

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
Informational Briefing/ Oversight Hearing / Roundtable Hearing

STANDING COMMITTEE / SENATOR	HEARING	COMMITTEE REPORT	HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
Committee on Education, Air Transportation, and Statistics, Research, and Planning	Roundtable Hearing	Guam Academy Charter School Council	7/29/20 5:00 p.m.	12/21/20 2:57 p.m.	



THE OFFICE OF VICE SPEAKER TELENA CRUZ NELSON

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AIR TRANSPORTATION,
AND STATISTICS, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN | 35th GUAM LEGISLATURE

December 2, 2020

The Honorable Régine Biscoe Lee *RBL*

Chairperson, Committee on Rules

I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: Committee Report on Virtual Roundtable Hearing on the Guam Academy Charter School Council.

Håfa Adai Chairperson Lee:

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on the Virtual Roundtable Hearing on the Guam Academy Charter School Council: term contracts for each school, enrollment capacity, each Charter School's support grants & CARES Act Funding, and a breakdown of itemized budget request of each school.

Committee on Rules

Received:

December 2, 2020 at 5:14 p.m.

Senseramente,

Senator Amanda L. Shelton

Acting Committee Chairperson

173 ASPINALL AVENUE, SUITE 202A ADA PLAZA CENTER HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910

Phone: (671) 989-7696/4678 **Email:** senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org



**THE OFFICE OF VICE SPEAKER
TELENA CRUZ NELSON**

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AIR TRANSPORTATION,
AND STATISTICS, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN | 35th GUAM LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE REPORT

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE HEARING

on

GUAM ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL COUNCIL

By Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson

173 ASPINALL AVENUE, SUITE 202A ADA PLAZA CENTER HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910

Phone: (671) 989-7696/4678 **Email:** senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org



First Notice of Virtual Roundtable Hearing: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 5:00 p.m

1 message

Office of Vice Speaker Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>

Tue, Jun 30, 2020 at 4:19 PM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Cc: Tom Unsiog <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>

June 30, 2020

To: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Vice Speaker Telena Cruz Nelson

Subject: First Notice of Virtual Roundtable Hearing: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 5:00 p.m

Håfa Adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Education, Air Transportation, and Statistics, Research, and Planning will convene a **Virtual Roundtable Hearing** and on **Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.** via Zoom Video Conferencing. The agenda includes the following:

Virtual Roundtable Hearing: Guam Academy Charter School Council

- Term Contracts for Each School
- Enrollment Capacity
- Each Charter Schools' Support Grants & CARES Act Funding
- Breakdown of Itemized Budget Requests of Each School

Written testimonies may be delivered to the Office of Vice Speaker Nelson at [173 Aspinall Avenue, Suite 202A](#), Ada Plaza Center, *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910 or via email to senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org. The Committee requests that testimonies be submitted at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the hearing. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of Vice-Speaker Nelson by phone call at 989-7696 or via email at senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*

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The Office of Vice Speaker Telena Cruz Nelson

*Committee on Education, Air Transportation,
and Statistics, Research, and Planning*

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

[173 Aspinall Avenue, Suite 202A](#) Ada Plaza Center, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Phone: (671) 989-7696/4678

Email: senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org

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First Notice of Virtual Roundtable Hearing Wednesday July 29, 2020.pdf
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OFFICE OF VICE SPEAKER TELENA CRUZ NELSON

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AIR TRANSPORTATION,
AND STATISTICS, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN | 35th GUAM

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Second Notice of Virtual Roundtable Hearing: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Office of Vice Speaker Telena Cruz Nelson <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>

Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 9:24 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Cc: Tom Unsiog <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>

July 24, 2020

To: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders, Media

From: Vice Speaker Telena Cruz Nelson

Subject: Second Notice of Virtual Roundtable Hearing: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 5:00 p.m

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The Office of Vice Speaker Telena Cruz Nelson

Committee on Education, Air Transportation,

and Statistics, Research, and Planning

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

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 **Second Notice Roundtable Hearing July 29, 2020.pdf**
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OFFICE OF VICE SPEAKER TELENA CRUZ NELSON

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AIR TRANSPORTATION,
AND STATISTICS, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN | 35th GUAM

July 24, 2020

To: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders, Media
From: Vice Speaker Telena Cruz Nelson
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OFFICE OF VICE SPEAKER TELENA CRUZ NELSON

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AIR TRANSPORTATION,
AND STATISTICS, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN | 35th GUAM LEGISLATURE

Roundtable Hearing

via Virtual Platform

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

5:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Call to Order at 5:00 P.M.
- II. Opening Remarks by Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson, Chairperson
- III. Items for discussion

Roundtable Hearing: Guam Academy Charter School Council

1. Term Contracts for Each School
2. Enrollment Capacity
3. Each Charter School's Support Grant & CARES Act Funding
4. Breakdown of Itemized Budget Requests of Each School

- IV. Closing Remarks
- V. Adjournment

The hearing will air live on TV Channel 21GTA or Channel 117/60.4 Docomo; or via http://www.guamlegislature.com/live_feed.htm. You can also view the hearing on the Guam Legislature's YouTube Channel. A recording of the hearing will be available on YouTube at Guam Legislature Media after the hearing.

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OFFICE OF VICE SPEAKER TELENA CRUZ NELSON

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AIR TRANSPORTATION,
AND STATISTICS, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN | 35th GUAM

Virtual Roundtable Hearing Sign-in Sheet

Wednesday, July 29, 2020 • 05:00 PM • Virtual Platform (Zoom)

Guam Academy Charter School Council

NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	ORAL TESTIMONY	CONTACT NUMBER
Jesse Quenga	Guam Academy Charter School Council		x	
Jeannette Yamashita	Guam Academy Charter School Council		x	
Charles Delta	Science is Fun & Awesome Learning Academy Charter School		x	
Tamar Celis	Career Tech High Academy Charter School		x	
Steven McManus	Career Tech High Academy Charter School		x	
Fe Olivares	Guahan Academy Charter School	x	x	
Rosie Tainatongo	Guahan Academy Charter School			
Jacqueline Terlaje	Guahan Academy Charter School		x	
Al Erguiza	Guahan Academy Charter School			
Helen Nishihira	iLearn Academy Charter School		x	
Rachel Stake	iLearn Academy Charter School			
William Flores	W.B. Flores & Associates	x		
Sherrene Mantanona				

Dr. Judith Won Pat

Guahan Academy Charter School

x

GUAM LEGISLATURE
BUDGET HEARING

29 July 2020

Honorable Telen Nelson
Vice Speaker, Majority Leader
Honorable Senators of the Mina'Trentai Tres Na Legislaturan Guahan

Buenas Yan Hafa Adai:

We thank you for the invitation to attend today's budget hearing for the Guahan Academy Charter School (GACS) for Fiscal Year 2021.

Today, on behalf of my fellow board members, we wish to thank our hardworking staff who with our very capable and passionate leader, Chief Academic Officer - former Speaker Dr. Judith Won Pat, delivered FULL ACCREDITATION from K-12 from the COGNIA accreditation body.

The GACS employees worked very hard to achieve this accreditation before the pandemic and even more so during the pandemic, inspite of all the different kinds of challenges and restrictions imposed during Guam's lockdown status. The dedication was there, the love for GACS and our students was evident, and thank GOD for TECHNOLOGY. Our GACS Accreditation Team delivered and finished on time all the deliverables and requirements needed to achieve the FIVE YEAR of accreditation for GACS. So, the REAL WORK BEGINS...AND GACS now continues to maintain and follow all mandates that come with GACS's accreditation, and I see no letting up for the sake of GACS children and stakeholders. I cannot thank them enough.

The Guahan Academy Charter School (GACS) has submitted a budget in anticipation of 900 students at \$6,500.00 per pupil cost for a total of \$5,850,000.00. GACS was recently also approved for \$761,1440.68 as part of the CARES Act ESF funding.

Also submitted herewith are as follows:

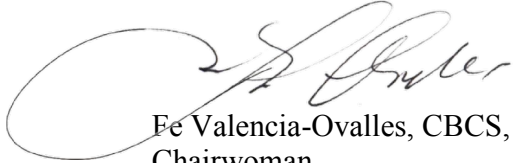
- 1) Term Contracts with GACS FY 2021 Budget Summary.
- 2) GACS Floor Plan supporting enrollment of 900 students with all CDC protocols in place.
- 3) CARES Act Funding (ESF SPREADSHEET).
- 4) GACS Budget 2021 Breakdown by Object Category.

On behalf of the GACS family, we thank you for all your support now and in the past, in addition to the bright future we all look forward to inspite of the challenges the schools on Guam and the nation are faced with due to the New Norm in Educating our children.

May God keep us all SAFE and WELL.

Si Yuus Maase'.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fe Valencia-Ovalles', with a large, elegant flourish on the left side.

Fe Valencia-Ovalles, CBCS, PHIC
Chairwoman
Board of Trustees
GACS

Written Testimony

William B. Flores, President

W.B. Flores & Associates

Virtual Roundtable Hearing – Vice Speaker Telena Nelson

July 29, 2020 5:00 PM Guam, Port Moresby

Håfa Adai Senadora and Charter School Council Members:

First, I trust this finds you, your staff and family all in good health and safe. I apologize I am not able to speak in the Zoom meeting today but thank you for the opportunity to provide my written testimony.

I am writing to request assistance in recovering a years-long debt owed to W.B. Flores & Associates by Guahan Academy Charter School (Guahan). Years ago, we competed for consulting work to assist the Academy in finding a permanent home. After many sites were considered, it was decided that a property in Barrigada would be ideal because of size, location, and the possibilities of expanding the school. Much work went into this effort – all of it by our local, Guam-based team of architects and engineers.

We prepared the design of the proposed facility and provided the technical engineering documentation for applications for USDA and local financing institutions funding. During this period, Guahan learned their appropriation would not be what was projected because of funding cuts or limits imposed by the Guam Legislature. The school then had to look to other interim sites because of the impending school year. The site selected was the former Department of Revenue & Taxation License and Registration Building in Tiyan, Barrigada. Faced with drastic time constraints we designed an interim campus.

Between the time the Barrigada Campus was being designed and when the Academy learned of the impending budget limits, we had also assisted in the construction of eight temporary classrooms next to Building D at their existing Tiyan site. We worked alongside the contractor night and day, even in driving rain to get these classrooms ready for use. Guahan has been enjoying the use of these classrooms for three years now and we have yet to be paid for this work. We understand the contractor has also not been paid in full.

In total for all our work, Guahan owes us \$ 660,195.77 not including interest for three years of work by six Guam firms. Detailed, timely invoices were submitted and acknowledged by Guahan who have never disputed that they owe the amounts claimed. Further Guahan has acknowledged the debt by issuing partial payments, albeit in small amounts and providing a certified letter acknowledging the owed amount as of June 7, 2018 (see attachment). We continued work to assist Guahan after June 7, 2018, and additional invoices were submitted for that work.

Affected by this lack of payment are over 40 employees. We fervently request assistance from your good office and the Council to direct Guahan to pay these bills.

We understand that Guahan may have received relief assistance a month or two ago. If so, where were the regular appropriations directed? Please assist us to obtain immediate payment.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Senseramento,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W.B. Flores', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William B.S.M. Flores, P.E. for:

W.B. Flores & Associates, Architects Cristobal & Associates, WM Engineering Services, EPI, Inc.,
Primos Heavy Equipment Services, Sui Generis Design & Construction, LLC



**GUAHAN
ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS:
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Chairwoman

Hentrick M. Eveluck
Vice Chairman

Jacqui Cyrus, MA, MEd, EdD
Acting Secretary

Victor A. Perez
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P.O. Box CS
Hagatna, Guam 96932
(671) 979-1065/6
Board Liaison
Cell: (671) 483-3044
info.gacsbot@gmail.com

June 7, 2018

William B.S.M. Flores, P.E.
W.B. Flores & Associates
P.O. Box 27747
Barrigada, GU 96921

RE: Confirmation of Indebtedness

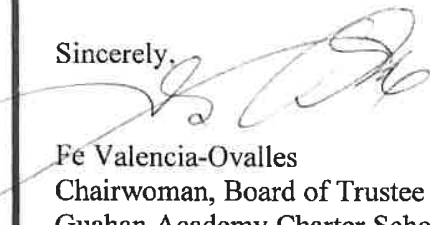
Dear Mr. Flores,

Guahan Academy Charter School hereby confirms and acknowledges that, as of May 31, 2018, Guahan Academy Charter School shows an outstanding balance of unpaid invoices to W.B. Flores & Associates in the aggregate principle amount of \$568,088.90.

Guahan Academy Charter School intends to settle this obligation as part of its facilities expansion financing.

We thank you for your continuous patience and understanding.

Sincerely,



Fe Valencia-Ovalles
Chairwoman, Board of Trustee
Guahan Academy Charter School



THE OFFICE OF VICE SPEAKER TELENA CRUZ NELSON

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AIR TRANSPORTATION,
AND STATISTICS, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN | 35th GUAM

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW

The Committee on Education, Air Transportation, and Statistics, Research and Planning convened a virtual informational briefing with the Guam Academy Charter School Council on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 05:00 PM in *I Liheslatura's* Public Hearing Room to discuss term contracts for each school, enrollment capacity, each charter school's support grants & CARES Act funding, and a breakdown of itemized budget request of each school.

Public Notice Requirements

Public Hearing notices were disseminated via e-mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 (5-Day Notice), and again on Wednesday, July 24, 2020 (48-Hour Notice).

Senators Present

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson, Chairperson
Senator Amanda L. Shelton, Vice Chairperson
Senator Kelly Marsh Taitano, PhD

Appearing before the Committee:

Jesse Quenga, Guam Academy Charter School
Helen Nishihira, iLearn Academy Charter School
Charles Delta, Science is Fun & Awesome Learning Academy Charter School
Tamar Celis, Career Tech High Academy Charter School
Steven McManus, Career Tech High Academy Charter School
Fe Olivares, Guahan Academy Charter School
Rosie Taintango, Guahan Academy Charter School
Jacqueline Terlaje, Guahan Academy Charter School
Al Erguiza, Guahan Academy Charter School
Rachel Stake, iLearn Academy Charter School

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The virtual roundtable hearing was Called-to-Order at 05:06 PM.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Hafa Adai and good evening. The Committee on Education, Air Transportation and Statistics, Research & Planning will now convene this Virtual Roundtable Hearing, today is July 29th and it currently 5:11 in the evening, so 1711 hours. For the record in accordance with the open Government Law, Public notices were sent out via email to all Senators, Stakeholders and all main media broadcasting outlets on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 and the second notice on Wednesday, July 24, 2020. Notice of today's Virtual Information Briefing was available on the Guam Legislature Website. I would like to acknowledge Senator Kelly Marsh Taitano, assistant Majority Leader, thank you for being here. Before we proceed with the Virtual Roundtable Hearing, the Legislature has general rules of conduct that must be followed, all must abide by the rules of conduct and quality assurance standards, please keep video on at all times and ensure you are in a room with little interruptions and adequate lighting, specifically to make sure that your face is visible at all times. The host of this hearing will mute participants and so called upon by the Chair, when called to speak, please ensure that you are unmuted and that you are speaking into your microphone; members of the committee wishing to speak may indicate via the in-app feature chat box. Individuals testifying shall be first recognized by the Chair and before speaking please state your name for record keeping purposes. Any violations of this general rule of conduct will result in removal from the Public Hearing Host.

Good evening everyone, I've called for this Virtual Roundtable Hearing to further clarify the budget request of the Guam Academy Charter School Council for the Fiscal Year 2021. Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Guam Academy Charter School Council has put forward two proposals to the Guam Legislature, based on per pupil cost and student enrollment capacity, an expected increase of student was discussed for all Charter Schools. Whereas student enrollment capacity for Charter Schools are defined in the law, the Guam Academy Charter School Council shall expect reasonably measurable funds to satisfy each school's enrollment capacity, in addition the sustainability and operation of all Charter Schools must be established as the school year begins the budget request, provided by each Charter School shall reflect a general realization of students and personnel being, in a state of a pandemic. Whereas certain programs and curricular activities must be re-evaluated, we must also ensure that each Charter School's appropriated funds will supplement pandemic guidelines of the operation for the upcoming school year. Another existing issue is that Career-Tech Academy did not exist in the Fiscal Year 2020, therefore there was no appropriations for that school and not will not be able to operate without any funding. In order to establish a more appropriate budget proposal related to the Public Health Emergency, we must re-identify opportunities and itemize budget review of each Charter School. Today's Virtual Roundtable Hearing will provide discussions on the Guam Academy Charter School Council's term contracts for each school, enrollment capacity, each Charter School Support Grants and CARES ACT Funding and a breakdown of the itemized budget request of each school. I would now like to invite Mr. Quenga, are you here? Hi Jesse.

Jesse Quenga: *Hafa Adai* Madam Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Please go ahead and give your testimony, I'd like to thank you for being here today, I understand we are going to lose you and also, if there are other members of

the Charter School, that would like to give testimony, they are welcome too as well. So, we'll start with you Mr. Quenga and I would like to acknowledge the presence of the Legislative Secretary who's also the Co-Chair on Education, Senator Shelton. Thank you Senator for being here.

Jesse Quenga: Wonderful. Good Afternoon. We'd like to thank Vice Speaker and Chairwoman Senator Telena Nelson, Vice Chair Senator Amanda Shelton and Senator Kelly Marsh Taitano for joining us this evening. I'd like to also acknowledge from the council, I'm joined by our newest council member, Mrs. Jeanette Yamashita, thank you Mrs. Yamashita for being with us today. We had a wonderful budget hearing with the oversight chair Senator Joe San Agustin as well as the members of the committee, in which we shared the budget proposal for FY 2021 for the Guam Academy Charter Schools. In total our request encompasses four schools that include the Guahan Academy Charter School, the iLearn Academy Charter School, Science is fun and awesome SIFA Academy Charter School and our newest Career Tech High Academy Charter School. We were able to discuss in some detail, our proposal and I'm glad that the Vice Speaker had organized this roundtable to allow for more in depth perspective and discussion about each respective schools request. At this time I don't have much more to say other than that, I will yield the rest of the time to the respective schools to answer the questions provided by this committee and the council will remain active in the discussion, should there be anything that we could provide clarification or support for, but thank you Senators for your time this evening.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, thank you Mr. Quenga. Perhaps we can just go down the line for each Charter School and give an explanation the operational expenses for the school and how you are moving forward in light of the Covid 19 Pandemic, some of the safety measures you are taking to ensure a safe and learning environment for our schools. So, how about we start with iLearn, is iLearn here?

Helen Nishihira: Helen Nishihira for iLearn Academy Charter School. For our operational situation we're going to start the school year on August 17th, we're doing a hybrid, but we're also offering 100 online about 50% of our students population had requested for 100% online because we're dealing with Elementary School Students, but we have submitted 740 student enrollment requests for increase, but what we had found was we had a lot more students requesting to come in, at this point we have 770 students currently asking to attend iLearn for August 17th. We will be having our zoom orientation with all our parents, I believe the week before the opening of the school year along with iPad pickups for all those, who are going 100% online and for students who will be starting the school year online, they're on the hybrid. So, that's how we're going to in terms of the safety precautions, we were able to set up the classrooms, so that there is the minimum requirement of four feet between each student, we were able to do this even without the p.p.e equipment that is still heading our way. So, even the p.p.e equipment that will be provided through the E.S.F. Funds will be added support or added protection to our faculty staff and our students, but without it, we still meet the minimum requirement towards safety and social distancing. I'm not sure what else to add to the operational, but I'm open for any questions and discussion.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Thank you Helen. The iLearn Academy is requesting funding for 740 students?

Helen Nishihira: Yes.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: And, you guys are going 100% online?

Helen Nishihira: No, no we are currently offering, so we have a hybrid. We have two options, we have hybrid which students come in a B schedule and then they come in two day, two times a week and then three times online. When we talk about online, it's actually virtual classrooms, so a teacher is with them in the virtual classroom. So, it's just a different setting as opposed to what it's, I guess we differentiate it from distance learning, where here's the assignment do it and then when we meet, we will talk about it. When they're online, they're with the teacher 100% of the time that they're online, so the teachers teaching 100% online.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and there was a question from one of my colleagues for the teacher increment. There was a teacher increment for one year, for one teacher specifically and that was in the amount of \$10,943 dollars, so the question was, how do you implement your increments for your teachers? Similar to D.O.E. they have a step increase?

Helen Nishihira: Yes. We actually had three teachers, who obtained their master's degree prior to the end of the school year and then one of them not only obtained a master's degree, they obtained a state certification. So, they pass their practices and was able to obtain, so they went from our very small salary to something a little bit more equitable to what they would get, if they weren't with us at iLearn.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and is this a professional development, I guess rule that you have for all of your teachers, that if they get a master's degree and they get their certifications, that they also will anticipate an increase in their increment or something that shows that a progression?

Helen Nishihira: Yes, we created a salary scale, one of the advantages of the Charter School is because we're not limited to, we're not required to have that state certification, but we do want to encourage the teachers to do that. So, it's not a requirement there's no incentive to obtain it, but we believe it's something that gives iLearn some kind of credence and so, we strongly encourage by giving them that step up.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: That's good to hear, you know our teachers work very hard and I'm so glad that iLearn is acknowledging this and doing their best to paying them, what you know what is due to them, especially when they improve their level of professional development. How much do you guys pay for rent at iLearn?

Helen Nishihira: I'm not with the breakdown, it's a lease service contract, so it's \$170, 000 a month, but that's not just the facility that includes utilities, custodial services that's a little more expensive than spilled milk or whatever. We have internet access, copier machines, the paper supplies, the teacher's computers, the AV systems that's in each classroom, the student's iPads those are incorporated into the \$ 170, 000 lease per month.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and how many teachers do you have, I'm sorry how many personnel do you have employed at iLearn?

Helen Nishihira: I believe, we currently for the opening of the school year is 53.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: 53 and how many teachers, do you have out of the 53?

Helen Nishihira: 33 teachers.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Would that suffice for your increase of enrollment to 740?

Helen Nishihira: If we are going to be able to do the 770, we would just need to add one more teacher.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay. So, you're looking to enroll 770, because the last time we met it was a 740 number.

Helen Nishihira: 740, that's correct, but the last time we met was prior to the month of July, when all the Kindergarteners started enrolling and that was, where we had a hardship of turning them away.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, no it's good that we're hearing of this now, so that when we come into the budget in August, we can advocate that you do have concretely 770 students enrolled now.

Helen Nishihira: That's correct.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, thank you. All right, the funding will be for 770 students?

Helen Nishihira: Perfect. That's possible, yes that's correct.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay. All right, very good, thank you so much. It seems that each, for each Charter School will be getting \$ 6,153 per students and so, this is the same rate that we should anticipate, the Charter Schools receiving and as the enrollment changes, we want to make sure that we're able to accommodate for any change in the enrollment. Excuse me, Senator Shelton Legislative Secretary, do you have any questions at this time?

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Thank you Madam Chair. No specific questions for iLearn at this time, thank you.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Thank you. Senator Marsh, did you have any questions?

Senator Kelly Marsh-Taitano: Si Yu'us Ma'ase Madam Chair and you know I just really appreciate this opportunity to hear from the different schools, because I am sure the other Senators are the same, you know we've been worried enrollment for the different schools and it's very reassuring to hear that at least in this first case that we're hearing that the enrollment is still very strong, we want to provide these opportunities to our students and that they're overcoming these challenges. So, I'll reserve questions until we hear further, but again Madam Chair, it's so good that you're having this Informational Briefing.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: All right, thank you Senator Marsh. Just one last question for iLearn, at this time within the budget bill last year, we tried to ensure that the money that is appropriated to each Charter School, it has the ability to roll over for prior year obligations. Have you received that money for your prior year obligations or have there been any challenges with any of you receiving this money for prior obligations?

Helen Nishihira: My understanding for the rollover, it's if there's remaining funds in our budget, we can actually use that to pay down our obligations. Yes, actually at the end of this fiscal year, we will have about \$ 40,000 dollars that we'd able to use to pay down a prior obligation due to the budget cut in 2018 and I believe that's the fiscal year that we got cut 8%.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and when are you anticipating to receive this appropriation?

Helen Nishihira: When we ask for it, we wait because we're based on reimbursement. So, we want to make sure we clear everything, our anticipated remaining balance, would be \$ 40,000. So, we would be asking that at the tail end of September, prior to the fiscal year ending.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay. Okay, I just want to make sure that Department of Administration is working with the Charter Schools and giving them the money that was appropriated to them, especially with the extra provision that we added to ensure that you guys are able to continue to use this money for your prior obligations and so, if there is any issues with that, please let us know so, that we can ensure that issue is fixed.

Helen Nishihira: The Department of Administration has been very timely in the disbursement of their allotment for iLearn.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, thank you so much Ms. Helen. We'll move to SIFA. Is SIFA here?

Charles Delta: Yes. Hafa Adai and good evening.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Hi Charles, how are you?

Charles Delta: We're good.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Good to see you. Okay and we're going to ask the same questions. Could you just give us, give the stakeholders an understanding of how SIFA is going to move forward in response to the pandemic? How we're going to keep our children in a safe learning environment, some of the protocols that you will be implementing during the school year and how you're moving forward with the curriculum?

Charles Delta: Okay. So good evening everyone especially to the honorable Senators present. So, for SIFA we have sent actually a survey to all our parents regarding the learning options that they will be opting for this coming school year, now based from the learning options, the learning

models that we have. We have three learning models; we have the hybrid or with what we call the blended model, we're in 50% face-to-face and 50% virtual; then we have the 100% hard copy curriculum. Now based on the survey, approximately 57.1% will be opted for our blended model and then 37.8% will be for our virtual and then around 5% will be for a hard copy curriculum. Now as of today we have 303 enrollees and then we have been receiving a lot of calls and inquiries and there were still unprocessed students. So, we're anticipating to meet our cap perhaps for the school year, that's why we're asking for a leg room that will be able to somehow accommodate additional students. Now in with regards to our response for Covid, we already submitted our course action plan with CDC and then part of it would be to adopt, we are adopting some of the comments or the guidelines for the CDC, as our preventive measures and we already sent out informational maps to the parents, our draft for our plans and per schedule, we are targeting to have August 17, 18 and 19 and we already sent out info to our parents that will be having our virtual orientations and also even without the PPE right now, we'll be requesting the parents to supply for the meantime, until we will be able to get all the PPE that will be provided by the E.S.F. and hopefully, we'll be able to run all the modes for our learning options for the start of classes on the 20th of August.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: And what is your enrollment?

Charles Delta: As of right now, we have 303 the actually enrollees and then we are still processing students, because as part of the process, we have to send them the offer letter of acceptance. So, we're still processing a lot of students, which are not part of the 303 and then we have been receiving calls that they will be turning over their documents for the next couple of days. So, just like what we had, when we reported our figures last time, we're down for 270 and in a matter of a few weeks we reached 300 plus. So, based on the projection, we will be able to hit the 350 for this coming school year.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and we need to ensure that you have 350 students concretely enrolled right and so we need to make sure that SIFA has appropriated this amount to support the education of those students. How much are you paying in rent?

Charles Delta: For the rent, we also have a lease contract.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay.

Charles Delta: It's for \$2.4 million per year.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: And what does that include?

Charles Delta: Yeah, that includes all the facilities the same time of course the learning spaces, that we have included all the equipment, the tablets, the utilities and it also includes our lunch services, partly that's being paid by the contract, because for the lunch services, parents are co-paying, we cannot provide a 100% and all the things, that I mean even the supply materials and even our professional development it is covered and other services as well.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, thank you. Senator Shelton, do you have any questions?

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Thank you very much Madam Chair. Hafa Adai Charles, I know that you spoke a little about the CARES Act money that you got a little bit so far, from the ESF, is that correct?

Charles Delta: That is correct.

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: And what are you anticipating still receiving?

Charles Delta: For the ESF, we actually went to the Federal already and we have a projected amount of \$ 221,529.75 allotted for our additional equipment supplies that would be intended for our distant education that we'll be providing for this coming school year.

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Okay and how much of that \$ 221 thousand, did you receive already?

Charles Delta: We haven't received anything.

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Oh, nothing yet?

Charles Delta: For the ESF?

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Yes.

Charles Delta: For the ESF, we have not received. I think that it would be the federal that would be purchasing for the equipment and the PPE that will be provided for the schools.

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: I see. Okay and thank you very much. Thank you Madam Chair, that's all for now.

Vice Speaker Telen C. Nelson: Senator Kelly Marsh, do you have any questions?

Senator Kelly Marsh-Taitano: Si Yu'us Ma'ase Madam Chair. I just have a few small ones. When you mentioned surveying the parents, have you been able to survey all the parents of the students that are enrolled?

Charles Delta: So far, what we did was sent out to the parents and we got apparently, we got 357 responses and some of them were duplicating. We are populating this things, but based from the survey in the population that we have that are less than 20, because when part of the learning option was if they would not be able to answer the survey, then automatically they will be enrolled to our 50-50 or the blended model. So, rest assured that even they have taken the learning option survey, we'll be putting them in our 50-50 or the blended model and also in the event that they would like to change, because a lot of parents, would be somehow seeing or would like to see how we're going to implement for this school year and definitely, we're still open if they would like to change their minds, because the same platform that will be intended for the virtual, it's an face-to-face and the hard copy curriculum, this is a matter of platform that they're about to choose and perhaps in

the event that they will see that. We have the same mode of platforms, definitely they can still change their minds in terms of whatever option, they've would like to opt.

Senator Kelly Marsh-Taitano: Well and the survey was also good. You got a very enthusiastic response even more surveys back, than you have students, but it's also really good to hear that they can shift and that's probably true for the other schools as well, that it ends up not being the best fit for their children, they know that they have some flexibility and the other was with the training this and maybe your instructors have had more experience with virtual lessons. It is a bit of a learning curve and if one hasn't done it before, have they gone through training or do they have experience in this medium already?

Charles Delta: Okay, in this case we're proud to say that we're starting our virtual as our in-service training as early as Monday and then part of it would be as early as Monday, we are already immersing them with our google classrooms, because one of the challenges that we had from the previous lesson, a virtual lesson was we have different platforms. So, we're trying to harmonize everything and then we're just using the google platform and then they're now the teachers are being our students right now and trying to see all the features of the google classroom and then come by Friday, personally I'll be discussing the e-learning platform and also the learning assessment and how to create breaks at the same time, all the elements that we'll be having based from my experience, because part of my dissertation is Cyber University. So, we will be able to allow teachers to be immersed with this kind of technology, because you are correct good senator that teachers really need to be equipped especially just those challenging times that we have the journey with our students and like what we've been telling them, that we need to be advanced, because our kids are already advanced. So, we need to be the one step ahead of them.

Senator Kelly Marsh-Taitano: And what platform are you using? I know that for the public school kids, they're using google and if I'm remembering correctly google, like google classroom.

Charles Delta: Yeah google, because right now we had a free access to google classroom. So, the google classroom encompasses everything, the platform that we have there, plus it provides unlimited storage for our engagement. So, we'll be utilizing majority of our platform for google, even google meet. We don't have to pay for that, so it's incorporated even the calendaring it's there. So even the repository of their output it's there also, plus we can incorporate the rubric systems that will be able to, but then somehow to provide authentic assessment or authentic learning.

Senator Kelly Marsh-Taitano: Excellent. Well, they couldn't ask for something better than for you to have your educational background in this sort of field and the last question and I'm sorry Madam Chair, is one the issues that's really concerning across the nation and probably across the globe is the digital divide. Do your students, since it is focused around the subject areas that you have, is there an issue with the digital divide with your students?

Charles Delta: Of course part of that would be part of the survey that we had asked them, of course their accessibility of the internet access and then of course, that's one of the challenges that we are looking before and apparently based on the responses of the parents from the survey 91.3% have great access reliability for the internet and then only nine students or perhaps respondents or 2.5%

who do not have access at home and then of course part of the digital divide would be the inability of the students to really cope with the mechanism, because we're also considering based from research, that we cannot really engage them 100% of the time with having zoom meeting or a real time, that's why we're balancing these things into asynchronous and synchronous approaches. Plus we are asking our teachers to various models of delivery, so that students will be engaged. That's why we are seeing or we're targeting that first part, I mean in August when we try to open, part of it with really immersing our students, just like what we're doing with our teachers with the technology, because we understand that some of the students the normal or the norms would always be a traditional way. So, we need to build a culture with the technology and part of it also of our system would be really have to revolutionize the curriculum and that's one of the goals of SIFA.

Senator Kelly Marsh-Taitano: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* for your answers and thoughtfulness that the Charter Schools are having towards this. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* Madam Chair.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Thank you Senator Marsh. Charles, just to clarify SIFA is anticipated to receive \$ 221,529 from the ESF Budget. Are you not directly or is SIFA not directly receiving this money or is Guam Department of Education, the state agent facilitating the money?

Charles Delta: I think it's the federal in charge for the Educational Stabilization Fund Grant, they asked us to submit our proposal for our supplementary, I mean the supplementary items for our distance education. So, we just signed, I think last Friday together with the other Charter Schools regarding the funds that they will be disbursing for us and I mean that's personally disbursing the funds, but that's the allocated amount for the school, for the equipment and then the p.p.e. that will be given to us.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, I understand. Thank you very much and SIFA was able to discern, what they needed for their school, for their mission and vision right, they weren't told that this is what you're going to get right?

Charles Delta: Because the majority especially for the equipment, it's more supplemental equipment that will be aiding the school, for those students who do not really have the technology to pursue our learning modes.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay. All right, very good and Helen is this the same case for you for iLearn?

Helen Nishihira: Yes, we have, but ours it's based on per pupil. So, originally our cost was \$ 680,000, but because of some procurement we're given the opportunity to share what we needed, but at the same time there's some limitation, because I'm not really sure how it works, but instead of getting the \$ 680,000, we were able to use up to \$ 516,000 and these are all equipment and we do have some autonomy on what we can get, but a lot of the times it's bulked in with what all the other schools on island are getting, because of some kind and I believe it's that \$ 250,000 limit. So, if we're all getting plexiglass, then it's being procured out of G.D.O.E. so, that \$ 250,000 means it bumps into I.F.B., I think, I'm not really sure, but there are some limitations to, we're not getting the funds, we're getting items with those funds.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, thank you. That's good to know and your allocation was originally \$ 694,944 and then the budget that was actually given to you was \$ 516,294, so it's like almost a \$ 200,000 difference between the two, thank you and now we can move forward to Career Tech High School. Mr. McManus hello.

Steve McManus: I'll got ahead and defer to our principal Tamar, thank you.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Hi Tamar, how are you?

Tamar Celis: Hi, I'm good. Thank you so much for giving Career Tech the opportunity to speak tonight. So, as you know our school will be opening our doors for the first time in the middle of the pandemic and while that's not a pleasant scenario for any school to be in. Our situation is kind of exacerbated by our recent denial of E.S.F. funding through the Cares Act, our denial of p.p.e. monies and then also just the lack of government appropriations until the start of the new fiscal year, which is in October. So, in light of that and operating from kind of an empty wallet, until then it's been really difficult to enroll students and in turn plan for the equipping of our classrooms, nevertheless we're super optimistic about getting those enrollment numbers or getting the interest of the students, because once we do roll out the campaign, where we'd like to emphasize the uniqueness of our learning options and that they are commitment free. So kind of like what Charles was explaining, we're really looking to push the envelope in terms of like progressive education and looking to offer students authentic learning options and give them authentic feedback. So our learning options for the new school year, taking also into account parents is the whole spectrum of family concerns right now. The first option is 100% online, but those classes or attendance would have to be physical attendance, it wouldn't be mandatory. So, they would log into the classroom from their own devices at home, that's option one. Option two is face-to-face, they could come into our classrooms that would be socially distanced of course and have whatever PPE that align with the CDC guidelines and then option three is just a combination or whatever mix and match schedule that the students want. So, we believe that this provides parents who might not have very stable job situations, this gives them the opportunity to have their high school age students learn from home or on campus, when it is convenient for them or in accordance to their perceptions of the Corona Virus Pandemic.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay. When are looking to start?

Tamar Celis: Right now we're looking at January opening.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: January 2021?

Tamar Celis: Correct, yes.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: So, I'm thinking that you weren't a part of the E.S.F., is because you don't have an enrollment at this time, you don't have students physically enrolled, is that correct?

Tamar Celis: Our status as a new Charter School, so I think that E.S.F. funding was allotted to schools that have been open for at least one year.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and how are you going to move forward, if in the budget by law, we appropriate per pupil, how are you going to move forward with the January 2021 opening? When we are doing the budget in August and finalizing it in August with no enrollment numbers?

Tamar Celis: Well right now, from my understanding, we are given disbursements and I think we would just justify our expenses based on our lease agreement. If our Board Member Steve McManus has any insight?

Steve McManus: Yeah and I can answer that question. We would pretty much taking, based on the precedent on some of the other schools that had the same situation. If the fiscal appropriation doesn't start to October, you can't start school in August and it is kind of hard to start school in the middle of the semester. So, what the other schools did is they started in January and we're hoping that we could avail ourselves of the same special appropriations. I believe where were able to get funding for October, November and December to get ourselves established, so that we're all ready to go hit the ground running, when the students show up in January. This all being so recent, we were just notified news about more than three weeks ago, that we did not qualify for the E.S.F., that was one of the main things we were hoping that would get us, so we could self-fund those two-three months until the fiscal year begins, but because that didn't go through, we did not roll out the campaign and then we were waiting for what we thought was an offer from the Lieutenant Governor's Office to help the schools with additional funds that outside the E.S.F., that didn't materialize. So, that was kind of a recent development, so due to that we've decided that we cannot start, we do not have enough to start. We've been able to self-subsidized to our current staff helping, a minimal staff get the facilities set up, training teachers. We're 95% there, but we need help and this is why we've asked the Charter School Council and we appreciate that they motioned and approved a motion to request a supplement for us, through the Legislature and that is because we're so close and but whether we started in August, we still need some kind, it would really help us to get some kind of supplement, so that whether it's first and foremost knowing for certain, we're going to get funded in October and then that supplemental budget in addition to take care of the PPE, because we have no funding for that.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay. So, right now what I'm tracking is seven teachers at \$ 9,934 each and this is just for September, October, November and December?

Steve McManus: I believe so.

Tamar Celis: That is our budget request. That is correct, yes.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay. So, just for the first and second quarter, that would be what you need for each teacher?

Tamar Celis: Yes.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and then you have an additional C.T.E. teachers at \$ 5,021 each?

Tamar Celis: Sorry, are you referring to our supplemental budget request or our fiscal year 21 budget request?

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: You tell me, what it is?

Tamar Celis: Okay. So, the supplemental budget request, which would be to fund payroll before our January opening, that would be four C.T.E. teachers at part-time so, that's just \$ 2,746 per C.T.E. teacher.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: That's it?

Tamar Celis: Um hmm.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and top of the seven teachers?

Tamar Celis: Correct, yes.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and then your aid, you have one aid? This is for supplemental, do you have anything for your aid?

Tamar Celis: Yes, there are two part-time aides at \$ 6,155, but you know that we open in January, there might be some just rearranging of that proposed payroll, because we might not need those aides before the students come in January.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: And then your Principal, you're supplemental before you start in January, how much are you requested for your Principal?

Tamar Celis: \$ 16,471

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and then for your Vice Principal?

Tamar Celis: Yes, \$ 13,670

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay. So, what I'm going to need from you is, the supplemental for your preparation to open and then the budget that you're actually going to need, when you do open in January for the school year. Do you guys have the enrollment numbers at this time?

Tamar Celis: No, we do not.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay.

Steve McManus: Our goal is to, we pretty much have made the decision as of yesterday to start rolling out our campaign. So, we are going to pushing for September 30th deadline for January, of

course we're going for open enrollment will continue throughout the school year of course. We think that the numbers will continue to pick up, we have quite a number of interest and initial inquiries, but as far as registration, we could not do that because we couldn't set a date. So now that we set a date, now we can roll it out. So, yeah that's the goal, to have the numbers by September 30th.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, by September 30th, you'll have the enrollments?

Steve McManus: Yeah, we would like to reach that capacity at September 30th.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: How many is Career Tech anticipating?

Steve McManus: 200.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: 200 students, okay. Okay, how much do you pay for rent?

Steve McManus: \$ 36,300 per month.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Per month?

Steve McManus: \$ 435,600 per year.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, is that just the use of the facilities?

Steve McManus: Yeah the facilities, the whole campus.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Does that include similar services?

Steve McManus: No, that's the lease for the entire campus.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, so no internet, no copier, no utilities?

Steve McManus: Yeah, that is in the operating cost, yeah we factored them in.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, thank you.

Steve McManus: Your welcome Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: On top of the 200 pupils that you're anticipating, you're going to need additional money for the supplemental budget, is this inclusive of the 200 pupils at \$ 6,150 per pupil?

Tamar Celis: Right, this would be in addition to the fiscal year.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay. So, we need to ensure that we have seven teachers at \$ 9,934 four your supplement, four C.T.E. at \$ 2,746, two aides and your Principal and your Vice Principal correct?

Tamar Celis: Correct, yes.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, to include 200 pupils enrollment?

Tamar Celis: Um hmm.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, thank you very much Career Tech.

Steve McManus: Thank you Madam Vice Speaker.

Tamar Celis: Thank you.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Oh, I'm sorry Legislative Secretary, do you have any questions, it has been a long day, forgive me.

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Thank you very much Madam Chair and congratulations to the Career Tech team, it's very exciting to hear that you'll be opening soon and I know you just made the decision to start your campaign, but maybe you can share with us, who are the students that you're looking for? Where are you located and share with the public today, all of those details?

Steve McManus: Sure, sure it'll be the first Charter School down south and I think that's been something we're very excited about and we're very happy about for a lot of our families that we know in the community, that we've served in the community. Many of the stakeholders have served for more than 25 years and so, we're very happy about that. I mean as any Charter School, it's open to the whole island. We're right there in Agat, the facilities is the former Southern Christian Academy facilities, right there on the beach-ocean side of the traffic light in Agat, in the heart of Agat town and this not only support our trades, but including our Maritime Academy. This is something we're very excited about, which not only is the trade, several trades we're offering that are not being offered by other vocational schools in the public high schools. Three specifically renewable energy, so electrician so that's the trade, but with the additional skills in photovoltaics or insta-solar photovoltaics and other forms of renewable energy. It's that whole need to get Guam more and more independent and self-sustaining. So, certified electricians with an emphasis and photovoltaics, so that's the trade and agriculture both the traditional and the modern micro greens. We already have an agreement with Guahan Sustainable Energy, they'll be working with Debbie Crisostomo and that wonderful team of indoor and outdoor agriculture. So, that's that and then of course the Maritime Academy, which I think is something that literally is going to be the flag ship of the trades program, which is both traditional. So it's going back to restore and kind of meet some of the mission goals, the vision of Career Tech is the Chamorro culture and the Chamorro tradition and propagation and the revival of our traditions, but seeing that this is a tremendous opportunity of not just of marrying a tradition of extraordinary traditional science, celestial navigation and sailing and canoe building, but using that knowledge to also provide modern skills in boat captaincy, boat building, boat captaincy as well as maritime biology and many of the other

sciences that associated with the Maritime Academy. So, these are the things that we're very excited about and there and that us being on the beach it's invaluable, that's something we're very exciting about. So the others trades of the business and accounting is the fourth, the fifth one is nursing and the sixth one is information technology. So these are the first six trades that we will be rolling out in the first three years and we were starting with 9th and 10th graders, so it's very important to understand that this first school year is going to be 9th and 10th graders and then the next year, we will continue that cohort. The 11th grade, we're going to open the 11th grade and then the 12th grade the following there and then in our third year, we'll have a full 9th through 12th and from that it'll always be 9th to 12th. We're appealing to our 8th graders today, we'll have one semester in high school, that's the challenge. I don't know how the other schools did it, but that is kind of the challenge we're running into, is transferring in the middle of the school year, but we're excited. We got a lot of parents, we got a lot of support, we got a lot of people wanted to see that happen.

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Sounds like you have a long road ahead, very exciting, a lot of work in front of you, but up to the challenge. Obviously, you're all taking this very actively and I'm glad to see that and I'm think all the different categories of trades that you're going to be offering are very timely right now. I think that we have been having a lot of discussions here in the Legislature about sustainability, about agriculture, these different industries and diversifying our economy and so thank you in advance for focusing on those topics, thank you.

Steve McManus: Thank you Senator, thank you so much.

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Thank you Madam Chair.

Vice Speaker Telen C. Nelson: Thank you Legislative Secretary, Senator Kelly Marsh, do you have any questions?

Senator Kelly Marsh-Taitano: Si Yu'us Ma'ase Madam Chair. Yes, I'm too very excited to hear about this Career Tech. My uncle who brought us out here to Guam in the early 60's, he was specifically a trade school instructor and he started the Micronesian Occupational College in Palau and he was a Director down there and taught us trades up here for many years. So he would have loved to have heard of this new direction. With the school beginning in January, are you planning on reaching out to those students as you get that enrollment and encourage them to take certain subjects, so that it will more easily to blend into what you're developing, like encouraging certain sciences or math that will fit into the curriculum you are offering?

Steve McManus: Well yes, thank you Madam Senator. Thankfully it's 9th and 10th, so they just need to do their basic math and English, just as long as they get there, we'll take care of the technical prerequisites once they get to us. If they're able to get access to some of the offerings, I believe and G.C.C. has wonderful offerings in some of the high schools like computer science and stuff like that, even nursing, but most of them know how it is the 1st year, it's just all general education, so we'll take all those credits and transfer them and that shouldn't be a problem.

Senator Kelly Marsh-Taitano: Okay and one of the things going through my mind and I think you've explained it a little bit, I loved my trade classes when I was in junior high and so forth and

they were maybe a little old school compared to what you guys offer now and so I was thinking about your principal mentioned that you're going to be offering some 100% online and so, I was wondering with some of these trades, if that was more difficult but when you were talking about renewable energy and as you outlined them in agriculture, I can see how they could be online. I would imagine there might be some hands-on components, could you speak to how you're going to tackle that a little bit.

Steve McManus: Yeah, thank you for that question. We're praying that this is just temporary thing, but we're preparing that it may not be, maybe a four year thing. The good news is that we do have, we already set up to have in class face-to-face, so we're providing as our principal Tamar explained, we are providing both options, but there are going to have to be and this will come probably for the following year, hopefully as the conditions start being less severe and the students can start coming to school, but we just want to make it for the 1st year, that if the parents are very understanding their concerns that they just don't feel ready to bring their kids in, we'll be okay, because it's a general education, not that they don't need face time, but the technical classes they really do need hands on mentoring and apprenticing. The good news about three of the trades is that they are open air, they are outdoors. They're going to have to come in at least once or twice a week for the trades, but that is awesome that you love trades and that your experience in fact that we did this school, that is my bias, because I graduated from Vote Tech, back when it was called Votech Automotive and it was just, I think it just made all the difference in the world and I was making more money than my classmates that in other schools and just we want to see these kids come out, we really want have this passion for them, to have the credentials and the certification upon graduation, not just that they got to take two more years at a Community College, but upon graduation. So, as well as College readiness, our school is set up for College readiness. We're a Career Tech School, but we're going college readiness as well.

Senator Kelly Marsh-Taitano: Right, you're offering the Informational Technology Degree that segues perfectly into college. Yeah, I do have that side of me, where I really like hands-on and I really enjoyed that educational part and from what I've read, I'm sure you've done much more than me in studies, you know a large part of our United States population, they're still very much preferring that kind of education, where it's hands-on, they're using their hands and so forth and we need to prepare them for real careers in those kind of fields, they're good paying careers and we see that need here on Guam. So, I appreciate that and then the cultural side of me really appreciate you're tackling this Maritime Academy. I love the concept of taking the traditional and the modern, something really extraordinary with it grounding people in that traditional self-identity, whether you're tomorrow or not, people respond to it and it mean a lot and then you can modernize it in a variety of ways and make careers out of it in a variety of ways. So this is really innovative, I think and I look forward, make sure to offers us all tours so that we can come in sometimes and see everybody in the classrooms and how they're going.

Steve McManus: I will. We definitely will.

Senator Kelly Marsh-Taitano: Si Yu'us Ma'ase Madam Chair for letting me ask a few questions.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Thank you Senator Marsh and thank you to Career Tech. So, now we will move on with G.A.C.S., Guahan Academy. Who will be speaking on behalf of G.A.C.S.?

Dr. Judith Won Pat: Hafa Adai.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Hi Dr. Won Pat. Can you also give us the same understanding of G.A.C.S.'s approach in light of the Covid 19 pandemic? How you will ensure that students will be in a safe learning environment and then we'll just go into the needs for the budget request for G.A.C.S. thank you.

Dr. Judith Won Pat: Thank you very much and if I may, because the last public hearing that you had on the budget, there were several of the Senators, who really wanted to know about our accreditation and who really is Cognac and I just wanted to let you know again, that we did attain a five-year accreditation from Cognac Global International Accreditation Commission, which actually has three accrediting commissions under them. So, therefore we are accredited by the Northwest Accreditation Association and the Southern Association Accreditation Commission as well. So, it's really three of the six accrediting commissions in the U.S. and they also do credit globally, internationally and I have to say that they do accredit all the D.O.D.E.A. at schools including Guam at the D.O.D.E.A. of school and as a matter of fact, I'm one of the members in the engagement review team to accredit Mount Carmel School in Saipan in September. So, that's really great news for us and I'm glad that you asked the question. The last time, I just wanted to bring you up all to speed. There are so many requirements of CDC, that all schools are having to work with and I know that all of us have submitted our re-opening plan, which we had to submit to the Department of Public Health and Social Services, which also be shared with the Governor's Physician Advisors as well with the Governor sends out Executive Orders making sure that we do follow all of the guidelines and we did. Their main concern of course, which is our concern and that will be the safety factor, not just for our children, but for the faculty and staff and of course there's this intensified disinfecting and cleaning and for the most part, the Cares Act, the Education Stabilization Fund is actually going to help quite a bit for our schools, but they're addressing only three areas. One will be the distance learning and that will be in the form of devices that we need to give our children, should they decide to be online 100% of the time, so those are the devices. The second thing was going to help us with is the personal protective equipment and that's making sure that we have all of the disinfectants at this school, so that we can frequently be cleaning our schools throughout the day, providing the mask for our children, reusable ones and those are disposable, when children come in without theirs. So, we have to make sure that's all available for them. So and the third will be because of this pandemic, some families have lost loved ones and it's very difficult being self-quarantined and there's a lot of questions and emotions, that's really going on with our children, so there's also a separate funding for that should we decide to use it and I have to say that we did do it like other schools, were doing a hybrid of an A/B schedule, meaning that 50% of children will be basically allowed to be on campus in order for us to comply with the six-foot distance, forward and back and to the left and right. So, therefore it will be 15 students per classroom that we would be allowed to come in and based on the survey that we put out, we do have at least 51% of our children saying that they would like to come to school and then the other split will be the 100% online and the other would be 100% hard copy. So our children will be coming in on alternating days, our A schedule would be Monday & Wednesday, our B

schedule will be Tuesday & Thursday and then the Friday, the children will not come, the teachers will use that time to be able to communicate with the children one-to-one, to be able to make sure all the lessons are printed for the week and then Friday, that's when the parents can come in and pick-up the lessons for the week and drop-off lessons from the previous week. We're going to use that time to continually train our teachers, because as part of the E.S.F. that there is this section for the social-emotional issues that there will be some professional development and training going on, so rather than doing that on any other day, it will strictly on a Friday and the other thing that we would like to do on our Fridays as well because of our accreditation, we need to be able to maintain the standards that you know, we have just been adhere to, that we had to address with them and that means that we will need to continue to work on improving the areas that they have indicated that we needed to work on. So, that's what all our Fridays are going to be used for. The concern that we have, like the others as well will be, yes the opening of the school, training of our teachers and I will admit, very different from iLearn, they have done digital teaching instructions, for us the only basically who have been using the computers primarily, our high school students with a program called ingenuity, where we do a blended learning, so that's fairly easy for our high school. We have extended that down to our middle schools as well and then the last will be separate of course, will be our elementary kids. Where it is really more face-to-face and that's where now, we're going looking at actually needing more staff. So what I've done in essence, I know even with our current budget and we're kind of hoping that yes, if we could be at \$ 6,500, it would definitely be much better, because right now honestly I've hired eight people to be able to address the face-to-face in the elementary level and then I've also because of the cleaning, I have three campus having wings that I need to make sure, I have a custodian for each wing, because of the frequent cleaning and disinfecting the areas, monitoring our students as well substitute teachers. Honestly I'll tell you, because if a teacher calls in sick for Covid, that's 14 days in which a teacher is going to be out, I need to make sure I have a substitute teachers for them, I need to make sure I train them, so they'll be ready to take over the class. So you know and that's where I'm putting out the call, but nobody's answering, I guess it's better to remain unemployed and get the \$ 600 a week versus getting the minimum wage for a substitute teacher. Another cost that would go up for us is a food service, we're going to anticipate an additional \$ 100,000 increase, because other expenses, because no longer could our children go in and use the cafeteria, everything would have to be packed, everything would have to be disposable and then of course it's no longer using a reusable trays and utensils, everything will have to be taken to the classrooms for the teachers for the children to eat in the classrooms and it would mean, I would have to send other staff members into the classrooms to relieve the teachers, so that they too would be able to have their lunch hour and even trying to schedule this, so that then we would only have at the most about probably, I would say six teachers out at a time, when the children are going to have their lunches and then hopefully, I'm going to pull others throughout the school to be able to cover like during prep times and also to use our other staff for 12-month employees. So that is a factor that we did not include in the budget, when we first submitted it, because these are all new cost now, because of the Covid and even though we are getting and the dollar amount that we're getting from E.S.F. is \$ 761,444.68 and that is the breakdown, would be in terms of equipment about \$ 31,000 and that's for computers for the teachers, so they'll be able to do the distance learning you know and other supplies, materials related to that. In terms of supplies now, that's where our largest cost will be and that's \$ 624,000 and that material basically are for a program, which is for the D.I. the connect education, for us to be able to connect with our D.I. children, with those who are going to be home, the ingenuity program for middle and high school that is also going to be included as part of our

supplies, because that's a large amount and then a lot of hard copies in the basic areas, that I put in which will be language arts, reading and math primarily, because that's our area of improvement in our action plan for accreditation and the other supplies are protective, plexi-glass we're calling them sneeze guards to put in all of our front desk and all of the offices. I originally wanted it in the classrooms, but I was basically informed I couldn't do it for the whole school and so it's primarily for all the offices in which you know like the counselor's office, the attendance officer's office, the disciplinarian, the registration and so on and that's we're also putting in, because we can't use our water fountains, we have to put in a water system that was recommended by the department, which are refillable water stations. Which means of course, I have to order flasks for all of our children, a reusable one so they can refill, because we want to avoid any contamination. Then a lot of training of course for the social-emotional learning, because we have a large number of children who want hard copies, it means that we need to get a larger Xerox machine that will be faster and more efficient to be able to print all those copies and be done by the week and to be given out to the children. Contractual you know would be of course like Epsco to make sure that we have all the resources that we need for our children, we're also going to have the ingenuity program and so forth. So that brings us to a total of \$ 761,000 and I signed the assurances last week with the Department and today the delivered a very small portion of it, basically five shields, one goggle, four hand sanitizers and one gallon of the gel and they were delivered by Homeland Security. We hope to see more of those and sooner, rather than later, because I want to make sure that all of our children, faculty & staff are protected, that they have all these protective gear, as much as I would like to honestly ask the our parents to provide for these things that makes it very difficult, when 90 children are on free & reduced meals lunch. So therefore, I feel that would be very difficult for us to ask them to buy all those, so that will be so important to make sure the children and staff would have it. We're looking at August 3rd opening, primarily not the school, but to bring our teachers in, because we need to train them, they're pretty anxious about it, this is going to be the new normal for them and just imagine this and I know by Vice Speaker, you would appreciate this, because if you as a teacher are teaching your children, half of your class face-to-face simultaneously, your other half will be on the internet with you and then you still have to prepare a lesson for the other group that you have to provide the hard-copy. So in essence, yes we're asking our teachers to do a lot more than they're ever done before and hence of course, the need for the additional teachers to help. So, that's where and why I have to hire these additional teachers to help, so that is why I have to hire these additional people so that these individuals will go into the classrooms to immediately help our teachers one-to-one in their classrooms. So, that's who's not going to be in the classroom, administrators have told them the exact same thing, we're all going to be one because we're all going to have to help everyone, so everybody will be doing basically everything together and cross training and cross working with other areas, because we need everyone on board and the last thing other than that, because and this is an issue, I really hope that maybe you can look into it because just today, we heard that bus drivers are not going to take the temperatures of the school children, as they pick them up in the villages, take them down to the interchange and then from the interchange, they come up to our school and this is island wide, so if one child is infected and you miss that and you don't take the temperature that child goes to the interchange affects other gets on a different bus and affect others and they come to the school. So we're having a staging area for yes, for us. So, I'm going to have assign about six to seven people basically in different locations of the school to be able to take the temperature of the children as they come in and because I know that when you unload a busload two of them, that's about maybe 30 kids. So my staging area would be with the canopy in the front to then seat them six feet apart,

take their temperatures before we can send them on to the classrooms. So it's a scary situation seriously, when you're thinking about the health and safety of the children and you know and we have to pull everybody to help out, to be able to do this. So, yes we have now, they delivered about four of those temperature checks, we went ahead and purchased two for our own, because we want to do it for our own staff, so that would be six and technically then it'll be six people in the school who will be doing that. The other question you had asked is the contractual and in the digest that we submitted in our budget, the contractual are primarily like for example, our evaluator for our test scores, our food service management, our I.T. school management service, copying machines, our audit or annual audit, legal counsel, payroll processing services, retirement all that and accreditation that came out to \$ 731,000. Annually for contractual services and that's you know the part of the digest and the budget that we've submitted, our capacity, our classroom capacity and that based on some of the retrofitting of building E, our capacity really is a little over 900. 900 is rounding it off from of course, you know our count is 740 and like the other, yes we're continually enrolling and registering children. Many are calling because they think that we're a charter school, that we really charge tuition and we're so, we're getting the word out that we don't, some of the hesitancy was because of that, but other than that every day right now, it's looking that we're actually registering about 25 students daily, until we meet that 900 and we have some on a waiting list. By the way, also because and the waiting list is only where normally, what I've done in my schedule is to determine like the number of teaches that I have, what would be the maximum number and so when we reach that level, like not necessarily maximum, but normally be 28, but because we're doing the 15 home and 15 in school, I actually can go 30, because only 15 children, but before even doing that they're on the list to make sure then that first of all is that too I'm able to have the teachers, that I'm going to meet to hire them, to be able to teach the children. Is there anything else I may have left out, that you have asked for?

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Thank you Dr. Won Pat.

Dr. Judith Won Pat: Is that everything that you've asked for?

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Yes, thank you and thank you for the thoroughness on the checks that you're going to implement for Covid 19, especially when you involve the temperature taking and the classroom environment and the safety measures that you're going to take and also the utilization and providing a face mask for the students. Hopefully, that all the other schools have something similar to that process. Charles, I did have a question for you. Before I moved forward with G.A.C.S., same question for iLearn, we did a provision in the budget last year to make sure that the money that you did not spend, can be used for prior year obligations, have you had any issues with obtaining that money from the Department of Administration or has everything been okay?

Charles Delta: D.O.A. has been helpful in guiding us in the requisition, so majority of our requests they have been provided.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and are you anticipating anything else to roll over?

Charles Delta: Yeah, of course we will be looking at towards iLearn, before the fiscal year ends, we'll be able to utilize those.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: And how much is that?

Charles Delta: As of now, we are looking at \$ 479,000 that we still have to pay for our prior year obligations.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, very good. All right, Dr. Won Pat also for you, are you receiving any issue with Department of Administration for prior year obligations, receiving that money?

Dr. Judith Won Pat: Well actually with this last fiscal year, we had set aside about \$ 658,000 for prior year obligations, however they did not take, they did not give us that amount of money in the last fiscal year. So, technically I don't know it all, depends how the government functions and when they're closing out their books. Is that they decided to take it out of this year's fiscal budget of \$ 658,000, which should have been last year's. So that is the only thing that we have. We are in a disagreement, we had asked the council to help us as well and we've not gotten any further.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: So, are you saying that for fiscal year 2019 allotment that D.O.A. withheld \$ 658,000 from G.A.C.S.?

Dr. Judith Won Pat: Your right, we didn't use it, we set it aside to make the payment, but instead it was taken out of this year's 2020 budget.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: So, they took out \$ 658,000 out of 2020, was there a reason for that?

Dr. Judith Won Pat: No, just the other thing that we heard is that they closed their books or ran out of time and we were following everything, you know asking us to submit the invoices, asking us to submit the resolution from the board, asking us to go to the council to approve it. So, all those were done, yet it was not then taken out of fiscal year 19.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay. Was there anything in the provision that we wrote in the Public Law, that D.O.A. utilized as perhaps a loophole that gave them the authority to do this or they just went ahead and did it on their own?

Dr. Judith Won Pat: No, actually what you guys did was in good terms making sure that out of D.O.E. to D.O.A. and we were in constant communication with the Director to make sure that we are complying with all his requests, but then the bottom line at the end of the day, was that it didn't come out of FY 19. So, it was fine all the way until that point already, because we were actually having the conversation, even as late as November-December and we still had some time and then only to know the following year that it came out of this year's budget.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay.

Jesse Quenga: If I may and we were actually involved with the Department of Administration, while we clarified this issue. So upon reading the language inserted in the budget act for FY 2020,

there was a prior year obligation provision that allowed the school to expense for prior years, but the challenge was that there wasn't a continuing appropriation provision that allowed for FY 2019 funds to roll over into FY 2020. Therefore, it was as if the school could pay the prior year, but it would be taken out or drawn down from their current year budget.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: How are the other Charter Schools able to receive their allocation with the same verbiage?

Jesse Quenga: All schools are getting their allocation, but they're only getting the allocation provided in the FY 2020 budget Act.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Charles did you guys receive anything from FY 2019 to pay for prior year obligations?

Charles Delta: On the same note, it was taken from the FY 2020?

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: And it was also for iLearn?

Helen Nishihira: Our prior year was fiscal year 2018 and the way it worked out was in fiscal year 2019, the funds that we did not use, we were able to use to pay down fiscal year 2018, we spent it during fiscal year 2019. I think that was what's happening here, we were able to pull that money during the fiscal year, where the funds were available. So fiscal year 2020, we're anticipating, we will have \$ 40,000 to continue to pay down that fiscal year 2018, but we would have to request it prior to the end of the fiscal year 2020, otherwise we'll lose the money, but we're anticipating requesting the funds prior to the end of the fiscal year, where that fund is still available.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: So, in fiscal year 2019, you requested the utilization of fiscal year 2018 funds to pay off prior year?

Helen Nishihira: No, in school year 2019, we utilized remaining fiscal year 2019 funds to pay down fiscal year 2018 and that was allowed, but we had to request that, during that the funding source was fiscal year 2019. We had to request it in fiscal year 2019. So, now that we are coming to the end of fiscal year 2020, we still have a remaining balance, so we're going to utilize fiscal year 2020 funds, during fiscal year 2020 and we're going to request that at the end, because we want to make sure that all of our fiscal year 2020 is paid for and with that we anticipate a remaining balance of \$ 40,000, that's all for fiscal year 2020, we're going to use that to pay down prior year obligation.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Thank you Helen. Dr. Won Pat has G.A.C.S. requested on time to utilize the money for the prior year obligations, the same way iLearn has requested?

Dr. Judith Won Pat: We've continually communicate with them, I mean it was like almost on a weekly basis all the way, even before the fiscal year ended, we sat with him and he said yes, we have time, I just want to make sure that you get all this information to us and also get the council to support it and send it over to them. So, we had actually submitted the documents to you the other day, all the supporting documents and the communication and the support of the board and

the council on this matter. So, nevertheless even like I said, even all the way to December and he was saying that we still have time, because the books are not yet closed and then suddenly it was taken out of these years and not last years.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Jesse, I know that you're leaving at the end of this month, but how is Department of Administration able to provide support for one school and not able to provide it for the other, when they're going through the same process.

Jesse Quenga: To clarify, I think the statement shared earlier by Mrs. Shinohara, we were still in FY 2019, when they used FY 2019 funds to pay their prior year obligation. When we finally had all the agreements in place, including the council's approval, we had already been probably halfway through FY 2020, when we provided for those approvals and when D.O.A. released that amount. So, the Budget Act provided that they be eligible to pay prior obligations, but using current budget funds, not prior year funds. There was no continuing appropriations provision for any of the schools.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Dr. Won Pat what is the amount that G.A.C.S. still owes its vendors? I know that in our budget hearings, I asked this question and I was told that they were paid and the very next day, several vendors called me and said no, we have not been paid our full amount and so, what is left hanging for us to reconcile for these vendors?

Dr. Judith Won Pat: I don't have the exact figure with me. Can I have Jackie on this please?

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Sure.

Jacqueline Terlaje: *Hafa adai* Madam Chairwoman.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: *Hafa adai.*

Jacqueline Terlaje: On this issue regarding the vendor disputes and the prior year obligations, this is the first time that I have heard from the Department of Administration position, that the basis is that there was not a rollover provision in terms of the usage of funds. That has not been provided to the charter schools as a basis to withdraw the prior year obligations from the current fiscal year. Now, the problem with the argument that the Department of Administration is in fact advancing that position, is that the charter schools submitted the request for the usage of the prior year obligation in the correct fiscal year. So, the request for the allotment for the \$ 658,000 was not made in 2020, it was made in 2019 fiscal year and so the responsibility for the Department of Administration is to ensure that they are making that payment in the correct fiscal year. They refuse to do that, they withheld the allotment until 2020, so they can draw down on our 2020 allotments, which I don't think is appropriate, but we have not had any response from the Department of Administration. We have requested, I take that back, I haven't requested, it was the Department of Administration who informed us that they requested legal counsel on the issue and that issue was submitted to the Office of the Attorney General, but I have not heard anything on that position from the Attorney General. Now, obviously it's a big concern, because what is happening is with respect to vendor disputes and we're talking about the different vendors, you're speaking about whether or not G.A.C.S. has paid those vendors? Now, with respect to the vendors that are in

litigation, I'd respectfully ask Madam Chairwoman that we not address those matter that are in litigation, right now we are in litigation with Yuan Luan Dixel, with Rex International and with W.B.F.A. Flores, I might have got, yes F.A. is associates, correct. So, we are in current litigation in those particular matters and so, respectfully I'd ask that we not address those matters, simply because they should be left to the litigation process, with respect to other vendors, other vendors have been paid from some of the funds that have been released, but until we resolve this problem with the Department of Administration on the drawdown of the funds from the wrong fiscal year, we potentially are creating more problems for the charter school, if we are utilizing 2020 funds to pay prior year obligations, because then that shorts are 2020 obligations. So, obviously our school is very concerned about the issue, we would request the assistance of Madam Chair and the Legislature to get a direct response from the Department of Administration, because we have been working on this since the Legislature passed this bill in June 2019. So we have been very diligent at least, the charter school have been extremely diligent in ensuring that we have the appropriation necessary to pay our vendors, but the problem has been that the Department of Administration has held back the allotments and has now taken it from 2020 and unfortunately for us, we need to clarify the situation. We do have vendors asking for payment and until we get the clarification, the concern is that, we may have to come back again to the Legislature to ask for another appropriation, because of the problem caused by this incorrect allotment takedown.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Thank you Ms. Terlaje. Jesse how is Bank of Guam able to receive the allotment, if they were owed the same amount of money or not the same amount of money, but if the timeline is similar? You have Bank of Guam, Dock and Fire, M.S.A. Logistics and The Carpet store, they were able to receive their payment from G.A.C.S.?

Jesse Quenga: So with the process that was approved in the FY 2020 Budget Act, the challenge was despite the Guahan Academy providing the request dated 2019, the budget act had provided new rules for which these requests are to be followed, what was missed was and what was later discovered at Oversight Hearing, which you'd called was that the school never requested for approval by the council before requesting with D.O.A., have that disbursement release only after the council provided it's approval was D.O.A. given the green light to release these funds, when D.O.A. released the full payment, the check isn't cut to the respective vendors, our council had itemized all the vendors and the amount that are disbursed back to Guahan Academy. It's Guahan Academy's responsibility upon receiving such payment to disperse those funds to the respective party. So, if there is a party that received payment and another who didn't, I think the question is more appropriately asked to Guahan.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, but they weren't given the whole \$ 658,000?

Jesse Quenga: At first that was not received, because of our allotment schedule, so with B.B.M.R. controls, the could not release any percentage greater than what is already released to the Guam Department of Education, but if I am correct, later on that month that it was eventually released to the full amount.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: So, G.A.C.S. was given \$ 658,000?

Jesse Quenga: That is correct and that is my understanding.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and G.A.C.S. we're you able to pay those vendors listed that was due, that \$ 658,000 that was allotted to you?

Jacqueline Terlaje: Madam Chair.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Yes, Ms. Terlaje?

Jacqueline Terlaje: This is Jacqueline Terlaje again. So, in terms of whether or not all the vendors were paid, no all the vendors were not paid, because there is still a question about the appropriate nature of the drawn down from the 2020 fiscal year budget. So, in order to make sure that our 2020 fiscal year is not in jeopardy, because of the draw down on our 2020, we are taking a very cautious approach to releasing funds in order to ensure that we do have sufficient funds for this particular fiscal year.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: What is the game for 2019? What is G.A.C.S. owed for 2019 from D.O.A.? What is the allotment that G.A.C.S. is owed?

Jacqueline Terlaje: So for 2019, they requested \$ 658,000, they we're paid the \$ 658, but they were not paid for the three large vendors. So, that's the biggest problem, its drawing down from 2020, it's not drawing down from 2019. So, the prior year obligation that was incurred prior to 2019, is still sitting there. So, presumably the Government has the \$ 658,000 from that 2019 year budget, but just simply took it from our 2020.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Right, okay. I understand. So, now we just need to make sure that G.A.C.S. is able to receive their 2019 \$ 658,000 tracking. Is any other of the charter schools having this issue? Are you able to receive? Okay.

Jesse Quenga: If I may, Madam Vice Speaker, I also would like to ask, though they maybe some issue or some clarification that the school, would like to see with regards of which budget act is drawn down? They were still dispersed that \$ 658,000. So, the question if they have received those funds, why were those vendors paid?

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and I understand what you're saying and I understand what G.A.C.S. is saying, so we'll call D.O.A. in and ask for appropriate resolve for the FY 2019 overlapping budget, because either way, when we appropriate the schools, this money and we're under the intent that they are going to use it for prior obligations. There's no reason why D.O.A. should hold it back and say because of a stipulation, there is no continuing appropriation, when on the floor, on session floor, we explain the whole purpose for a certain provision given to the charter schools. So, you're absolutely right, Mr. Chair. Jesse and G.A.C.S., I understand their point as well and their perspective. So, I think what we need to make sure is that the \$ 658,000 is not floating around somewhere in the sky and that it is actually put towards the education, towards the kids, because this is what we appropriated it for, for that prior ear that's the most important piece. I'm not in the position to tell anybody or any school, how to spend their money unless we go into a line item budget and say ok, this is how exactly how much you get and this is exactly what you're going to spend it on, but that would be a requirement for us to do for all the agencies and so, I

think that's something maybe we can move forward to and evolve to especially during this time of the pandemic, but right now, we're just trying to understand, how do we resolve the \$ 658,000 that is still out there and where did that money go and then when we find that money, I will make sure it goes to pay the vendors, if that's the case then we will put into the budget law, but the intent of the provision that we added for FY 2020, was to ensure that the charter schools were able to utilize their own money that was appropriated to them to pay for the needs to service our children and that's not what's happening here, because of this whole D.O.A. issue and let's move forward. Senator Shelton legislative Secretary, I believe you have some questions?

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Thank you Madam Chair, thank you very much to the G.A.C.S. team for being here, Dr. Won Pat, I know you mentioned that on Fridays, they're going to be used during the school year as days for teachers to prepare and to distribute whatever materials they will need for the coming week, students will need for the coming week. I just wanted to know to know how you're going to ensure that the students are getting sufficient instructional time, if Fridays will not be used in the regular week, as they've been before.

Dr. Judith Won Pat: The Fridays is designed for teachers to do one-on-one with some of our students to meet, calling the students up or calling their parents, if they can reach them, the other would be our staff and I informed all of our staff to make sure that they go out and reach out to parents and students as well, because the problem we have is that some of our parents, you know that many of our parents have moved and they don't have phone numbers and they don't have a contract and they run out of minutes, so we're going to be using everyone to try to reach out to as many of our children, those who are on either 100% online or 100% on hard-copy and that's why the Fridays is also a time in which then the parents can come in to pick-up the hard-copy for the week.

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Okay, thank you very much Ma'am. I just want to, like all of you are concerned about the time that was lost in the last school year and you know utilizing all the time that we have in this new school year and ensuring that our students don't lose any of that time. I'm glad to hear, there is definitely a plan in place, so thank you for that and Dr. Won Pat, you're speaking about your Cognia Accreditation, congratulations and I do know that your charter, specifically states that it was W.A.S.C. accreditation that is needed. So, has the school, gone to the board to request for this change in your charter, to amend your charter and if so, what is your status?

Dr. Judith Won Pat: Yes, we did and unfortunately because of Covid, they were not able to have the quorum to be able to do it and maybe Jesse can answer this, because last night, there was an attempt to address the request that we put in, so Jesse still here with us? Mr. Quenga?

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Sure, Mr. Chair?

Jesse Quenga: Yes, the council met last night and had intended to discuss the agenda item, we had four members present that was myself, the Vice Chair, our Treasurer and member Yamashita, but before the discussion began, I had raised the question about the conflict of interest generally to all members, so each member responded in the negative, I pushed the question further and asked if Ms. Yamashita had any familial ties, so there was a conflict of interest that was raised and we

thought it'd be best to get legal guidance with just four members present, whether or not Ms. Yamashita can participate in any board vote, regarding Guahan Academy Charter School, Guam law stipulates that for the council's actions to be valid, we have to have a minimum of four votes, if we were to exclude Ms. Yamashita, we only had three ballot votes, so therefore no action could be taken that evening.

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Okay and you have reached out for a legal opinion on that?

Jesse Quenga: That's correct as requested by Ms. Yamashita. I prepared a letter and that was sent early this afternoon to the A.G.'s office to clarify whether or not she can participate or if there are limitations regarding conflict of interest?

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Okay, I suppose in your next council meeting, then you'll address the amendment for the accreditation for Guahan?

Jesse Quenga: Yes.

Senator Amanda L. Shelton: Okay, thank you very much Dr. Won Pat and thank you Madam Chair for the opportunity.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Thank you Legislative Secretary. So, when is the next council meeting, Mr. Quenga?

Jesse Quenga: I believe that the council is set to meet regularly on 3rd Tuesday of August, so I don't have my calendar on me right now.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: You won't be there anymore, is that correct?

Jesse Quenga: Yes, I believe that despite the ending of my term, Guam Law provides that I can continue on for 90 days and three Legislative days. So, if needed to be there for a vote, I think my presence would still count until a replacement is named.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and then you'll have quorum, hopefully? At least you'll still be there, right? Okay. All right, just one question for all the schools, are charter schools avail to the Free Lunch Program?

Dr. Judith Won Pat: Okay, what we're doing right now with D.O.E., is that we're going through the whole process for the C.N.P., the Child Nutrition Program, they have basically said that we can qualify, the problem that we have to do now, is because we have a current vendor and because we're not yet fully participating because they need to train the vendor, they need to train us as well, they gave us all of the different titles that we must make sure we're in compliance with and it's all part of the R.F.P. and once that is finally approved, which is being of course reviewed by our legal counsel, then would go to D.O.E. to do the same an R.F.P. would have to be put out. So, meantime we still must work with doing an amendment or extension of our current contract with our current vendor to continue to feed our children, before we can participate in the C.N.P.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Then that is for G.A.C.S., is there anyone else?

Helen Nishihira: iLearn at this time, has chosen not to participate, when we did the cost analysis, the reimbursement for the Free Lunch Program, would actually find us at a deficit as opposed to a benefit. So, at this time we had decided to just to continue as we are without the Child Nutrition Act.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and Charles?

Charles Delta: Same as iLearn, we decided to opt to not to participate with that privilege. So, we have our own lunch services for our kids.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and for G.A.C.S. how much do you pay for rent?

Dr. Judith Won Pat: We don't, we have an M.O.U. with the Government.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay. Are you still anticipating to relocate out of D.O.E. and start a new school?

Dr. Judith Won Pat: Right now, the board has diligently been looking at all of the different options, to see what we can do and we've actually had some conversations even with G.E.D.A., should we go the route of going out and putting out a proposal. So, there are several options and we're vetting all those options, but yes the goal definitely would be to eventually have our own permanent home, but currently we are where we are. We have two different dates of course in terms of our M.O.U. for the building, so we're trying to bring those all in an alignment.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay and are any of you availing to other federal grants, anytime soon?

Dr. Judith Won Pat: Actually, I've been researching on the different types of grants and different titles, but because many of those titles that would be available to us, for us to competitively compete for them. We found out that we couldn't do it because it's all under G.D.O.E. on the consolidated, because I was looking at title 1, which could give us money for our facilities, could give us money also for pay raises and even for textbooks, so we couldn't very well do that, there would have to be something out of that.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: All right, thank you. Is there anything else that anyone would like to add?

Helen Nishihira: iLearn actually has through our a plus vendor, because we're not in the position to not be able to construct or to build, but our plus vendor, is can what they have done on to provide a facility for us to rent, they have been working with H.U.D. to get a building settled for us. I believe they are closing things up for September, two months from now. So, you'll start seeing something happening, after that.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Okay, that's good to hear. All right, I believe that we exhausted all the items on the agenda this evening, unless anyone has something to add.

Jeanette Yamashita: Yes, it's been burning on my mind and actually, I wanted to ask you last night, but I didn't and I wanted to make sure that I asked it today, because it really bothers me. I saw the agenda for June 18th, in which the council was to address the request to switch from W.A.S.C. to Cognia, the council did not have quorum, I was not yet a member of the council, but I did wonder about that later on, there was advertisement and announcement that G.A.C.S. got a presentation from Cognia. In last night council meeting, to the Chair did announced that G.A.C.S. was still under W.A.S.C., because the council had not acted on the request, because lack of quorum. I'm just wondering how that happened without the council approving, it's within the law that the council is the governing body to make the approval and make that change. What happened here, why was the council bypassed?

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: So, you're saying that G.A.C.S. went ahead and went through Cognia to do the accreditation process and the council did not give their authority for G.A.C.S. to do so, is that the question?

Jeanette Yamashita: That's what I'm saying, if the facts, I saw the agenda for June 18th meeting, it's still on the agenda as of last night and I did not vote and we did not address it, because there was not enough, what would you consider for quorum and it's okay, I don't have too and I'm going to stay in the council, because I think the other schools need me. I want to help the other schools, so I'm okay with that, I just cannot vote on issues, when it comes to G.A.C.S., but before I was even in the council, because I was trying to get ready you know preparing myself for confirmation with the Legislature, so I did see the agenda dated June 18th in which the council was going to address the request. Now somebody in G.A.C.S. did not wait for the council to give approval, somebody decided to just go and get Cognia. I don't know how they did that. The law says that the council has oversight or oversees the charter school.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: So, Jesse is this an issue? Is that what occurred that G.A.C.S., that the council is supposed to give authority to G.A.C.S. to seek accreditation outside of W.A.S.C.?

Jesse Quenga: Correct, that is the interpretation. So while Guahan Academy had applied for their charter and for its renewal, they did stipulate to the council that they would be seeking W.A.S.C. accreditation within Guam Law. Though G.A.C.S. had pursued Cognia, it was later and shared with them, by me that their own charter stipulates W.A.S.C. and so in order for the council to accept a varying accrediting body to satisfy the requirements of the law, G.A.C.S. will need to prepare, which they have a petition to the council to amend their charter.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Did that petition take place?

Jesse Quenga: That petition was filed, but the petition has not been acted on. So at last meeting, like what was shared by Ms. Yamashita, I did remind Guahan Academy that in lieu of no action by this council, the requirement for accreditation is still with W.A.S.C. for Guahan Academy.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: And when are they up for their renewal?

Jesse Quenga: They were renewed in 2018, but annually were required by law to conduct a review with regards to their compliance with the different statutes that pertain to charter schools. So, I think that the school is well aware, yes I agree that it might have been a misstep for them to pursue a varying accrediting body without first getting the approval, but I don't know if that was made aware to the school, before they pursued it but now that they were made aware by the council, they have done steps to become right with the council in order to get that recognized, in the end, I think even if the council did not approve the change from W.A.S.C. to Cognia, it would not hurt the school to have multiple accrediting bodies and help support and validate the level of education that is being administered at Guahan Academy.

Jeanette Yamashita: May I make a statement again?

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Yes Ma'am.

Jeanette Yamashita: Now, I did see the request from Guahan to the council requesting and so for them, for someone to say perhaps they didn't realize, how can you submit a petition and not know that you need to wait for an answer, before you proceed? I see this really as a disrespect and if I'm going to be a council member, I am going to take that public law charter school very seriously and make sure that we support the charter schools, but I also expect that there be a swinging door of respect.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: All right and thank you.

Jeanette Yamashita: I was really holding this, but I think it's something that we need to bring out, because I wonder even if Cognia even knows that the council did not give approval? Do the parents know that the council did not get an approval? Did the Governor Leon Guerrero know that the council did not give approval?

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Well it seems like one of those instances, not to defend the charter school, but the charter schools have gone without a functioning board for a while now, like for maybe more than two years and so finally with this administration, we are finally getting members to be part of the council to start helping these charter schools and guiding them to what is the right way and how to do things and ensuring that things are done in a proper fashion and so, Ms. Yamashita, I appreciate your concern and I appreciate the position that you hold to support our charter schools and also to ensure that they are within the well rights of the law and so, we will move forward to discern on this situation. I think it was probably in the best interest that G.A.C.S. did look for another accrediting body.

Jeanette Yamashita: Yes, there will come a time for everyone to do that, but why was the council sidestepped, that's my question? I would like to have an answer for that, because I'm pretty sure if that petition was answered, I'm pretty sure that it would have been a positive favor, but to put in the request and then not wait for the council to act on it, which is required by law, you know it didn't happen. I as a council member would like to have that question answered.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Yes and Ms. Yamashita you will rightfully be able to do so, when you call them in at your level at the council and that is something you can work out with the charter school and the council board and if the council will bring it up to the Legislature and we see how we can address the Guam Code Annotated to also to help our children first and foremost. So you have every right to ask those questions, when you guys convene and as a council member you have the authority, so when you guys convene you may do that then.

Jeanette Yamashita: Thank you.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Thank you Ms. Yamashita for bringing it up to the public and also to us, so that we know that we can move forward from these certain things. Okay and if there is nothing else, would someone like to add?

Helen Nishihira: Just one more, I'll make it real fast, sorry. We currently have 770 hard enrolled students, but we're still getting inquiries and documents turned in to us and at what point of time are we locking ourselves into 770 or should we still go ahead and take these kids and give you a number at a later time or what should we do at this point?

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Well I'm not in the Office of Finance and Budget Committee, but I'm really trying to advocate for the enrollment changes for the charter schools and the last day I was told the Senators can have input into the budget, in getting the budget, well the last day I was told I would receive a budget brief is on Friday and so this is the whole Government budget, I don't know the flexibility of Office of Finance and Budget, but if there is going to be a change, a concrete change to your enrollment, please keep us abreast, so that when we go into the budget, we will have to see how we can balance it all out, okay and if you see an 800 enrollment then that's something that we need to address at that point, because we don't want to send students away and maybe we have to also see how we would balance out the appropriations for the Department of Education, because a lot of the students are moving into the charter schools. Okay and just do the best that you can and just keep us abreast along the way, so that we can try our best to support you and to help to educate our children, okay and thank you. Mr. Flores you have something?

William Flores: Thank you Vice Speaker for allowing me to speak, I maybe speaking a little funny, because I had a dental procedure and it's kind of difficult for me to speak. I just wanted to say that Guahan Academy is only in our 35 years of business, Guahan Academy is only the 2nd client, and we've ever had to go to court to try to collect for and the only reason, we are in court is because the board quit talking to us and this is the same situation, I understand from the other vendors, who are suing, We didn't want to do this, we're not in the business to sue, but Guahan Academy has to step up and do their part and all this discussion about the Department of Administration, you know our bills are over two years old. So though that doesn't hold water with people who have to pay their employees, so what I'd like to say is that if Guahan Academy is submitting a budget Vice Speaker that doesn't address in total their arrears and what they owe and I think it's a deficient budget, any business or any Government agency who submits a budget that doesn't cover all their obligations, I believe that a deficient budget and what they have to do to cover the difference and what is owed these people and us, that's their problem, that's their issue, their challenge not ours. So we are just asking the Legislature to please take a close look at this

because, I don't think their budget reflects a true balance sheet, it just cannot be accurate if these deficits are not being addressed and thank you forum and I really appreciate, I believe you have my written testimony and. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* and I really appreciate the chance to speak.

Vice Speaker Telena C. Nelson: Is there anyone else? Okay. Thank you everyone for being here. Mr. Chair for staying on top of things and thank you for putting the work for the short amount of time and I'm hoping you stay on for another three months for another 90 days and as Ms. Yamashita shared there's much to still be resolved and the enormous work that the council has done, has really improved the forward movement for the charter schools, so thank you for your constant advocacy and thank you also to our charter schools for the diverse education platforms that you are providing for our children, allowing them to excel in their own capacity. So, I hope to see you succeed soon and if there's anything else that you will need and if the enrollment changes, please let us know, okay, all right and thank you. Everyone it is now 7:18 in the evening, I'd like to tell you all again thank you and thank you to the teachers and your team within your schools and also the parents, who make it successful, it is now 7:18 in the evening and we will now adjourn this Roundtable Hearing, thank you and good night, take care everyone and thank you.

The virtual informational briefing was adjourned at 7:18 PM.

III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee found that each Charter School will have various modes of learning to begin the work needed to prepare for school reopening in the context of current and projected Covid-19 response.

The Committee further found that the Guahan Academy Charter School has not yet paid vendor payments since the inception of vendor contracts. Guahan Academy Charter School has also pursued accreditation without the Council's approval. All charter schools are expecting an increase of student enrollment due to the COVID-19's impact to private school students.

The Committee hereby reports on the Virtual Informational Briefing of Guam Academy Charter School's term contracts for each school, enrollment capacity, each charter school's support grants & CARES Act funding, and a breakdown of itemized budget request of each school.