clerks@guamlegislature.org

From: Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Clerks Office
Cc: Rennae Meno
Subject: M&C Fwd: Transmittal of Guam Education Board (GEB) Resolution 2020-11
Attachments: Transmittal of GEB Resolution - 2020-11.pdf

12/23/20	7:38 AM	12/22/20	Guam Education Board Resolution No. 2020-11.*	Department of Education-Office of the Superintendent	35GL-20-2534

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
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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: Wed, Dec 23, 2020 at 7:38 AM
Subject: Transmittal of Guam Education Board (GEB) Resolution 2020-11
To: Governor's Office - Michael Weakley <michael.weakley@guam.gov>, Speaker Barnes <speaker@guamlegislature.org>, Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>
Cc: Jon Fernandez (Superintendent) <jonfernandez@gdoe.net>, Tia Lynn S. Salas <tlssalas@gdoe.net>

Hafa Adai,

Please see the attached transmittal of GEB Resolution 2020-11.

Thank you!

Happy Holidays & Stay Safe!

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

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501 Mariner Road, Barrigada Guam 96913
Telephone: (671)475-0457 or 300-1547/1536•Fax: (671)472-5003
Email: jonfernandez@gdoe.net

JON J. P. FERNANDEZ
Superintendent of Education

December 22, 2020

The Honorable Lou A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
513 West Marine Corps Drive
Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Honorable Tina Muña Barnes
Speaker
Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Honorable Telena C. Nelson
Vice-Speaker and Chair
Committee on Education, Air Transportation, and Statistics, Research, and Planning
Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature
173 Aspinall Avenue,
Suite 202A Ada Plaza Center
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Re: Transmittal of Guam Education Board (GEB) Resolution No. 2020-11

Dear Governor Leon Guerrero, Speaker Barnes, and Senator Nelson:

Håfa Adai! In compliance with Public Law 31-019, I am transmitting the attached Guam Education Board Resolution No. 2020-11 as approved by the GEB on December 22, 2020.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 300-1547.

Senseramente,

JON J.P. FERNANDEZ

Attachments

cc: GEB Members
President, Guam Federation of Teachers
Chairwoman, Mayor's Council of Guam

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020-11

Introduced by: **Guam Education Board Members**

RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL READINESS TASK FORCE TO CONTINUE DISTANCE LEARNING OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021 AND TO ALLOW FOR THE SAFE RETURN TO TRADITIONAL FACE-TO-FACE INSTRUCTION UPON AUTHORIZATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor of Guam Lourdes Leon Guerrero declared a public health emergency for the island of Guam due to 2019 novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, pursuant to the emergency declaration, Governor Leon Guerrero issued Executive Order No. 2020-04, directing the closure of all non-essential government of Guam offices and the closure of all public and private schools through March 30, 2020. Following this executive order, the Superintendent of Education directed that all Guam Department of Education (GDOE) schools would remain closed for the remainder of School Year 2019-2020; and

WHEREAS, GDOE school nurses, social workers, and student attendance officers were mobilized by the Governor under her public health emergency powers and have, since the beginning of the pandemic, assisted the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) in its response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, since March 2020, GDOE has shifted to be able to serve student meals to children 0 to 18 throughout the island and has provided thousands of bags of food commodities to the community through partnerships with fellow government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and village mayors; and

WHEREAS, in May 2020, anticipating the need to make significant public health and safety adjustments for the coming school year, the Superintendent established the District School Readiness Task Force (DSRTF) to develop plans relative to the safe reopening of schools for School Year (SY) 2020-2021. The DSRTF is made up of seven committees to include Operations, Safety and Social Distancing; Curriculum and Distance Learning; Interscholastic Sports; Personnel Management; Social and Emotional Wellness; Community and Public Information; and Budget and Finance; with the Interscholastic Sports committee added in October; and

WHEREAS, through early summer, the DSRTF provided weekly updates to the Guam Education Board Safe and Healthy Schools Committee every Friday to apprise the members of the Task Force's progress and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2020, the Guam Education Board approved the DSRTF recommendations to reopen schools on August 17, 2020 using three newly developed instructional models: (1) Traditional Face-to-Face, (2) Home Learning Hard Copy, and (3) Home Learning Online; and

WHEREAS, through July 2020, the GDOE focused on providing information to community stakeholders regarding the plans for the school year in order to prepare teachers, staff, and families for the upcoming start of distance learning and Traditional Face-to-Face instruction; and

WHEREAS, in preparation for the start of the school year and with the assistance of federal funds, the GDOE began its procurement of personal protective equipment, hand sanitizers, cleaning and disinfecting supplies for employees and students, technology to support distance learning and also initiated training for employees on the models of learning, the new safety protocols on campus, the proper use of health and safety supplies, and the social and emotional wellbeing of themselves and others; and

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2020, just days before the first day of classes, Governor Leon Guerrero issued Executive Order No. 2020-27, which declared Pandemic Condition of Readiness ("PCOR") 1, and which also mandated that all public and private schools serving prekindergarten through 12th grade remain closed for in-person instruction and activities; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Executive Order No. 2020-27, the GDOE immediately began the transition of all students enrolled in the Traditional Face-to-Face model of instruction to 100% distance learning through the Home Learning Online and Home Learning Hard Copy instructional models; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the restriction on school facilities opening, there were approximately 2,700 students who were unaccounted for in the first weeks of school, although this number has fallen to approximately 570 students, due to the hard work and continued outreach by our school staff, teachers, social workers, school attendance officers and community partners. GDOE is concerned for the well-being of these students and continues to develop options for conducting outreach to homes in line with the prevailing public health guidelines; and

WHEREAS, following the transition to 100% distance learning, the GDOE held a series of seven distance learning parent meetings from August 31 through September 10, 2020, aimed at assisting schools in improving distance learning strategies by gathering input from parents on their experiences and challenges. Parent meetings targeted elementary and secondary parents from the north, central and southern regions, and a focused meeting was also dedicated to parents of students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in September 2020, the GDOE began issuing roughly 8,000 laptop devices to qualifying students in the secondary schools in an effort to facilitate and expand distance learning options for families and began working closely with the Governor's Office to develop a program to provide internet access to students and families at home. Approximately 10,000 additional

laptops are anticipated to arrive on island to supplement the continued distribution of technology equipment to students at home with a focus now on elementary school students; and

WHEREAS, in addition to assisting technology use at home, GDOE is planning to open approximately 21 Community Learning Centers based at GDOE school facilities, which will provide students with access to the internet and technology after-hours in order for them to complete their work and to communicate with teachers; and

WHEREAS, in October 2020, after the announcement of the Department of Defense Education Activity's plans to reopen schools on base, the Superintendent of Education publicly announced that Traditional Face-to-Face instruction would not be allowed until or after January 2021 and directed the DSRTF to update plans for the potential reopening of schools in January 2021; and

WHEREAS, the DSRTF re-commenced its weekly work sessions with the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee of the Guam Education Board to provide updates regarding reopening planning efforts and progress, and each school readiness work session was also streamed live and remains available on the GDOE Facebook page; and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2020, the DSRTF launched the GDOE School Readiness Dashboard, which tracks core public health indicators based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention thresholds pertaining to the risk of introduction and transmission of COVID-19 in schools, and has distributed this dashboard to stakeholders, employees and the media on a weekly basis, and the board formally adopted the dashboard as a metric used to assess school readiness at the December 15 regular meeting; and

WHEREAS, the GDOE has continued to hold frequent and regular meetings with school administrators and school leadership teams, comprised of teacher leaders representing all 41 GDOE schools, to apprise them of the ongoing planning and to seek their input; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and his management team have met regularly with the President and Vice-President of the Guam Federation of Teachers to keep them updated on the planning discussions and to seek their input as to the concerns and suggestions of their membership; and

WHEREAS, from November 16 to November 23, 2020, the DSRTF held a series of school readiness input sessions for elementary and secondary parents from all four regions, to include a dedicated session for parents of students with disabilities, and a dedicated session for students, which discussed school reopening planning and gathered input and concerns from parents and stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, from November through December 2020, the DSRTF also gathered input from stakeholders through a series of parent, employee and student surveys focused on perceptions regarding safety, distance learning, familiarity with safety protocols; and feedback regarding the potential plans to reopen schools in 2021. The feedback showed that approximately one-third of parents and students were planning to return for Traditional Face-to-Face instruction when allowed to do so; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2020, the DSRTF launched and began collecting Traditional Face-to-Face Selection Forms to officially determine the number of students in each of the three

proposed models of learning, and the collection of this information is critical in the planning for the potential return to Traditional Face-to-Face instruction: and

WHEREAS, based on the tracking of the GDOE Dashboard, the input provided by stakeholders, and the discussions with Guam Education Board members, the Governor of Guam and her representatives, and other partners, the DSRTF plans for the following:

1. That, upon the Governor's authorization, GDOE will be ready to open for Traditional Face-to-Face instruction in line with the guidance from DPHSS and from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control which currently requires systematic symptom and temperature checks, the use of face masks, regular washing and disinfecting of hands, frequent cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces, six-foot physical distancing, and other protective measures with supports for families who wish to transition to either Online or Traditional Face-to-Face models; and

2. That, GDOE will continue to offer and support three models of learning for families, including Online, Home Learning Hard Copy, and Traditional Face-to-Face instruction with the intent to progressively phase out the Hard Copy model of learning for as many students as possible; and

3. That, parents/students will be able to choose their preferred model of learning, and no one will be required or forced to return to face-to-face instruction; and

4. That, students who return to Traditional Face-to-Face instruction will be divided into cohorts and attend school on alternating days in order for schools to comply with physical distancing requirements; and

5. That, the first two weeks after the reopening date will be dedicated to teacher and staff training in order to ensure that schools are prepared to receive students safely and to provide for training to support social and emotional wellbeing and also for parent and student orientations, if feasible, in order to safely orient families prior to the first day of classes; and

6. That, on January 4, 2021, Online and Hard Copy classes will commence as regularly scheduled on the GDOE school calendar, and upon completion of the two week training and preparation period, classes for Traditional Face-to-Face instruction will commence on January 19, 2021 at all GDOE schools subject to authorization by the Governor; and

7. That, GDOE will establish and maintain an internal contact tracing unit by trained employees who will represent the first responders to any potential or confirmed positive COVID-19 individuals within the school setting and who will coordinate efforts with DPHSS to address GDOE's needs; and

8. That, GDOE will continue to use the GDOE Dashboard, or enhanced versions thereof, to continue to monitor and report to stakeholders regarding the status of COVID-19 in the community as well as in our school community; and

9. That, in light of the health and safety challenges associated with the current pandemic, GDOE requests the Guam Education Board's waiver of all locally adopted, end-of-year summative assessments including: 1st & 2nd Grade ELA, Math & Science; 11th and 12th Grade ELA, Math & Science; and 1st to 12th Grade Social Studies; and

10. That, in light of the health and safety challenges associated with the current pandemic, GDOE requests for the Guam Education Board's concurrence with the intent of the Division of Curriculum and Instruction for GDOE as the Local Education Agency (LEA) to request a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education via GDOE's Federal Programs Division as the State Education Agency (SEA) for all federally required, end-of-year summative assessments including 3rd to 10th Grade ELA, Math & Science (ACT Aspire); and

11. That, in light of the health and safety challenges associated with the current pandemic, GDOE requests that the Guam Education Board reaffirm the temporary waiver of all grading policies utilized during the regular school year under BP350: Uniform Grading Policy and that all modifications to grading practices be aligned to those developed by the Curriculum and Grading Policy Working Group and adopted by the Board on Friday, October 16, 2020, with these modified practices remaining in effect until the end of the semester in which the COVID-19 pandemic is deemed over; and

12. That, in light of the health and safety challenges associated with the current pandemic, GDOE requests that the Guam Education Board reaffirm the temporary waiver of the following policies for the remainder of the pandemic to include: BP401-Uniform Policy, BP411- Attendance, BP346-Instructional Subjects and Time on Task for Elementary Schools, BP338-Middle School Curriculum Requirements, and BP381-Service Learning Policy in order to afford the schools the flexibility needed to implement the three models of learning; and

13. That, the Superintendent will rely on his existing authority and upon additional flexibility provided by the Guam Education Board to timely respond to any incidents or situations affecting the health and safety of students or employees within GDOE, provided that he continues to inform the board of such incidents and situations; and

14. That, GDOE will continue to monitor and strengthen its distance learning options, including additional distribution of technology to families as well as internet access at home, when this service becomes available; and

15. That, GDOE will move forward in establishing its planned Community Learning Centers at participating schools in order to provide after-hours support for students seeking to utilize the centers to access the internet or to use school equipment to complete schoolwork; and

16. That, upon the Governor's authorization, GDOE will commence with its interscholastic sports plans as provided to the Guam Education Board, which currently envisions two seasons during the remainder of the school year, beginning with low-risk sports and moderate-risk sports consistent with public health guidelines; and

17. Upon the concurrence of the Guam Education Board with the recommendations of the DSRTF, GDOE will continue to monitor and ensure the readiness of school facilities for reopening and will also conduct intensive community outreach to ensure awareness of GDOE's reopening plans as well as key health and safety requirements needed this school year; and

WHEREAS, information related to the plan set forth above has continued to be provided in written reports and in greater detail by the DSRTF to the Guam Education Board for its further reference and record purposes; and

WHEREAS, the GDOE is currently exploring the opportunities for educators and school staff to be prioritized for vaccinations and is working in collaboration with the Lieutenant Governor's office to pilot a rapid testing framework, if possible, for GDOE employees; and

WHEREAS, the GDOE continues to order and distribute personal protective equipment to schools, including private and charter schools, and to date has distributed 23,631 disposable masks (packages); 12,465 disposable masks (boxes); 2,336 reusable isolation gowns; 2,001 face shields; 399 thermoscanners; 32,542 hand sanitizer bottles; 6,046 spray bottles; 14,975 alcohol bottles; 82 cases of disinfectant; 37,678 fabric masks; 10,081 alcohol wipes; 235 plexiglass shields; 40 plexiglass doors; 9 camera scanners; and 1,372 nitrile glove boxes; and

WHEREAS, the DSRTF is committed to implementing continuing professional development for school administrators, teachers, non-instructional staff, parents and students and to include training

in the areas of curriculum, social and emotional wellness, and safety measures to facilitate the transition to Traditional Face-to-Face learning; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Guam Education Board does hereby recognize the continued contributions of the Superintendent and the DSRTF and the significant preparation to provide for the safe reopening of schools with a focus on safety, distance learning, and social and emotional wellness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Guam Education Board recognizes the hard work of the DSRTF, school administrators, teachers, staff, parents and students who have contributed to GDOE's planning for the continued education and support for students and families throughout this pandemic and further thanks all GDOE partners, to include the Mayors' Council of Guam, Guam Federation of Teachers, fellow government agencies and nonprofit organizations, for their support to assist our students and families over the past nine months; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Guam Education Board hereby approves the DSRTF plans, as set forth above and to include the Guam Education Board's affirmation and concurrence where specifically requested, to reopen schools upon the authorization of the Governor using the three aforementioned instructional models, subject to the continued implementation of safety protocols and training for students and staff to address concerns associated with the COVID-19 health pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in light of the continually evolving COVID-19 health situation, the Guam Education Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent to implement changes to the DSRTF plan based on his assessment of the GDOE School Readiness Dashboard so long as he notifies the Guam Education Board prior to the next scheduled board meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'haga' Guahan*; the Honorable Tina Muna-Barnes, Speaker of the 35th Guam Legislature; the Honorable Telena Nelson, Vice-Speaker of the 35th Guam Legislature and Chairwoman of the Committee on Education; the Honorable Melissa Savares, Mayor of Dededo and Chairwoman of the Mayors Council of Guam; Mr. Timothy Fedenko, President of the Guam Federation of Teachers; all GDOE school administrators; and members of the Islandwide Parent Teacher Organization.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE GUAM EDUCATION BOARD ON THIS 22nd DAY OF DECEMBER 2020.

MARIA A. GUTIERREZ
Chairwoman, Guam Education Board

JON J.P. FERNANDEZ
Executive Secretary, Guam Education Board