

Dominic Terlaje **Education Suruhanu** 

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Date:

July 31, 2009

To:

Honorable Felix P. Camacho, Governor of Guam

Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Speaker, 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

Dr. Nerissa Underwood, Superintendent of Education

Chairman, Guam Education Policy Board

From:

Education Suruhanu

Subject:

June 2009 Report.

## Notes from the Education Suruhanu.

Each month the Office of the Education Suruhanu (hereafter referred to as "OES"), provides a report summarizing its activities. The Education Suruhanu investigates any complaints of a person alleging violations of any of the Fourteen (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 to ensure compliance with the Fourteen (14) Points. The Education Suruhanu may perform such inspections on its own 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 activities in June 2009.

## School inspection report.

The OES along with various Government of Guam regulatory agencies performed inspections of the schools listed below. The purpose of the inspection is to identify any health, safety, and/or sanity issues that may be present in each school and to make recommendations for taking corrective action to ensure that each school is in compliance with the respective regulatory agency code as well as certain provisions of P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12). The agencies participating in the inspections are 1) the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), the Guam Fire Department (GFD), the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA), and the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) -fka GPSS. After the inspection is conducted, each agency provides a report to the school identifying the discrepancies discovered and also provides recommendations for taking corrective action to ensure compliance. DPHSS is the only agency that issues a letter grade to each school. The letter grade is determined by the total number of demerits received based on the discrepancies identified. Some of the main discrepancies identified for each of the schools are listed below.

DPHSS school building letter grades are as follows:

A: 0 -10 demerits

B: 11-20 demerits

C: 21-40 demerits

D: 41 demerits and below

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1. Okkodo High. School building letter grade: (B) 14 demerits.

a. Main discrepancies:

- i. Hot water line not provided in the male employee restroom of the cafeteria.
- ii. Observed signs of water leaking from boys locker room ceiling.
- Kitchen hood and duct suppression system expired. (This violation has been corrected).
- iv. Missing screen underneath the storm water drain inlet.

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- 2. JM Guerrero Elementary. School building letter grade: (C) 22 demerits.
  - a. Main discrepancies:
    - i. Insufficient number of working drinking water fountains based on the student population. (1 water fountain is required for every 75 students). At the time of the inspection, the school only had five water fountains (8 are required), and one unit was in disrepair. Based on the school population as provided for by the school administrator, at least three additional units are required.
    - ii. Insufficient number of urinals based on the male student population. (One for every 30 males). At the time of the inspection, the school only had nine units (11 are required), and one was in disrepair. Based on the male student population as provided for by the school administration, at least two additional units are required.
    - iii. Observed presence of termites in various classrooms.
    - iv. Fire alarm system inoperable.
    - v. Several outer openings in classroom window louvers.
- 3. Chief Brodie Elementary. School building letter grade: (C) 24 demerits.
  - a. Main discrepancies:
    - i. Fire alarm system inoperable.
    - ii. Observed presence of vectors (cockroaches and bees) in hallways and restrooms.
    - iii. Various classroom air conditioning units not working.
    - iv. Female restroom facilities without proper trash receptacle and the common restroom facilities not well maintained.
    - v. Trash dumpster in disrepair.
    - vi. Cold water not provided at the cafeteria employee hand washing sink.
    - vii. Storing solid waste such as damaged school equipment or furniture on campus.
    - viii. Several outer openings in classroom window louvers.
- 4. Untalan Middle. School building letter grade: (C) 28 demerits.
  - a. Main discrepancies.
    - i. Fire alarm system inoperable.
    - ii. Observed presence of vectors (ants and termites) in various rooms.
    - iii. Various classroom air conditioning units not working.
    - iv. Common restrooms facilities not well maintained.
    - v. Sanitary towel dispensers in disrepair
    - vi. Standing water at various parts of the campus.
    - vii. Missing screens underneath the storm water drain inlet.
- 5. UPI Elementary. School building letter grade: (C) 22 demerits.
  - a. Main discrepancies:
    - i. Fire alarm system inoperable.
    - ii. Observed presence of termites in various classrooms and other areas of the campus.
    - iii. Various classroom air conditioning units not working.
    - iv. Missing sanitary dispensers in various K-2 grade classrooms.
    - v. Several hand soap and paper towel dispensers in disrepair.
    - vi. Various toilet tissue dispensers in disrepair.
    - vii. Missing screens underneath the storm water drain inlet.
    - viii. Standing water at various parts of the campus.
- 6. Machananao Elementary. School building letter grade: (B) 14 demerits.
  - a. Main discrepancies:
    - i. Fire alarm system inoperable.
    - ii. Observed evidence of termites in various classrooms and other areas of the campus.
    - iii. Observed presence of cockroaches in the kitchen.
    - iv. Sanitary dispensers in the common use restrooms are in disrepair or not provided.
    - v. Missing screens underneath the storm water drain inlet.
    - vi. Overgrown vegetation inside the ponding basin.

- 7. Agana Heights Elementary. School building letter grade: (B) 12 demerits.
  - a. Main discrepancies:
    - i. Fire alarm system inoperable.
    - ii. Observed presence of termites and ants in various classrooms and other areas of the campus.
    - iii. Various classroom air conditioning units not working.
    - iv. Standing water at various locations throughout the campus.
    - v. Several outer openings in classroom window louvers.
- 8. Wettengel Elementary. School building letter grade: (B) 14 demerits.
  - a. Main discrepancies:
    - i. Fire alarm system inoperable.
    - ii. Insufficient amount of working fire extinguishers.
    - iii. Observed presence of vectors such as termites and ants in various classrooms and other areas of the campus.
    - iv. Various classroom air conditioning units not working.
    - v. Missing screens underneath the storm water drain inlet.
    - vi. Several outer openings in classroom window louvers.
- 9. Benavente Middle. School building letter grade: (C) 34 demerits.
  - a. Main discrepancies.
    - i. Fire alarm system inoperable.
    - ii. Insufficient amount of working fire extinguishers. Several fire extinguishers were observed to be either discharged, missing seals, or not properly mounted.
    - iii. Observed presence of vectors such as termites and ants in various classrooms and other areas of the campus.
    - iv. Several door self closing devices in disrepair.
    - v. Various classroom air conditioning units not working.
    - vi. Insufficient number of working drinking water fountains based on the student population. (1 water fountain is required for every 75 students). The school does have a sufficient amount of water fountains (15) but three are disrepair.
    - vii. Various common use restroom issues such as leaking hand washing faucets, lack of toilet tissue dispenser in some of the restrooms.
    - viii. Several outer openings in classroom window louvers.
    - ix. Kitchen grease trap is full.
    - x. Annual service date for renewal of the fire extinguishers has expired.
- 10. CL Taitano Elementary. School building letter grade: (A) 4 demerits.
  - a. Main discrepancies:
    - i. Paint peeling
    - ii. Missing ceiling tiles in various rooms.
    - iii. Fire alarm system inoperable.

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iv. Annual service date for renewal of the fire extinguishers has expired.

Respectfully submitted this 31st day of July 2009.

Dominic Terlaje