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January 28, 2010

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

From: Education Suruhanu

Subject: December 2009 Report

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 30-10-0070

Notes from the Education Suruhanu.

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 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 GDOE. 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 of December 2009.

Complaint Report.

Issue	Status	Conclusion/Recommendation	Action taken or to be taken
Complaint alleging that the JM Guerrero School lacked school personnel to monitor student activity during the Kindergarten lunch break.	Case closed	No violation. A school aide is regularly assigned to monitor student activity in the Kindergarten area during lunch time and during other breaks. However, in the event the assigned school aide becomes unavailable, the school's policy is to assign another school official to monitor such area.	N/A
Complaint questioning the qualifications of the JM Guerrero School Nurse.	Case closed	No violation. The individual currently assigned to the school does possess a current nurse's license.	N/A

Issue	Status	Conclusion/Recommendation	Action taken or to be taken
Complaint that a classroom at the JQ San Miguel School is without working air conditioning.	Case closed	Violation. Four classrooms were without working air conditioning. The teacher in each room reported that the temperature is warm and that the temperature becomes much warmer as the day goes on. I recommended that such problem be addressed immediately. In the alternative, fans or other mechanical devices should be provided in order to properly ventilate the classroom. If room temperature cannot be improved or conditions worsen, students should be re-located to a more suitable room. Reports of warm classrooms should be addressed immediately.	None provided at this time.
Complaint reporting that a classroom at the Agueda Johnston School is without internet connectivity.	Complaint not accepted.	The issue did not meet the criteria under the Fourteen (14) Points.	N/A
Complaint requesting that that a classroom's A/C filters at the Agueda Johnson School be cleaned during the Christmas Break.	Case closed	No violation. Filters need cleaning but such A/C unit is scheduled to be cleaned during the Christmas Break. Regular cleaning of the A/C filters and the A/C units should be performed as necessary. However, the A/C filters should be frequently monitored and cleaned as necessary in order to ensure efficient and effective operation of the A/C unit.	A cleaning schedule has been implemented to address such matter and the A/C unit is scheduled for cleaning during the Christmas Break.
Report of foul odor at JQ San Miguel.	Case closed	No violation. The grease trap was nearing full capacity. A work request to perform maintenance of the grease trap should be submitted at least one month before the grease trap requires servicing. DOE should perform monthly checks of the grease trap and clear as necessary.	DOE has scheduled to grease trap to be emptied.
Report of a severe water leak at JQ San Miguel.	Case closed	No violation. A steady supply of water was being provided to the school despite the leak.	The leak was reported to GWA and they have scheduled the leak to be repaired.
Lack of properly service fire extinguishers.	Case closed	Violation. The annual service date for the portable fire extinguishers is expired. GDOE should develop a master list of all the schools and log the annual service dates for all fire extinguishers and to assist or provide reminders to school officials in advance of the annual service expiration date of any such fire extinguishers. In addition, the GDOE Safety Office should coordinate with the fire extinguisher vendor well in advance of the expiration date of the fire extinguishers or when fire extinguishers are reported in disrepair in order to ensure that a sufficient amount of properly working fire extinguishers are available in the schools. Proper planning and scheduling should be a priority concerning the availability of working fire extinguishers in each school.	Vendors have been identified to perform the work. However, no date has been provided on when the expired fire extinguishers will be re-serviced.

School inspection report. Pursuant to P.L. 28-45, the OES conducted inspections at the following schools.

1. JQ San Miguel: The OES performed the inspection and the following discrepancies were noted.
 - a. Four classrooms without working A/C units (inadequate ventilation).
 - b. Four classes without a certified teacher. Individuals assigned to cover each of the classes are not certified to teach.
 - c. Fire extinguishers annual service date expired.

- d. Fire alarm system inoperable. (Approved Fire Watch Program in effect).
 - e. Four water fountains in disrepair/not working.
 - f. Water leaking at the GWA water meter.
 - g. Cafeteria water heater in disrepair.
 - h. Presence of mold/mildew on the restroom ceiling of the kindergarten are common use restrooms.
2. Oceanview Middle School. A regular inspection of the campus was performed by the Department of Public Health, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, and the OES. The following discrepancies were noted.
- a. Observed overgrown vegetation on various portions of the school roof.
 - b. Worn carpet and missing floor tiles.
 - c. Ceiling leak in the library, library computer room, and various classrooms of the D and C wing.
 - d. Paint peeling throughout awnings and in various classrooms.
 - e. Several classroom entry doors without self-closing door devices.
 - f. Restroom stall partitions below the height requirement of five feet.
 - g. Fire extinguisher annual service date expired.
 - h. Fire alarm system inoperable. (Approved Fire Watch Program in effect).

Respectfully submitted this 28th day of January 2010.



Dominic Terlaje