



Office of the Adequate Education Suruhanu (Ombudsman)
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September 9, 2010

TO: Superintendent of Education
FROM: Education Suruhanu
SUBJECT: Complaint that A-206 at GW is without properly working air conditioning and various other issues.

Office of the Ombudsman
Justin T. Wren, Pat. Ed. O.
Date: _____
Time: _____
Reception: _____
30-16-0795

Hafa Ådai Dr. Bretania Underwood:

On September 2, 2010, our office received a complaint that room A-206 at the George Washington High School (GW) is without any working air conditioning (A/C). On September 8, 2010, at approximately 1:30 in the afternoon, our office conducted an investigation into the complaint and found that one of the two A/C units in room A-206 was inoperable and the other A/C unit was blowing warm air. Students generally occupy such room but on the day of our visit, the students reported to the cafeteria because the teacher was no teacher for the day. Ms. Bernie, GW's AA, indicated that a work request was submitted reporting the A/C problem and when inquired about the status, Ms. Bernie indicated that the District III leader simply stated that there is no money.

Using an environmental quality meter, the room temperature measured approximately 89 °F with a relative humidity of approximately 66% with no students present. Although students were not present in the class, it is my understanding that students generally occupy such room. However, before any students occupy such room, I would strongly recommend that the A/C units be addressed and rectified immediately. It is also important that such ventilation problems be rectified in order to prevent the risk of any health or safety issues that may arise as a result of warm room temperatures, high humidity and/or poor air ventilation. If a comfortable temperature cannot be maintained and/or the ventilation cannot be improved in such classroom, the students should be re-located to a more suitable environment.

During the course of the investigation, it was also discovered that various other rooms are experiencing warm temperatures or they may not be properly ventilated. A-200, B-103, B-110, and the Cafeteria are all experiencing warm temperatures as a result of A/C units not cooling properly. A-200 is a very large room with only one of the two A/C units in operation for the 27 students who were present at that time. The room temperature measured around 89 °F with a relative humidity of 52%. I cannot say for certain, but many of the students appeared sluggish and groggy by the look on their faces—perhaps as a result of the very warm temperature and poor air ventilation. It appears that the conditions in A-200 may not be providing a comfortable learning environment for the students. Room B-103 measured approximately 89 °F with a relative humidity of 50%. There is only one A/C unit in B-103 but it does not appear to be cooling properly or providing proper ventilation within such room. The teacher also indicated that she would like to improve the ventilation of such room by possibly adding fans but several of the electrical outlets located on the wall often trip preventing the use of any equipment for any extended period of time.


Room B-110 also has only one A/C unit and it does not appear to be sufficient to cool that room either. However, I recommended that the teacher adjust the temperature setting to a lower setting and observe the conditions after such adjustment. In addition, according to Ms. Bernie, the cafeteria dining area is also quite warm and may not be properly ventilated as there are only three A/C units in operation. The cafeteria dining area is generally occupied by several students during lunch time and it also occupied by

classes at various other times throughout the day for various reasons. Because students are occupying the dining area for any length of time, it must be adequately ventilated at all times. Ms. Bernie indicated that work requests have been submitted reporting the above-mentioned problems and some of the problems were reported over a year ago like the electrical outlets in B-103 and some have been reported as recent as summer 2010 such as the cafeteria A/C issues.

Another issue that I would like to bring to your attention concerns supervision of the students and the number of school personnel available at the school to provide supervision. According to school officials, there are approximately 2,800 students and 11 school aides to assist in the supervision of the students. However, school officials indicate that based on the student population, a total of 18 school aides are necessary in order to provide adequate supervision of the student population. My understanding is that it GDOE recommends that for every 150 students, 1 school aide or adult is required for adequate student supervision. Although not all 2,800 students may be out on the campus at any one time, they are generally out on campus during recess, lunch break, and in the morning before the first bell rings. Eleven school aides may not be sufficient because such school aides might not always be available during the school day. Therefore, I would strongly recommend that the necessary personnel be assigned to GW in order ensure that adequate supervision of students is provided accordingly.

I am confident that your office will ensure that these matters are addressed and rectified in order to comply with the various 14 Point provisions and to provide a comfortable and safe learning environment for the students. Please submit to my office, in writing, the action GDOE is taking or will be taking to rectify the above-identified issues and the date when such issues would be rectified.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',



Dominic Terlaje

cc:
Honorable Speaker, 30th Guam Legislature
Arlene Unpingco (via email)
Taling Taitano (via email)
GEPB (via email)
Billy Cruz, (via email)
George Washington High School Administration (via email)

Office of the Speaker
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D.
Date 9/10/2010
Time 1:20 p.m.
Received by [Signature]