wish to extend our deepest appreciation to everyone for having supported us through your prayers and presence during our loss. We will always remember your love and kindness.

Special Thanks to The staff of GRMC, Ada's Funeral Home, Lauren Doyle - GRMC Pain Management Specialist, JFK Class of 80, Friends and Families.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

THE FAMILY

Doc. No. 35GL-20-2200.*

MARIA A. GUTIERREZ
Chairwoman

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
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MARK B. MENDIOLA
Vice-Chair

9th GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, July 28, 2020
6 pm
Zoom Conferencing
MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Maria A. Gutierrez, Chairwoman
Mark B. Mendiola, Vice-Chair
Felicitas B. Angel
Lourdes M. Benavente
Karlyn RCG Borja
John T. Burch
James C. Lujan
Ron L. McNinch, PhD

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Vacant
IBOGS Representative

Doris A. Terlaje
GFT Representative

Mayor, Melissa B. Savares
MCOG Representative

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Jon J.P. Fernandez
GDOE Superintendent

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Maria A. Gutierrez, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Mr. Fernandez, Superintendent and Executive Secretary, took the roll call. The following members were **present** for the meeting:

Voting Members:
Gutierrez, Maria A. – Chairwoman
Mendiola, Mark B. – Vice-Chair
Angel, Felicitas B.
Benavente, Lourdes M.
Borja, Karlyn RCG
Burch, John T.
McNinch, Dr. Ron L.

Non-Voting Members:
Labadnoy, Mika (SSHS) – Former IBOGS Representative
Terlaje, Doris A.– GFT Representatives
Savares, Melissa B. – MCOG Representative

Legal Counsel:
Nasis, Jesse

Absent:
Lujan, James C.

The Superintendent announced that seven (7) members of the Board were present, constituting a quorum.

Ms. Gutierrez congratulated Ms. Fely Angel who was confirmed on July 17, 2020 by the 35th Guam Legislature to serve a three-year term on the Guam Education Board from April 15, 2020 to April 14, 2023.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Mendiola motioned, seconded by Mr. Burch to approve the June 30, 2020, regular monthly meeting minutes, subject to corrections. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0 for the motion, motion passed.

Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Mr. Burch to move an item forward on the agenda, related to the Superintendent's Evaluation. The Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0 for the motion, motion passed.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Executive Committee

Superintendent's Evaluation - Dr. McNinch reported that the Board conducted an evaluation of the Superintendent as is required in the statute. He noted that because of the COVID virus they had to do things a little differently. They followed the statute deliberately as it specifies the duties of the superintendent, the evaluation questions reflected what is required in the statute. He explained that the superintendent was rated on a scale of one (1) to four (5) and the overall evaluation for him was an excellent 4.9 out of 5.0. He noted that they were all able to give the superintendent feedback and discuss their concerns with the superintendent. He stated that the main areas of improvement for the superintendent were very minor in nature, simply just various board issues related to how the superintendent acts as the executive officer but they were just a few general points. He commented that they had a very good evaluation and all the members were able to participate. The superintendent was a very critical part of the process and he made the evaluation a very deliberate process in his cooperation with working with all of them.

Ms. Gutierrez noted that they all received a copy of the evaluation. She stated that the superintendent responded to areas that he felt need a response, as of yesterday at five o'clock there were only two individuals that requested to modify their original scores. She extended her appreciation to Dr. Zeni Natividad who has always assisted the board when it comes to the finalization of the evaluation scores. She noted that she is well trusted and worked with Dr. McNinch and this is the result.

Dr. McNinch motioned, seconded by Ms. Angel to accept and approve the report of the Superintendent's evaluation results. The Superintendent took roll call and the Board voted by voice with a vote of 7-0 for the motion, motion passed.

Ms. Gutierrez noted that they would be holding a press conference tomorrow to announce the results of the Superintendent's evaluation.

Mr. Mendiola thanked Dr. McNinch and the other board members. He commented that he knows that the process was not as stressful as he has experienced in the past evaluations and he felt that it was very thorough and stuck to the fact that it engaged with the public in terms of the responsibilities and duties of the superintendent. Additionally, it allowed the board members to address some of their issues. He appreciated that they were able to add comments and engage with the superintendent, which gave them the flexibility to rethink some of the points because there was a lot of thought put into the comment section. He thanked the superintendent and commented that he was chairman for two years and worked closely with him and knows that a lot of work was put out when the pandemic hit and under the leadership of the chairperson they continue to move ahead and move the department forward. He thanked the superintendent for the work and the support that he has given the board to help it accomplish its goals and mission. Mr. Mendiola asked Ms. Gutierrez what time the press conference is scheduled for.

Ms. Gutierrez responded that it would be held tomorrow at 9:30 am.

Mr. Mendiola commented that the GDOE posts the evaluations of the superintendent and he is not sure if any other agency does that.

Dr. McNinch thanked all the board members for taking on the process in a very deliberate manner and thanked the superintendent for making it a good process.

Ms. Gutierrez commented that the evaluation template is much easier since they modified it with the superintendent's approval. Previously, they had to review many boxes and documents in their evaluation of the superintendent. She noted that when they all received the superintendent's 11 page self-appraisal it showed all the work that he has done. She commented that she has been through many superintendents and she sees Mr. Fernandez taking this ship of GDOE into the right waters. She stated that she just wanted to make everyone know all the work that he has put in, especially through this pandemic. She added that he has a family at home waiting for him too. He has done a lot and everything in the evaluation is what is followed by the law. Ms. Gutierrez thanked the superintendent for all his hard work and thanked his team for helping him. She commented that she had hoped that Mr. Fernandez's rating had gone up but at least it was as high as it was. Mr. Fernandez has been the superintendent for eight years, and that is the longest amount of time that anyone has been Superintendent of Education. She stated that with his leadership she knows that we will be successful in getting off of high risk. She congratulated and thanked Mr. Fernandez. She stated that the public needs to know that he received a 4.9 with outstanding performance. She congratulated Mr. Fernandez and his family.

Mr. Fernandez thanked the board and stated that he appreciates the fact that the board continues to work together and they all continue to work to get things done in the department, even in the midst of a pandemic situation through which they have been very supportive in helping us navigate through some rough waters. He thanked that chairwoman and vice chair who have been the chair and vice chair over the past three years for their guidance and leadership. He thanked all the board members, to include the ex-officio members for their support as well. He stated that most importantly it is really the team approach at GDOE and none of this could be done without the leadership team, those who are on the management team now and those who have been a part of the management team before. He stated that that included Ms. Taling Taitano, Ms. Stacey Coletta, Mr. Joe Sanchez, Dr. Kelly Sukola, Acting Deputy Ms. Erika Cruz and Dr. Zeny Asuncion, along with them, their staff, their teams and everyone in the department who contributes to the work. He stated that he looks at this evaluation as really an evaluation of the entire department and where we are headed. He thanked them and stated that he looks forward to their continued partnership.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

CORRESPONDENCE –

Appointment of Mr. Lawrence Alcairo to the GEB - Ms. Gutierrez informed the board that she received a notice for the appointment of Mr. Lawrence Alcairo to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Ray Chargualaf starting on January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020. She informed the board that the confirmation hearing is scheduled for Thursday at 4:00 pm. She stated that she spoke with Mr. Alcairo and he is very excited to be on the board.

Vice Speaker Nelson's Position on Public-Private Partnership - Ms. Gutierrez informed the board that she received a letter from the Vice Speaker requesting for the position of the GEB in PED in regards to the Public-Private Partnership. The round table is scheduled for Thursday at 6:30 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT. The superintendent provided highlights from his report.

Rainbow Graduation Scheduled. The summer graduation for all high schools will be a virtual grad-and-go ceremony at Southern High School, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 30, 2020.

Request for Return of Employees Mobilized for COVID-19 Response. I am requesting for information, including a timeframe, regarding the return of social workers, school resource officers, and student attendance officers from the Governor's office. With PCOR-3 in place and schools authorized to re-open in August, there will be a need for all employees to be back on duty and to receive the necessary training prior to classes starting.

GDOE Grab and Go school meals program have been extended through July 31. GDOE continues to provide approximately 12,000 breakfasts and 12,000 lunches per day at 12 school sites. The extension approved by USDA will allow GDOE to continue the program until July 31, after which the program will revert to its school year breakfast and lunch operation. After July 31, the school breakfast and lunch program will revert to school year operations. Options for students at home are being developed, although no decisions have yet been finalized. Students at school will eat in the cafeterias with physical distancing observed.

Distribution of TEFAP emergency commodities. GDOE was able to amend the income eligibility requirement from 150 percent of poverty to 400 percent of poverty in order to continue to meet the needs of the community impacted by COVID-19. Operations are being reviewed to ensure proper staffing and distribution, including partnership with the mayors, once GDOE resumes its normal school year functions.

All employees owed the COVID-19 differential authorized under Executive Order 2020-08 are being paid; double pay issue still in litigation. At this juncture, GDOE is caught up with the differential pay owed to GDOE employees. However, the question about double pay is being litigated and likely to be under appeal with the Supreme Court. GDOE will continue to review and monitor the situation in order to ensure that employees are legally and appropriately compensated for their work.

CARES Act (Education Stabilization Fund). USDOE has approved the application and is awaiting submission of the internal controls established to manage the funding as well as detailed budgets for use of the funds which is due by the end of July. Funding has been prioritized for the immediate purchase of safety supplies, including face masks, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, and plexiglass dividers. GDOE continues to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Office of Civil Defense, and through local procurement options to secure needed supplies to open schools.

USDOE Virtual Monitoring Conducted July 14-16. Due to government closure and travel restrictions, USDOE was finally able to complete a virtual monitoring of GDOE's progress in completing the Reconsideration Evaluation Plan in July. The visit involved meetings with the management team, division representatives, focus groups and individual employees. A final report is not expected until 30 days from the visit, which will also allow USDOE time to review the most recent REP submissions as well. Letters to Secretary Betsy DeVos and Assistant Secretary Frank Brogan are requested and anticipated from our elected officials.

GDOE Reopening Task Force. Key updates:

- Parents surveyed on re-opening plans
- Models of learning registration being collected
- Trainings on socioemotional wellbeing and mental health ongoing
- Trainings for administrators and teachers on models of learning
- Parent updates held for regional parent groups and special education parents
- Procurement focus on PPEs and cleaning supplies
- Calendar committee recommending start of classes on August 17
- First five days of school year to be dedicated to school-level training

- Schools will be completing schedules, conducting parent outreach
- DPW protocols to be completed and inserted into GDOE information
- Parent toolkits being developed for distribution to all parents

FY 2021 Appropriations. The Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Administrative Services were present at the FY 2021 Budget continuation hearing before the Committee on Appropriations. The Superintendent provided written responses to previous questions and answered additional questions from the floor. Action on the budget is expected in August.

Simon Sanchez Design Services RFP. GDOE will proceed to complete the procurement of a vendor to provide the architectural and engineering services for a new Simon Sanchez High School. Finalization of the contract is still pending several administrative steps before the AG and Governor can review for approval.

WASC Commission Meeting. The WASC commission met in early July and granted accreditation to Inarajan Middle School and Agueda Johnston Middle School. However, no additional schools were able to be reviewed prior to the COVID-19 shutdown. Visits have been postponed to fall or later.

Special Education Advisory Group. A special education advisory group has been appointed by the Superintendent to assist with stakeholder meetings and recommendations regarding priority areas for the special education division and its families and students. Among the areas to be reviewed are autism services and one-to-one school aides.

Mr. Burch motioned, seconded by Mr. Mendiola to accept the Superintendent's Report as presented. The Board voted by voice and approved the motion with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

VI. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

IBOGS Report – Ms. Gutierrez stated that she asked Mika Labadnoy, outgoing IBOGS chairperson to provide a report today. She stated that two weeks ago, NASBE requested to have a student board member from Guam to participate in the Student Voice Webinar.

Mika gave a brief report about the NASBE Student Voice Webinar that she attended on July 16, 2020. She commented that she did have to wake up at 3 am but it was worth it. She stated that the webinar was an eye-opening experience that allowed her to meet and get to know other student representatives. She found it to be very interesting to see how many states have student representatives and it allowed the students to share their experience with the impact of COVID-19 in their school districts. They also discussed their experiences with distance learning and the plans that the different school districts have on the reopening of their schools. She noted that it also allowed for the non-student representatives to listen to the point-of-views from students and use the information in their future policy making.

The superintendent thanked Mika for waking up so early and participating in the webinar for Guam. He stated that they appreciate her representing us.

GFT Report – Ms. Terlaje congratulated the superintendent for a job well done. She stated that she knows that our department is faced with many issues especially with this pandemic and they as a union would like to continue to work with the board, the superintendent, the department and everyone else, to continue to benefit our students, parents, faculty and staff. She stated that they are here to help in whatever way to ensure that everything goes smoothly especially for our students.

MCOG Report – Mayor Savares stated that on behalf of the Mayor's Council, she would like to thank Mr. Fernandez for all his efforts. She commented that she has been with DOE since the start of her government career and she has never seen a superintendent so connected as he has been since day one since he first

came on the job. She thanked the superintendent for his services, not just to the teachers and the staff at the schools but most especially to the students. She commented that he set up and Instagram account, he eats lunch with the students, and she has never in the past seen a superintendent do that with the students. She stated that the Mayor's Council would like to continue to thank DOE for the Grab-N-Go efforts since the beginning of COVID. She knows that the program ends this Friday but we are still looking forward to some kind of services when the students go back to learning. She stated that they will be working closely with DOE's Food Services staff regarding the commodities. Instead of having distribution every other week in certain areas they are looking at bringing it to the village level so that the public does not have to line up so early and have those long lines. She stated that they will be looking at the different villages that have better access with additional space and they will make it a team effort with GDOE. They are excited for learning to come back to schools. She informed them that the mayors will be supporting the efforts in the decisions of the parents and the school teams. They will be in contact with the school principals in the various villages and they will be there to support the efforts of how we will start the school year in August.

The superintendent thanked Mayor Savares and stated that they have worked in good partnership through many ups and downs not just with the Mayor's Council in general but Mayor Savares in particular. Mayor Savares has supported the many schools in her village especially and also through many typhoons and emergencies. We have always worked in very good partnership. We are always eager to work with mayors like her who are just committed to getting the job done. He stated that we just appreciate that partnership.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

2) Instructional & Academic Support Committee

Head Start Report – Ms. Schroeder presented the Head Start Report. She noted that the most exciting and challenging thing that they are doing right now is their summer program for the children who will be transitioning into kindergarten. They have a summer program link on their website. She commented that their teachers and aides have been extremely creative in their classes and in the Zoom meetings with their students. She noted that there has been no news from Region IX or the Office of Head Start so they are still working very hard at mirroring DOE's reopening and they look forward to having their children come back to school.

Ms. Gutierrez asked Ms. Schroeder how many Head Start students will be coming in to school and how many would be staying home.

Ms. Schroeder responded that right now they have about 370 children currently registered and it is looking like about 50% are interested in coming back to school with the face-to-face model.

Ms. Benavente motioned, seconded by Mr. Mendiola to accept the Head Start Report as presented. The Board voted by voice and approved the motion with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

SY2020 – 2021 Calendar Amendment – Ms. Benavente stated that the Joint Board Union Calendar Committee (JBUCC) met on July 10th and 15th to discuss possible changes to the approved 2020-2021 Calendar to address COVID-19 requirements and restrictions. Recommendations were made by the JBUCC and discussed at the work session that was held July 22nd. The recommendations were to utilize August 7 – 13 as professional development (PD) days at the beginning of the school year, move the teacher work day from August 7th to August 14th, move the first day of instruction from August 11th to August 17th, move Parent-Teacher Conference (PTC) days from the current scheduled times to Fridays during the teacher and parent support days. She added that just in case of a school closure due to COVID-19, instruction should revert to distance learning for all students. She explained that the recommendation to start the school year with five PD days was made to ensure that teachers had the necessary time and training to discuss the COVID-19 requirements being implemented for the safety of all. PD days will give the teachers the opportunity to work on skills and strategies that will support the

three models of learning. Moving the PTC days to the teacher and parent support days on Friday and reverting any lost instructional days to distance learning facilitates that maximization of time to provide continuous instruction.

Ms. Benavente motioned, seconded by Mr. Mendiola to approve the amended School Year 2020-2021 Calendar. The Board voted by voice and approved the motion with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

Mr. Mendiola stated for the record that the department did do its due diligence and stakeholders were aware of this and they were involved in the discussion. This recommendation is coming from the Calendar Committee that did its due diligence.

Ms. Gutierrez asked the superintendent to ensure that this information goes out to all the parents and the public.

3) **Safe & Healthy Schools Committee**
Update on School Reopening – Mr. Burch thanked the superintendent and all the individuals who have diligently worked to develop options to reopening of schools. He stated that he felt that the superintendent provided sufficient overview and updates on the progress of the GDOE reopening task force in his report.

Ms. Gutierrez noted that she heard parents on the radio who were concerned about temperatures not being checked before entering the bus.

Mr. Fernandez responded that he thinks that it is important that we understand how this is going to work. At this point he supports the Department of Public Work's decision because our very first line of defense is going to be the parents at home screening our kids for the symptoms. If there are any symptoms that they see or gives them some reason to question the health of their child going to school, the instruction is to keep them home. Otherwise, there is no guarantee that when the kids go to the bus stop and are waiting for the bus, that there will be the appropriate distancing and face masks even though that is our instruction. At the bus stops, the parent involvement is going to be really helpful to ensure the safety of our students as they wait for the bus. In addition, we did discuss the possibility of temperature checks on the bus and the bus drivers, in some areas where they stop traffic they felt it was dangerous to add that component into the safety protocols. Definitely we want the kids to wear mask and be socially distanced on the bus but if you can imagine a bus driver taking the temperature of a child and it registers above the 100.4, you do not want that bus driver to not allow them access to the bus. We do not want children left at the bus stops having to find their way home and no way for us to account for them. What we have told the bus drivers is make sure they wear masks and distance themselves, and if there is anything else we can do to support the safety on the bus, let us know. The bus drivers can transport students to school and we can take their temperatures there. If there is a situation they can see the nurse and if they need to go home, their parents or guardians can be contacted. He commented that we think that is a safer way.

Deputy Erika Cruz added that the Special Education buses will conduct a temperature check only because of the small number of students that are being transported. The maximum number of students on the special education buses is four and because parents are already there, it would be easier for the bus drivers to scan the students. If they do have a fever, the parents are there to receive the students.

Ms. Gutierrez commented that she thinks that parents should work together in taking temperatures at the bus stop.

Mr. Mendiola asked if the staff at central office were required to be in the office now that we are in PCOR3. He commented that he knows that some other agencies are doing teleworking but we need all hands on deck. He knows that some people do not feel comfortable coming into work but we also have to take a look at what is going on in central office. He asked the superintendent if he had any plans to work through if he sees any problems that need some attention from the board in terms of employees who may have issues with not being comfortable with coming to work.

The superintendent stated that they would shortly be finalizing the teleworking standard operating procedure (SOP). Right now, it really has to do with the job functions and early on we were flexible with it because of the executive order shutting down the departments and encouraging telework if needed. We have been looking at telework and it will not be as liberal as it was before, you have to have a job and a job function that enables you to telework. He stated that it would be worked out between the supervisors and the employees and documented accordingly. It is not going to be an entitlement or a right of your job but it will still be something that we will explore as a way to ensure that people are safe but are also able to get their work done accordingly. He stated that this also helps because we know that some people will be traveling due to family issues or medical issues. Upon their return we are looking at telework as an opportunity for them to be able to continue to work even they are required to quarantine. Looking at how we support the continued productivity or our employees even under the safety requirement is something that we are trying to put more of a framework around so that all of our employees understand what they are able to do.

Mr. Mendiola responded that he is glad that the superintendent is having that discussion. He stated that he knows that we are focused on schools but the support of central office also needs to be there and he wants to make sure that it is on the superintendent's radar for what needs to happen. He knows it is operational but he wants to make sure that the question is asked and the superintendent has the opportunity to share with the community that he is looking at all facets of reopening the school system and not just the schools. He commented that he thinks that DOE is leading the way in terms of thinking things through and how we are going to reopen our areas of government.

Mr. Fernandez added that as we go into the first couple of weeks of the school year, he will let the board know should we come up with any policy questions that need to be answered. Right now, what we anticipate, while we have continuous discussions with employees regarding their uncertainty to return physically to work, or who are looking for more flexibility because of the fact that we are in alternating schedules and they may have children at home. If there is a need for an overall policy, we will be sure to bring that to the board for its review and decision making at that point. He stated that right now we are looking at the issue on a case-by-case basis at the school level.

4) **Fiscal Management**

Update on FY20 Budget and USDOE Specific Conditions/High Risk – Mr. Mendiola reported that the administration has continued to work with the superintendent to ensure that we continue to get the levels of appropriation. He stated that we have been getting those levels of appropriation from the general fund, however, the special fund is where we have concerns. Usually they do not make us whole. He thanked Dr. Zeny for keeping us in the loop in terms of the payment allotments coming in but also working down the payments for our payables. He stated that he believes Dr. Zeny has a system that is manageable and we will continue to pay the smaller bills and on the larger bills we are making payment plans.

Mr. Mendiola noted that there is an Education Financial Supervisory Commission (EFSC) that is like a GovGuam third party fiduciary agent where they get different representatives in the government to assist with looking at the finances of the department. Recently we had good news, we have had clean audits to include our last audit and that is indicative of the work and the ability for the superintendent

and his team that answered a lot of the questions. He thanked Mr. Cooper-Nurse and Dr. Zeny Asuncion for their work. He explained that when we come off of high risk there are things that they are looking for, to include whether we are able to manage federal funds. He announced that there will be a round table hearing regarding the EFSC and he firmly believes that the additional oversite is no longer warranted because of the OPA and an Internal Audit Office. He added that it is time that we ask that if the US Government and USDOE remove us from the third party, that we want to also remove the oversite from the GovGuam side. He stated that he would like to propose a position for the board to consider for the next round table hearing with the Vice Speaker.

Mr. Mendiola thanked Vice Speaker Nelson for the productive discussion regarding the CARES Act. He commented that it gave the opportunity to the department to explain what we are doing with the CARES Act and the federal grant. He commented that when it comes to the funding and resources there is a tremendous amount of scrutiny that goes into this and the superintendent informed the committee that it is not just the DOE but we are also dealing with the Catholic schools and the charter schools. The DOE has been the lead agency for government funding and the federal government trusts us enough to disperse these funds through the DOE. He also noted for the 2021 budget that there is a maintenance of effort cost which is basically an average of three years of our budget that we have to maintain in order for us to have access to the federal dollars. It is part of the grant and the funding. He stated that what that means is that we really have to push our Legislature to fund us at our average of three years or more. Despite the dwindling resources, we need to really push that so that we can have access to these federal funds. That will help us meet our mission. What is at stake is a tremendous amount of money, between forty and fifty million dollars that we will not have access to if we do not have that level of maintenance effort.

Mr. Fernandez added, from a monitoring standpoint, should Congress have another support packet he will let them know. He noted that there has been a lot of discussion of potential packages and from everything we have seen, education seems to be a priority for both parties.

Mr. Mendiola noted that the Governor and the Vice Speaker have both written letters of support highlighting the tremendous progress that has been done by our department and he thinks that we are well on our way and everyone is in support of us getting off of high risk. He thanked the superintendent and his team for all the work they did to prepare for them to address this.

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS** – Dr. McNinch congratulated Mika her wonderful effort with NASBE and he thinks it is a very elite opportunity for her. He commented that he knows that Ms. Gutierrez's work with IBOGS really feeds into our youth participation on our board and that is greatly appreciated. He went on to state to the community and the board that he thinks we have about 2,000 seniors in high school and many of them can vote if they register to vote. He encouraged them to register online and vote if they are eligible to vote. He commented that we need to get that message out there, no matter who they vote for.

Ms. Gutierrez added that she knows the primary election is coming up and they always use our school facilities. She asked the superintendent if has received any word from the Election Commission on how many schools they will be using. She commented that she knows there is a charge and thinks they need to review the charges because it is an old policy.

Dr. Sukola stated that she believed that there were ten on the list but that she needed to verify.

Ms. Gutierrez commented that if the schools are getting their classrooms ready for social distancing they want to make sure that it is kept the way it is because she knows the employees are working hard at each of the schools.

Dr. Sukola responded that she would make sure that happens.

Mayor Savares added that they just met with the Election Commission last week and believed that it is status quo for the facilities for the different schools that are being used and the only change that they were going to send to DOE because of social distancing is that they are asking all of the mayors to put up at least a 20x30 canopy in front of each polling site so that there can be drive thru voting as well. For Okkodo High School, they asked for two canopies to be put up. She noted that the Agat mayor requested that they move it from Marcial Sablan Elementary to Oceanview Middle School.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT –

Ms. Gutierrez, addressing the superintendent stated that as we come closer to the 17th, if there is a need for him to present anything to the board that needs to be approved to let them know in advance and they can have a special meeting before the opening of the school year. She stated that they would like to know about the readiness. Before the 17th they could have a special meeting to go over the readiness of the schools.

Mr. Burch recommended that they schedule a special meeting now in consideration with the Open Government Law and the time. He stated that he thinks it is important especially for the stakeholders to find out where we are at with the reopening. He requested that the superintendent give them an appropriate date for when they feel they will be ready.

Ms. Gutierrez noted that they would like to know if all the PPEs are in and if they have a special meeting they could move the regular meeting to August 25th.

Mr. Fernandez suggested that the special meeting would need to be the week of August 10th before the first day of classes.

Ms. Gutierrez recommended August 11th.

Mr. Fernandez stated that that date would be finalized and public notice would be sent out.

Mr. Burch stated that it would be specifically for the School Readiness Report.

Mr. Burch moved, seconded by Mr. Mendiola to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted by voice and approved the motion with a vote of 7-0. The motion passed.

Ms. Gutierrez adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:

CHRISTIE L. SAN NICOLAS
Administrative Officer

Date: August 21, 2020

MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING:

( ) Approved as submitted

(X) Approved subject to corrections

( ) Other: _____

MARIA A. GUTIERREZ
GEB Chairwoman

Date: August 25, 2020

JON J. P. FERNANDEZ
Executive Secretary/GDOE Superintendent

Date: August 25, 2020

MARIA A. GUTIERREZ
Chairwoman

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MARK B. MENDIOLA
Vice-Chair

9th GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, August 11, 2020
3 pm
Zoom Conferencing
MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Maria A. Gutierrez, Chairwoman
Mark B. Mendiola, Vice-Chair
Felicitas B. Angel
Lourdes M. Benavente
Karlyn RCG Borja
John T. Burch
James C. Lujan
Ron L. McNinch, PhD

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Vacant
IBOGS Representative

Doris A. Terlaje
GFT Representative

Mayor, Melissa B. Savares
MCOG Representative

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Jon J.P. Fernandez
GDOE Superintendent

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Maria A. Gutierrez, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Mr. Fernandez, Superintendent and Executive Secretary, took the roll call. The following members were **present** for the meeting:

Voting Members:
Gutierrez, Maria A. – Chairwoman
Mendiola, Mark B. – Vice-Chair
Angel, Felicitas B.
Benavente, Lourdes M.
Borja, Karlyn R.C.G.
Burch, John T.
Lujan, James C. *
McNinch, Dr. Ron L.

Non-Voting Members:
Terlaje, Doris A./Fedenko, Timothy – GFT Representatives
Savares, Melissa B. – MCOG Representative*

Legal Counsel:
Nasis, Jesse

*arrived after roll call

The Superintendent announced that seven (7) members of the Board were present, constituting a quorum.

Ms. Gutierrez noted that she asked the superintendent to invite the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) Bus Operations to attend the meeting. She asked each of them that were present to introduce themselves. The teams from DPHSS and DPW introduced themselves: Suzanne Kaneshiro, Medical Director Janna Manglona, Deputy Director Aguon, Deputy Director Duenas, Zennia Pecina, Director San Agustin, Kin Lam, DPW Chief of Operations Linda Ibanez, and DPW Deputy Director Jesse Garcia. (Other representatives may have joined after roll call and introductions.)

Mr. Fernandez also recognized the presence of Mr. James Lujan.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Safe & Healthy Schools Committee

School Readiness

Mr. Fernandez thanked the DPHSS and DPW directors and their staff for working with GDOE over the summer as we prepared for the opening of the school year. He commented that he thinks that when we all anticipate what we are going to be doing next week we all look at it with some level of anxiety and uncertainty. He recognized that because this year has been completely different from anything we have experienced before, this is reflected in how we have tried to prepare for school reopening. He thought it would be a good opportunity before the first day of classes on August 17th to give the board an update on where GDOE stands with its preparations. Over the past week, there were concerns raised because of some of other schools opening. He commented that he knows that the Father Duenas situation caught people's attention and the Governor's announcement about her own situation has caused some level of anxiety. Heading into the school year, we appreciate that, but we have anticipated having to address this environment through the coming year and have tried to plan around how we want to approach the return to classes. Our teachers and our students have and been out for the last five months and over those five months we have focused heavily on what the school year could look like should we be authorized to return. We have been authorized to return since the Governor placed Guam in PCOR3 and allowed GDOE to set its opening plans based on our comfort level with how we wanted to proceed. An essential component is safety as our number one concern, and another is the models of learning (MOL). The superintendent explained the details of the three different MOLs and went on to present the number of responses for the schools in regard to their selection of the different models. He explained that the for the district-wide population, 35% chose to attend classes online, 27% chose the hard copy model and 38% chose the traditional face-to-face model. Overall, 62% chose to stay at home while 38% opted to come to school. As we begin to get into the numbers we will get a sense of what we will be seeing at the school-level on a day-to-day basis. On an average we might see about 16% of the student population at school on any given day. Numbers could be lower, and these lower numbers would make it easier to practice the safety protocols, effectively supervise students on campus and increase safety at the school level.

Mr. Mendiola stated that looking at the numbers of the total enrollment which came from the previous school year there is a good number of parents who have not responded to any of the surveys or outreach. He then asked how we account for those students if they do not respond. Will there be truancy issues? How do we follow up with that? Is it going to be an issue because we are requiring them to come to school? And how are we going to track that?

Mr. Fernandez responded that we have been targeting schools and asking them how they are reaching out to their families and some of the families have been difficult to reach due to changes in the contact information and so forth. He explained that for the most part we are seeing high percentages, but it gets lower when you talk about the older students. As a default we assigned those students as face-to-face, and once the school year starts we are anticipating that some of these students who may not have had any level of engagement with the school system over the summer will show up to classes. That is something we have to anticipate due to the fact that there are families out there who were unable to be reached over the summer. They will show up and we will have to deal with their official enrollment in a MOL and then go from there.

Mr. Mendiola stated this his concern would be for the student who can eventually fall through the gaps. He asked how the district will address and respond to the issue of attendance.

Mr. Fernandez responded that they should be able to get a clearer picture once school starts. For the students who do not show up at all, they will look into it and try to figure out what the issues are.

Deputy superintendent Erika Cruz explained that the struggle at the elementary level are the kindergarten students whose parents typically register their students very late. At the secondary level, there is a two week add and drop period and the administrators, outreach staff or SROs/SAOs go to homes to find out the status of these students. The first two weeks of school is a very crucial time for school administrators.

Mr. Lujan asked the superintendent to reiterate the break down of enrollment from last year to this year and asked if he had a breakdown of the ethnicity of each group.

Mr. Fernandez responded to Mr. Lujan saying that he knows where he is going but he does not believe that the demographic information relative to all the registrations has come in. He stated that if Mr. Lujan is looking at the families that have not been able to be contacted and are wondering whether they might be of a certain ethnicity, that would be a concern too, if there are particular groups that have not been connecting with their schools. He said the GDOE definitely wants to see students come back to school so that we can update their information and make sure there is steady communication.

Mr. Lujan expressed his concerns regarding the possibility for those who may have left the island.

Dr. McNinch commented that he has been very impressed with the superintendent and the staff's work on this and the work of Ms. Gutierrez and Mr. Burch. Mr. Mendiola's comments on making sure no one falls through the cracks is very well said and certainly one that he is also mindful of. He said he knows that the superintendent and the staff are going to do their best to work on it.

Ms. Gutierrez added that the GFT has been very involved in this planning.

Mr. Burch stated that he is concerned that teachers need to have students registered and on their class rosters if they are going to set up their google classrooms. He is concerned with all the training that the teachers need to attend this week and lesson plan preparations that teachers will need to do over the weekend to establish contact with their students. He asked when teachers would have access to view their student rosters.

Ms. Cruz responded that they already do.

Mr. Burch commented that he spoke to some teachers at some schools and they informed him that they did not have access. He asked that they make sure that teachers have access.

Ms. Cruz responded that she would talk to her principals tomorrow in her meeting. She also commented that she knows that one of the struggles that the administrators are having with the rosters is that parents are constantly changing their minds and because of this uptick of COVID-19 cases parents are changing their mind from face-to-face to home learning. However, for the most part, teachers should have their rosters.

Mr. Burch stated that he is more concerned about the new teachers who just graduated from UOG and are coming into the classroom. He wants to make sure that we are not setting them up to fail. He stated that he is aware that some teachers are required to teach all three models and commented that this would be a challenge even to the veteran teachers, but more so a challenge to the new teachers. He added that he does not believe that anyone has taught them how to deal with the situation today. He continued to express his concerns.

Ms. Angel commented that she agrees with Dr. McNinch that the GDOE did a very good job with the preparations and she appreciates their hard work.

Mr. Fernandez acknowledged that there are concerns about busing. He began to explain the plans and preparation for transporting the students to school. He stated that for planning purposes, they assumed that all face-to-face students would ride the bus, although they know that will not be the case. Given the maximum capacity on the bus of 24 passengers he divided the total daily attendance by 24 to provide an idea of what would happen in terms of the number of buses needed to service all schools. He explained that for elementary, the amount of buses needed would range from two to five, and at the middle and high school level, from three to ten buses. He explained that he totaled them and there might be 82 buses needed to run the routes if 100% of the face to face students rode the bus each day. He noted in the earlier conversation with DPW, trying to maintain a certain number of buses and available bus drivers has also been a challenge. Like some of our employees, many of our bus drivers have expressed their concerns of being in a high-risk category or have expressed their anxieties. We are operating around an availability of around 95 buses to start the year so there is some room available if all the students do not ride the bus and if the buses can work their routes in the first couple of weeks. He stated that they also anticipate that because some students have not been in communication with the schools they may not know that they are in certain cohorts and might just show up at the bus stop. That gives us uncertainty but we are not going to know until we start those bus runs on the first day of school. He stated that what we want to share with the general public is that for the first couple of weeks where we are figuring out the new riders and getting the students safely home, there may be some delays or hiccups and we ask for their patience as we work through this situation. DPW's requirements for the bus riders is that all students wear face masks and they will have alternated seating patterns on the bus and will be limiting the bus occupancy to 24 students. He noted that the goal is also to have hand sanitizer on every bus for the students as well.

Ms. Borja asked DPW whether there would be a sanitization period between the different grade level routes.

Mr. Jesse Garcia responded that after they drop of kids at the school the buses should be sanitized before they pick up the next set of kids.

Mr. Fernandez noted that we are not sure how long that is going to take so we are again asking the public for patience and understanding so that we can definitely make sure that the buses are sanitized before they go to their next route.

Mr. Mendiola asked Mr. Garcia if Bus Operations would also be transporting the Catholic schools. He also asked if there would be an adequate amount of buses to service GDOE and the Catholic schools, and whether DPW will be able to transport students in time to be at school.

Mr. Garcia responded that yes, they will be also transporting Catholic schools. He also stated that they did their calculations using the information that the superintendent submitted and they will have a sufficient amount of buses.

Mr. Mendiola mentioned that he also heard that there may be some drivers that have health issues and asked if they will have enough drivers. Should a bus driver test positive for COVID-19, what is the contingency plan?

Ms. Ibanez responded that they have it in place and are working on it. She stated that they are working with Public Health if that does happen, and the driver will be taken off the route and placed in isolation. They have additional resources to cover if it does happen.

Mr. Mendiola asked whether they would be able to operate if a number of drivers test positive and asked what the number would be that would hamper their ability to provide services.

Ms. Ibanez responded that they are working closely with Homeland Security to assist with the shortfall if the situation does come up.

Mr. Fedenko asked via Zoom chat whether a student would be denied entry on the bus if they do not have a face mask.

Ms. Cruz responded that DPW will have enough face masks to provide to the students in the event that they do not have a mask for a least the first week of school.

Ms. Ibanez and Mr. Garcia both added that they have enough masks to start up but have already put in a request through Homeland Security in the event that they need more masks.

Mr. Gutierrez stated that some students might be car riders in the morning but ride the bus after school. She then asked how they would address that keeping with the social distancing guidelines.

Mr. Garcia responded that the buses would double back for a second pickup and drop off or another available bus would do the second pick up in order to follow the maximum of 24 students in the bus.

Mr. Fernandez thanked DPW for being present and asked the Chairwoman and the board if they could be excused.

Ms. Gutierrez responded yes and thanked DPW for being present.

Mr. Fernandez began to talk about the status of personal protective equipment (PPE) coming in for GDOE, private schools, and charter schools. Over the end of last week, the weekend and through this week the GDOE was handling deliveries and distribution of both reusable and disposable face masks, thermal head scanners, hand sanitizers, thermal cameras with the ability to take the temperatures of multiple individuals, plexiglass doors, gloves, goggles, alcohol wipes and N95 masks specifically for the nurses, spray bottles and refills as well as disinfecting solution and supplies. He noted that those were the priorities to get in for our schools so that we can begin the school year. He anticipated the procurement of more supplies to get the department through the entire year. He noted that face masks are required, as well as physical distancing and sanitizing of the hands throughout the day.

Ms. Cruz provided more details on the delivery and distribution of the PPEs.

Mr. Fernandez noted that the small purchase and ongoing purchases were supported by ESF funds but he also wanted to thank Homeland Security for facilitating some of the donated supplies from FEMA to support this effort. Over the course of the year, our intent is to ensure that we have an adequate supply chain for all of these items because we expect these requirements to stay in place throughout the school year.

Mr. Fernandez stated that he also wanted to address the discussion they have been having with Public Health. He acknowledged that there is a heightened level of anxiety that we all need to be aware of. He stated that we wanted to use this opportunity with Public Health going forward and before the start of the school year to really clarify our approach at GDOE in the event of a positive case. He believes that we are working on a written version of this protocol but he wanted to let the board know that as we proceed it has not been his expectation that as we open we will be immune and protected from any COVID positive incidences. In fact, we understand that there is always going to be a risk and are going to do our best to mitigate that risk but in some form, in some way, we are also going to have to be prepared should there be an impact of a COVID positive identification in our school community. He stated that there are many different ways that this can happen but ultimately what we want to do and what we have always done

since the beginning of our planning process is stress our reliance on the expertise of our Public Health officials and our doctors and professionals on the front lines to help guide us in the response to specific incidents as well as overall in terms of being able to reopen campuses. He expressed the sentiment of his team that they do not want to be in the position to second guess or reinterpret our own version of how to respond to these public health situations. Rather, they want to be in close contact with Public Health so that we are on the same page as we approach this challenge. With Public Health and the Governor's placement of the island in PCOR3 we have worked more diligently, prior to that in expectation of PCOR3, to prepare a safe reopening of schools to the best of our abilities following Public Health guidelines and following the CDC in everything that we do. That has been the basis of our plan and the board has been apart of it and at this point we are still moving forward with our plan with the opening date set for August 17th. Until we hear and of course stay in close communication with Public Health, we know that should the Public Health situation change, or the Public Health context change, that there is always a possibility of plans changing but until then we are still planning and moving forward with our reopening plan. With regard to the response of specific incidences he knows that we have said in most cases we are going to rely on Public Health's guidance to get us through that response, but he knows that for the general public, there is a question as to what goes on behind the scenes. He wants to liken it to the very successful work that we do with Public Health when it comes to other infectious diseases, tuberculosis (TB) being one of them. Our common protocol, which is the protocol that we will essentially use and modify to fit the current situation, is that whenever there is an identification of a TB case, Public Health will be the first to notify us. They will notify us officially through the superintendent and Julietta Quinene who is our liaison to Public Health and the coordinator of all our nurses. Public Health then takes the lead in terms of contact tracing with the full support of the department and our nurses in tracking down the individuals, the families, the bus routes, the homes that need to be traced. Through that partnership we work together to identify all of those that need to be addressed as part of TB tracing. COVID-19 is different because it is more highly infectious and the timeline needs to be quicker. We recognize that, but again we will rely on the same strong communication with the other agencies and we are committed to that. Over the next day or so we are hoping to roll out for our parents, an easier to understand depiction of what happens when there is a positive identification that infects our community. He stated that he wants to state from the start that is not going to be a simple automatic school closure. It really is going to depend on the incident, the extent of the contact and it is going to take close partnership with Public Health to determine the scope of that tracing whether or not facilities need to be closed down for cleaning or shut down because of the breadth of the spread. It will be a case-by-case approach. He acknowledged that some were concerned that once we start, we are going to go through this wave of school closures across the island for weeks, but that is not going to be the case. He hopes to pull the information together so it is a little clearer to the general public on what to expect when we report out that there is a positive case in our schools.

Ms. Gutierrez expressed her appreciation to the DPHSS team that joined and thanked them for working with the superintendent and his team.

Ms. Gutierrez also recognized the presence of Mayor Savares.

Mr. Lujan commented that he knows that the superintendent and his team are trying to address the issues when they come around. He shared his concerns and requested that Public Health be present whenever the department is presenting with regards to COVID-19. He stated that he would like to see a strong presence of somebody from the health department next to the superintendent so that there is a sense of security that we are following the guidelines. He commented that he hopes we can request through the Governor or directly to Public Health that we have that vocal representative in the event that something does come around. He then asked if there was a plan to purchase any fumigation equipment. He mentioned his concerns especially for the six schools that have central air-conditioning.

Mr. Fernandez responded that he understands that Mr. Lujan thinks it would be a good idea for Public Health to be very visible when there is a response. He noted that that is a conversation he is having with the Director, Art San Agustin, just to make sure that the communication protocols are very clear when messages go out and how we work together to ensure the accuracy of information. He commented that we will take that into account. Mr. Fernandez asked for someone from Public Health to respond to what the requirements are with regard to the cleaning of a facility should there be a positive identification.

Ms. Almaica with the CDC stated that during their last meeting they did send a link and she prefaced by saying that it would answer all their questions in regard to what is required for cleaning our facilities should you have a positive case. She asked if they had any time to go through the link.

The superintendent responded that he thinks they just want clarification for the general public so that they understand what is or is not required relative to the cleaning of a facility.

Mr. San Agustin responded that they did agree that there will be a liaison, there will be a public health presence in the response for which we are dealing with the COVID-19. He noted that their official liaison is their Bureau of Communicable Disease Control Administrator Ms. Annette Aguon. He noted that they recently hired a Special Projects Coordinator who is serving as their public information officer (PIO). He noted that in speaking with the superintendent he identified Isa Baza as the GDOE PIO. He stated that they would have a joint PIO effort in publicly sending out information to the public. Mr. San Agustin explained what could be done to clean a facility. He assured the board and all those listening in on the discussion that they do have a liaison, a PIO and DPHSS is ready at their request to review the proposed cleaning process that DOE will have for a school setting. He stated that they are here with us, they will stand with us, and as the superintendent stated, it really depends and it will be determined on a case-by-case basis. It may just be a portion or perhaps the whole school may close depending on course of the investigation.

Mr. Mendiola expressed his concerns regarding the infection rate.

Mr. San Agustin and Ms. Aguon confirmed that we are at the 2% infection rate.

Mr. Mendiola asked what the threshold was for the percentage of the infection rate in which they would advise the Governor to move to other PCOR levels.

Ms. Aguon responded that the current percentage has not changed at the 3% positivity rate, and that is on their rolling average of seven days. She noted that it has not changed and is open or subject to revision based on the Physician Advisory Group. The data that they present to the Physician Advisory Group along with their leadership and the Governor and Lt. Governor help guide the decision of whether they need to reduce our PCOR down to 2 or 1. She provided further information regarding the percentage.

Dr. Manglona also added more input on the percentage rate.

Mr. Mendiola further expressed his concerns.

Dr. McNinch asked Mr. San Agustin if there was anything that the board should do that they are not doing.

Mr. San Agustin responded that they are not here to tell the board what they should do, but the message that they can send to the school community is really to practice the same simple messages that they are asking everyone to do, such as social distancing, hand washing, making sure that all sinks have soap or sanitizers, and wearing face coverings. He stated that that is really going to be our best approach to ensure that we are doing what we can do to protect the students, the faculty and the staff in every school

setting, and just really trying to get the message across to their parents and families. He stated that knowing we have our protocol in place and that our departments are lining up to respond in a joint effort is the best thing we can do right now.

Mr. Mendiola asked what the turn around time would be for contact tracing and asked what the procedure was.

Ms. Aguon explained the process for contact tracing. She also informed the board that they have been supported by their leadership to be able to build capacity to their contact tracing team and noted that they are also working with the Department of Labor and AmeriCorps to assist with contact tracing as well.

Ms. Doris Terlaje asked what the plan is for our special needs students and their one-to-one aides.

Mr. Fernandez responded that the families of the students should be working with the schools to find a collaborative solution for each student. We have been looking at the IEP for the main mechanism for addressing those concerns. We know those discussions are happening already with the families. With regards to the one-to-one aides going to the homes that is not an accommodation that we are prepared to move forward with. He commented that there are a lot of issues with sending employees into private residences that we are not yet able to do, but we do think that every student and their parent under Special Education should be meeting with their IEP teams to go over the services in the interim.

Ms. Terlaje expressed her concerns for the information that may not be reaching the families with regards to temperature and other protocols that need to be followed.

Mr. Fernandez responded that we have made our efforts over the summer to reach out to families but we are hoping that we can get them into schools so that we can provide the information to those families.

Mayor Savares thanked everyone for working together and commented that it really is a community effort, not just for the students to come back, but keeping them safe. She also added that the GDOE nurses have been working with Public Health and feels that they have the tools that they need to know what to look for. She thanked GDOE for allowing the nurses to go into the communities to experience this whole event. She also thanked Mr. San Agustin and his team for sharing their information. She commented that the department is in good hands because the nurses have had that exposure.

Ms. Gutierrez thanked Public Health for their attendance.
Mr. Fernandez briefed the board on the discussion during the meeting with the Lt. Governor.

Mr. Fernandez presented information relative to the teaching vacancies at the schools and noted that they will continue to work on filling these positions.

Mr. Burch asked if we have identified staff or students who have underlying health conditions.

Mr. Fernandez responded that we have not gone out and asked those questions but we have invited faculty and staff to identify themselves if they are requesting accommodations as part of the COVID-19 situation. He commented that this has really happened on a school by school level. Those requests are coming in and the administrators are looking at whether accommodations can be made.

Mr. Burch asked if we have a sufficient number of substitute teachers to assist with all the vacant positions.

Ms. Cruz responded that administrators are proactive when it comes to addressing vacancies and when they have a high number of vacancies they do have a plan in place to ensure that there is coverage. She noted that it is part of our school readiness plan.

Mr. Burch expressed his concerns regarding teachers knowing how to use Google Classrooms and being prepared for the start of school. He expressed that he is concerned about the safety of our children and employees. He commented that he feels the administrators and the teachers need a little bit more time to prepare, maybe at least a week or so.

Deputy Joe Sanchez stated that they have been conducting training for the last month and have had multiple meetings with the administrators. He stated that he wants to be careful with using readiness as a gauge because if you ask the average teacher how long they will need to be completely ready some of those answers will vary from a month to two to three months. He commented that he thinks that most teachers understand that at some point we need to start, and at some point they feel rushed, and lets just be open about that. This is a rushed situation that we are in. In a perfect world sometimes to be prepared at this level would take years. He mentioned how long the department has been trying to implement just basic technology and some teachers have not crossed the level yet of some basic technology. He stated that this is quite a challenge, a challenge that has been posed to us by a pandemic that nobody asked for. The idea is that at some point we are going to be opening schools with the models of learning, because we know there is a demand for maintaining education while schools are closed. The two models that we have to maintain education while schools are closed include the online piece and the hard copy piece. Those are really the only two broad ways that education can be provided. He stated that he speaks to many teachers, probably hundreds over the past couple of weeks, and there is a heightened level of anxiety and nervousness but he thinks there is also a lot of excitement and a lot of folks that are willing to jump right in. He pointed out that there were many teachers who attended training and were not paid. He commented that the enthusiasm that we have out there is pretty strong. He stated that yes, people are nervous, this is something very new for a lot of teachers, the training is intense, but the reality is that this is what is demanded of us. This is what is expected of us and we are doing everything we can to make sure that our teachers are ready and we are providing a lot of support, not only to current teachers, but we are training new teachers and we are providing ongoing support to them. A lot of teachers understand that this is expected of us and he thinks they are ready to stand up to that task.

Mr. Tim Fedenko commented that he understands Mr. Burch's position as well but he thinks teachers are anxious to open up and are learning new things, himself included. But if the school board and the superintendent can ease the teacher's minds about evaluation and the PTEP that would help because we are all in this together, we are just going to do the best we can. You are going to need practice with Google Classroom and doing Zoom meetings, and the anxiety comes from teachers worried about retaliation or poor performances or losing their positions. He wants to assure teachers that they are doing their best to ensure that we will be as safe as possible, and to allow teachers to have a voice and to be honest and work together with their supervisors. He said that we have to open sooner or later and agreed that another week would be nice maybe, but let's try it. Let's use the tools we have been given or are learning about and try them. If we have to redo some education we can do some reeducation. We have the Fridays to use to help parents and students. If we can assure teachers that they do not have to worry so much about being the best teacher he thinks that would alleviate a lot of concerns that Mr. Burch is hearing about, and they are valid concerns.

Mr. Mendiola pointed out that his concern is that we are also putting teachers out on the front line of fighting COVID. Along with the anxiety of teaching there is the risk of exposing yourself and your family. He continued to express his concerns about the number of cases going up and the anxiety levels of everyone. In terms of the teacher training he understands that it is going to be very difficult if you are not up to the teaching standards. But he just thinks that it would not hurt if we gave a little more time for

additional reassurance. He stated that as a parent, he is also concerned that along the way his child would come into contact with COVID-19. He is looking at the totality of it and not just the teaching component. He stated that he is willing to give the teachers stronger footing.

Mr. Sanchez added that in his role, he is not advocating starting early or not, all he knows is that when we are given guidance or a directive that this is when we need to be ready by, we plan all of our training and supports around whatever date we are told. If we could have more time, he would love that, but that is his point, we plan, we organize, we prepare based on the direction that we are given.

Mr. Burch stated that his concern is not because he thinks the administration is behind, but that we need time to communicate with all our faculty members and get out all the expectations that we set for the different MOL. He stated that he does not want to rush teachers, they need time, there is a process that they go through. He stated that he thinks that one week would give them time, especially because there are teachers who do not have the rosters and they need time to set up the Google Classrooms. He continued to express his concerns.

Mr. Lujan commented that he concurs with Mr. Burch and Mr. Mendiola's concerns and shared his additional concerns.

Ms. Benavente commented that she understands both sides but the priority is safety and this is all new to us. Yes, with all the training, if we do not go in and actually start school and get down to doing it ourselves, how are we going to learn what we are doing wrong and how are we going to get the help. The help is there for whatever bumps a teacher goes through. She understands the safety concerns, the superintendent is saying that we are ready for the safety part, and she feels that if we do not start, how are we going to learn as teachers, how are we going to learn what we need to learn to teach our children.

Ms. Angel commented that the work has been done and she feels that it is adequate enough to start and we are ready to start the school year.

Ms. Gutierrez stated that we gave the superintendent, after we approved the plan, the flexibility to do what he needs to do, they worked really hard and right now we cannot guarantee anything. Everyone has anxieties but with all the work that has been done she feels that we need to hear the plan of the superintendent. She stated that she understands Mr. Fedenko's concerns and Deputy Erika Cruz will make sure that those concerns are addressed. She commented that if they are hearing it from a school, they should let the superintendent or Ms. Cruz know which schools because a lot of the teachers that she talked to are excited to start. She stated that they gave the responsibility to the superintendent and his team, now it is their responsibility to give them the support. She stated that we are all concerned about health and safety, that is why we were having those community meetings. For all teachers, if their admin are giving them information last minute, let Ms. Cruz know so she can clarify it at her next principals meeting.

Mr. Fernandez asked if there was a motion on the floor or if this was just a general debate or discussion.

Ms. Gutierrez asked Mr. Burch if he wanted to state his motion or hear the superintendent's recommendation.

Mr. Burch responded that he would like to hear the superintendent's recommendation first.

The superintendent stated that he wanted to add that for the record, he did not come to the meeting with any different recommendation other than what we have been discussing for the past four months. He stated that he thinks when this all happened back in March, what we have done since then is keep the

board apprised of every step that we have taken to address the closure of the schools and all of the modifications and adjustments that needed to be made to safely close the schools and to work to support our community throughout that difficult time. Once we were able to close down the schools we turned our attention to recovery and reopening. The people you see online and watching on Facebook, all our staff, have worked very, very hard under really intense pressure and circumstances to try to meet that directive which was to come up with a plan that would keep our students safe and allow us to continue our mission of teaching and learning under this COVID-19 environment. Two of the people here at the deputy level that you are seeing today Joe Sanchez, was really critical in that effort with regard to distance learning and leading the task force through its early weeks and Deputy Erika Cruz, who we pulled from the school to come up and get back into the middle of the very difficult decision making that needed to take place. We also have Julietta who went to the front lines as part of the deployment with forty other nurses to assist in the response. If anyone knows what the response is going to look like it is going to be Julietta. We have worked very hard with the rest of our team, have gone days and weeks of developing contingency plans and options for the safe reopening of schools. He continued to explain that we presented that proposal in June because we wanted to have adequate time to prepare our community for what to expect. He stated that he thinks that we have a very, very good plan as he has looked at it and compared it to what is happening on the mainland and other areas and what he has seen with the private schools with regard to their plans. We were the first to send our plan to Public Health for review. We have been in active discussions with the physician's group, almost on a weekly basis, and with our partners DPW and Public Health. We have led the way in the summer in trying to be both an education agency but also a support to the community and along the way, board members have been there throughout those discussions to hear what the plans are and to approve that plan at the end of June. We wanted to have July to have active engagement with our teachers, administrators and our parents to find out what their concerns were. We even anticipated the delay for our teachers and we added that one week of an extra week of training so that we could address the concerns that Mr. Burch made. He stated that he is very attuned to the anxiety and concerns of the public and of all the board members. He respects Mr. Mendiola's view with his children and his wife being part of the school system, but every member has relatives or is invested in schools. We tried to address the situation with the parents by giving them choices. We did not force them to come back to school or provide incentives. As a public school system, we wanted to make sure that if they come back, they felt safe. At the end of the day, over 60% of them said they do not feel comfortable and want to take advantage of the home learning and the online options. But 13,000 wanted to come back to school face-to-face on the alternating schedule, many of those students we have been out of contact with for five months and we do not know how they are doing and how they are faring. We certainly want to check in on them and get a handle on what is going on at the home front. He stated that with all due respect, he does not believe that another week is going to solve the training issues that we have before us. With regard to safety, same issues, the board did approve the plan and that plan gave him the authority to determine when the situation comes up, when to make decisions to close facilities or somehow change our operations to adjust to those safety conditions. At this point, based on the motion or the potential motion it looks like the board would like to take that responsibility back and that certainly would lift a lot off his shoulders if that were the case. Frankly at the end of the day his recommendation is this, is that we prepared ourselves to address the situation the best we can, we have taken your recommendations into account with regard to the safety, the MOLs, the mental health of our students. He stated that he thinks we are ready to go and if they are asking him about his recommendation today he believes that we should be ready to go on August 17th and the team is ready. He stated that if the board chooses not to, he thinks it does have the authority to do so under its school calendar authority, but at this stage he has not seen the reason why we would need to go that route.

Ms. Gutierrez apologized to Ms. Borja for not asking if she had any comments and asked her if she had any comments.

Ms. Borja responded that she has been a part of a lot of the meetings that have taken place. Reopening school, reopening a physical campus - those are things we do not take lightly. We have heard parents in PTO meetings, we had a whole week of meetings so we are very well aware of the situation as well. She stated that yes, we should reopen, yes, she feels our teachers are ready, and they are excited. She stated that her personal experience is that she is a parent of two children with special needs and they tried Zoom school over the summer and one child did very well and one child failed miserably. Our children with special needs and their families have taken on the extra stress, burden, delight, trials of the past few months and they are definitely ready to go back to school. She commented that yes we were given options. Some of us have chosen face-to-face knowing the safety measures and protocols in place. Others have selected online or home learning, and just like her coworker, many are very attuned to what is going on and they made the decision based on what is best for their families. She stated that she thinks they are ready to decide whatever needs to be decided tonight.

Dr. McNinch asked what the comments were from the Governor related to school openings.

The superintendent responded that the Governor was not at the meeting due to her situation, but the Lt. Governor was there and his approach was for the agencies to do whatever needed to be done, he will support us. He stated that he believes they are even standing up the Emergency Operating Center for the first couple of weeks of school just to ensure collaboration and coordination of the various agencies should any situations take place that we need to respond to.

Mr. Lujan commented that we need to consider the number of cases because the numbers were not like that in June or the beginning of July. He continued to express his concerns.

Mr. Burch reiterated his concerns and stated that he would like to err on the side of caution.

Mr. Burch moved, seconded by Mr. Mendiola to delay the opening of schools for one week, from August 17, 2020 to August 24, 2020. The superintendent took roll call, the Board voted by voice and disapproved the motion with a vote of 3-5. The motion failed. (YES – J. Burch, J. Lujan, M. Mendiola / NO – F. Angel, L. Benavente, K. Borja, M. Gutierrez, R. McNinch)

Mr. Mendiola also reiterated his concerns. He stated that he is not doubting that we are not prepared but feels we just need a little more time to execute the plan.

Ms. Gutierrez stated that yes they are concerned about the numbers but she is putting her trust in the Governor and the Lt. Governor that if the number keeps going up they will implement a closure. Ms. Gutierrez urged her colleagues to move on and keep going.

Dr. McNinch commented that we are being asked in the span of 18 minutes to deal with five months of preparation. He asked the superintendent that if he found out on Thursday and Friday that it looks bad, he could change the plan. He asked if he was correct. He stated that really they have empowered the superintendent to use all the facts on the ground to make the best decision at the best time with our full support. He commented that if they are looking at delaying school, he would need a lot more than 18 minutes to get the facts and ideas about it. That is why he does not feel positive about voting for this. He stated that he respects Mr. Buch and Mr. Lujan and Mr. Mendiola, but that is his feeling regarding making a last-minute decision like this when they have been given enough time to change it if needed.

III. ADJOURNMENT –

Mr. Mendiola moved, seconded by Ms. Angel to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted by voice and approved the motion with a vote of 8-0. The motion passed.

Ms. Gutierrez adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:

CHRISTIE L. SAN NICOLAS
Administrative Officer

Date: August 22, 2020

MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2020 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING:
( ) Approved as submitted
(X) Approved subject to corrections
( ) Other: _____

MARIA A. GUTIERREZ
GEB Chairwoman

Date: August 25, 2020

JON J. P. FERNANDEZ
Executive Secretary/GDOE Superintendent

Date: August 25, 2020