



September 1, 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: August 2010 Report.

Office of the Speaker
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D.
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Notes from the Education Suruhanu.

Each month the Office of the Education Suruhanu (the 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 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 including but not limited to the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), the Guam Fire Department (GFD), and the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA). 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 August 2010.

Complaint Report.

Issue	Status	Conclusion/Recommendation	Action taken
Anonymous report that the temperature in room 43 at the Untalan Middle School is inadequate.	Complaint accepted. Case closed.	A/C unit found to be inoperable. This particular unit has experienced problems in the past and work has been done to correct the various problems but the A/C unit still malfunctions. A recommendation was made that such unit be properly assessed and repaired or replaced immediately.	GDOE replaced the A/C unit with a brand new A/C unit.
Anonymous report that personnel at Southern High refused to issue a uniform voucher to student after student arrived late to school.	Complaint not accepted. Case closed.	Issue did not meet the criteria under the 14 Points. Recommended that the individual contact the school principal and inform him of such matter.	N/A

Issue	Status	Conclusion/Recommendation	Action taken
Anonymous report that personnel at the Guam Commission for Education Certification (the GCEC) refused to issue a teacher certificate on the basis that the individual did not possess the necessary documentation.	Complaint not accepted. Case closed.	Issue did not meet the criteria under the 14 Points. Recommended that individual collect all pertinent documentation required for certification and contact the Executive Director of the GCEC for his review.	N/A
Anonymous report that GDOE refused to honor a GDOE employee's re-employment rights.	Complaint not accepted. Case closed.	Issue did not meet the criteria under the 14 Points. Recommended that individual contact GDOE personnel division, and GDOE SPED office.	N/A
Anonymous report that several air conditioning units at Southern High are inoperable.	Complaint accepted. Investigation ongoing.	Various air conditioning units are still inoperable. Recommended that the necessary parties assess all air conditioning units reported inoperable and rectify them immediately. Any class without a working air conditioning unit should be re-located to a more suitable room.	GDOE has secured the services of a third party vendor to perform the necessary A/C repair work. However, some parts need to be ordered off-island and as such, GDOE estimated that it will take 4 to 6 weeks to complete the work.
Anonymous report that the boys common use restroom at H.S. Truman was not supplied with toilet tissue, that restroom was not clean, and that a foul odor was noticed.	Complaint accepted. Case closed.	A particular stall did not have toilet tissue within the dispenser and the restroom needed to be cleaned.	GDOE resolved the issue by providing the necessary sanitary supplies within the particular stall as well as other stalls. The restroom was clean and is cleaned on a regular basis. According to school officials, the restroom is monitored on a regular basis and that supplies are stocked as necessary. The investigation did not reveal any violations.
Individual reported that GDOE refused to hire him as a teacher even though he is a certified teacher. Individual also reported that he was assaulted in school several years ago and that GDOE has not addressed his concerns.	Complaint not accepted. Case closed.	Issue did not meet criteria under the 14 Points. Recommended that individual contact the Superintendent's office and other parties concerning any claims he may have against GDOE or other parties.	N/A

Issue	Status	Conclusion/Recommendation	Action taken
Anonymous report that a student who attends Jose Rios Middle School has a medical condition that becomes aggravated by exposure to mold.	Complaint accepted. Case Closed.	Observed mold on the ceilings of both locker rooms in the gym. Recommended that all mold be immediately and properly removed and that both ceilings be properly painted. Recommended that measures be taken to improve the ventilation of such rooms as necessary in order to possibly reduce the growth of any mold.	GDOE rectified the discrepancies by removing the mold and by applying fresh paint.
Anonymous report that school bus drop off as school and pick up after school is has consistently been late for students that attend FBLG.	Complaint accepted.	School officials indicated that some busses drop of students at school around 8:50 and on a few occasions around 9:35. School official also indicated that some students generally wait approximately 30 minutes for the bus to arrive for after- school pickups. It was also discovered that some students are waiting after school for as long as two hours for the bus to arrive.	Pending action. DPW has been notified of the problem and they are currently working with the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Public Works to identify solutions to resolve this matter. At this time, no definite time frame has been determined on when such issue would be resolved.
Anonymous report of various discrepancies at the Jose Rios Middle School such as the occupancy load of a particular classroom, rain water entering some of the 6 th grade classrooms, restrooms not provided with sanitary supplies and unclean, temporary classrooms with soft floors, and bus trips are overloaded with students.	Complaint accepted. Case Closed.	The container being used as a classroom, T-1 has a total of 10 students during home base but only averages around 8 students in each class. Some of the restroom stalls were not supplied with toilet tissue but none of the restrooms were completely without toilet tissue. During heavy rains water tends to flow rather rapidly toward the storm drain and sometimes flows onto the walkway of the 6 th grade classrooms. However, none of the classrooms in the area were observed to be flooded with water. The floors of the temporary classrooms did not appear to be in disrepair. The bus overloading issue is ongoing.	Sanitary supplies were provided in each restroom. The third party custodial vendor is assigned to monitor each restroom and is required to perform accordingly. During heavy rains, school personnel closely monitor the water flow near the 6 th wing and takes corrective action as necessary. The school is looking into the bus overcrowding issue at this time.

School inspection report. The OES conducts inspections of the schools noting the various discrepancies, prepares an inspection report identifying the various discrepancies, makes recommendations as necessary, and provides the report to the School Principal, the Superintendent, the GEPB, and the Speaker of the Guam Legislature.

- A. **School inspection report.** Pursuant to P.L. 28-45, the OES conducted inspections at the following schools and noted the various discrepancies that pertain to the Fourteen Points.
1. Finegayan Elementary:
 - a. Outer openings at various windows where A/C piping was removed.
 - b. Various classroom A/C units not working or not cooling properly.
 - c. Two broken toilet seats in the girls common use restroom.
 - d. No certified librarian assigned to the school.
 - e. Bus transportation not regular and timely. Some busses arrive at school around 8:40 a.m. but the afternoon busses are generally all late to pick up the students after school.
 - f. Fire alarm system not operational. (GFD approved of a Fire Watch Program as a temporary measure until GDOE installs a working fire alarm system.)

2. Price Elementary:
 - a. Various restrooms were not properly stocked with paper towels and/or toilet tissue. (During the inspection, school personnel managed to replenish such supplies.)
 - b. Observed restroom fixtures of various student restrooms in disrepair.
 - c. Various restroom fixtures and floor drains clogged.
 - d. Observed several drinking fountains not working or not working properly.
 - e. Bus transportation not regular and timely. After-school pick-up was delayed as much as 40 minutes for some students.
 - f. Fire alarm system not operational. (GFD approved of a Fire Watch Program as a temporary measure until GDOE installs a working fire alarm system.)

3. Agueda Johnston Middle:
 - a. Reports of water leaks into gym when it rains. (Repeat discrepancy.) This issue was cited by DPHSS in the November 12, 2009 inspection report but has yet to be corrected.
 - b. Reports of water leaks in the cafeteria and in the library.
 - c. Observed various aluminum window handle louvers in disrepair. (Repeat discrepancy.) This issue was cited by DPHSS in the November 12, 2010 inspection report.
 - d. Observed that a majority of the student restrooms were not supplied with paper towels.
 - e. Observed various student restrooms without toilet tissue and/or soap.
 - f. Various classroom air conditioning units not cooling properly.
 - g. Fire alarm system not operational. (GFD approved of a Fire Watch Program as a temporary measure until GDOE installs a working fire alarm system.)

4. Untalan Middle:
 - a. Two classes are currently without a certified teacher as a result of each teacher being on long term leave. Each class is being covered by an on-call substitute.
 - b. Observed various outer openings at classroom doors and windows.
 - c. Reports of water leaks in various classrooms.
 - d. Observed various student restrooms without sanitary supplies such as soap, paper towels, and/or toilet tissue.
 - e. Observed restroom fixtures not working or not working properly.
 - f. Observed portions of the air conditioning ducting in cafeteria in disrepair exposing the fiberglass material.
 - g. Observed various A/C unit filters dirty.
 - h. Observed that some fire extinguisher service tags indicate that the fire extinguishers expired since May 2009. (Various other fire extinguishers were observed to be properly certified.)
 - i. Observed wood rot and mole at various portions of the awning/canopy that is located near the fast track classrooms.
 - j. Observed outer openings at various classroom doors and windows.
 - k. Observed ceiling cracks in the library and it has been reported that water leaks into the library.
 - l. Fire alarm system not operational. (GFD approved of a Fire Watch Program as a temporary measure until GDOE installs a working fire alarm system.)

5. George Washington High:
 - a. Observed various student restrooms without sanitary supplies such as soap, paper towels, and/or toilet tissue.
 - b. Observed two different student restrooms were closed.
 - c. Observed that light shield is not properly secured to ceiling light fixture in various classrooms.
 - d. Observed some classroom A/C units were inoperable in various classrooms. However, there was at least one working A/C unit in each classroom visited. Despite the temperature

not being 78 °F or less as is required under the Fourteen Points, many of the teachers indicated that their room temperature was adequate.

- e. Observed that the ROTC room is inadequately ventilated.
- f. Fire alarm system not operational. (GFD approved of a Fire Watch Program as a temporary measure until GDOE installs a working fire alarm system.)
- g. School officials reported that school bus transportation is not regular and timely. Bus transportation in the afternoon is generally delayed for more than an hour for some students and for others; the wait is generally 30 minutes.

Respectfully submitted this 1st day of September, 2010.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dominic Terlaje", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dominic Terlaje