

Office of the
**ADEQUATE
EDUCATION
SURUHANU**

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Education Suruhanu

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Date: January 12, 2009

To: Felix P. Camacho, Governor of Guam
Judith T. Won Pat, Honorable Speaker, 30th Guam Legislature
Dr. Nerissa Bretania-Shafer, Superintendent of Education
Chairman, Guam Education Policy Board

From: Education Suruhanu

Subject: December 2008 Monthly Report.

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Summary.

Each month the Office of the Education Suruhanu provides a report summarizing its activities. The Education Suruhanu investigates any complaints of a person alleging violations of any of the Fourteen (14) Points (14 Points), of the Every Child is Entitled to an Adequate Public Education Act, P.L. 28-45. After completing an investigation, the Education Suruhanu informs the complainant of the conclusion or recommendation in writing and if appropriate, any action taken or to be taken by GPSS. In addition, the Education Suruhanu is authorized to perform inspections of the public schools. The Education Suruhanu may perform such inspections on its own and/or with the assistance of various Government of Guam Regulatory Agencies. When working to fulfill the obligations of the office, the Education Suruhanu acts independently, informally, and neutrally. It is the role of the office to approach its duties as a neutral fact finder rather than as an advocate. The information in this report highlights the December 2008 office activities.

I. Complaint Report.

Issue	Status	Conclusion/ Recommendation	Action taken or to be taken by GPSS
Phone call complaint concerning foul odor in classroom T-4 at Agana Heights Elementary.	Investigation completed	Based on an inspection of the classroom a foul odor was noticeable but the source of such odor could not be determined. Recommended that GPSS close the classroom as soon as possible in order to conduct an assessment.	GPSS assessed the classroom and replaced the ceiling tile.
Phone call complaint concerning lack of certified teacher at Southern High.	Investigation completed	Based on the investigation, it was determined that there is no certified teacher in a biology class. Such class has been without a certified teacher since August 2008. Recommended that GPSS secure a certified teacher for the class immediately.	GPSS issued job announcement dated April 23, 2007 for continuous solicits for applications for Certified Teachers (All Areas). In addition, GPSS issued job announcement dated August 11, 2008 for continuous solicits applications for On-Call Substitute Teachers.

Complaint filed concerning inadequate ventilation in room 123 at Finegayan Elementary.	Investigated completed	Violation of P.L. 28-45 § 4(12) (f). Room air temperature measured 87° F with a relative humidity of 61 %. Recommended to GPSS that problem be addressed and rectified immediately.	A/C work scheduled to take place at the school sometime in late December 2008 or early January 2009.
Complaint filed concerning inadequate ventilation in room 304 at Finegayan Elementary.	Investigated completed	Violation of P.L. 28-45 § 4(12) (f). Room air temperature measured 86° F with a relative humidity of 60 %. Recommended to GPSS that problem be addressed and rectified immediately.	A/C work scheduled to take place at the school sometime in late December 2008 or early January 2009.
Complaint filed concerning the ratio of kindergarten students in a class at Price Elementary School.	Investigation completed.	Violation of P.L. 28.45 § 4 (12) (a) concerning the ratio as established by the relevant collective bargaining agreement.	The School Administration has requested for an additional kindergarten teacher to alleviate the overflow of the students in the kindergarten classes. GPSS has yet to assign an additional kindergarten teacher to the school.
Received a complaint via email concerning an injury that occurred to a student during an incident that occurred at Okkodo High School.	Issue did not meet the criteria under the 14 Points.	Forwarded the email to the Superintendent's office and recommended that parent contact Superintendent's office.	N/A
Office visit by individual complaining about a GPSS school aide being assigned to cover a 2 nd grade class since October 2008 at Price Elementary School.	Investigation completed	Violation of P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12) (a). A GPSS school aide was assigned to cover a 2 nd grade class as a result of the assigned certified teacher resigning in October 2008.	The School Administration submitted several requests to GPSS to fill such vacancy. (As of the date of this report, the vacancy has been filled with a certified teacher).
Phone call complaint concerning lack of certified teachers at Southern High	Investigation completed	Violation of P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12) (a) for the following classes that are without a certified teacher: Biology I since August 2008, Marine Biology since August 2008, Physical Science since August 2008, SPED math since September 2008, 9 th grade Physical Science since October 2008, Language Arts since October 2008.	GPSS issued job announcement dated April 23, 2007 for continuous solicits for applications for Certified Teachers (All Areas). In addition, GPSS issued job announcement dated August 11, 2008 for continuous solicits applications for On-Call Substitute Teachers.

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II. School inspection reports. The office conducted inspections of the following schools in the month of December. Copies of such inspection reports will be provided electronically via email.

- a. Schools inspected by OES:
 - i. PC Lujan
 - ii. Untalan Middle

- b. Schools inspected by the OES and the regulatory agencies:
 - i. George Washington (Follow up inspection)
 - ii. JP Torres (Follow up inspection)
 - iii. Merizo Elementary
 - iv. FQ Sanchez Elementary

II. Meetings, phone conferences, office visits, and/or other communications. The Office of the Education Suruhanu engaged in meetings, phone conferences and various other means of communications concerning issues related to the 14 Points.

- Meeting with Southern High School Administrator. Met with Ms. Lujan concerning a complaint the office received concerning the lack of certified teachers at the school. Ms. Lujan indicated there are approximately six classes without a certified teacher. Ms. Lujan indicated that requests to fill such vacancies have been submitted to GPSS but the positions remain vacant.
- Attended a meeting at UOG concerning the possibility of re-location of the office to UOG. Met with Dr. Patrick Leddy, Acting Executive Director, UOG School of Education, Ms. Thelma Hechanova, Sr. Advisor to the Governor, Government of Guam, and Mr. John Anderson, Director of the Guam Commission for Educator Certification.
- Meeting with Mr. Billy Cruz concerning 14 points issues for PC Lujan and Untalan Middle.
- Phone conference with individual concerning an odor in a classroom at the Agana Heights Elementary School.
- Phone conference with individual concerning lack of certified teacher in a Biology class at Southern High.
- Phone conference with individual concerning kindergarten class exceeding the maximum number of students allowed at Price Elementary School.
- Phone conference with GPSS Maintenance and Facilities Manage. Met with Mr. Ken Calvo to discuss A/C discrepancies discovered at Finegayan Elementary.
- Phone conference with the Assistant Principal of Finegayan. Met with Mr. Maxwell to discuss the status of the assessment of the A/C repairs based on the proposed work schedule.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of January 2009.


Dominic S. Terlaje