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Dominic Terlaje
 Education Suruhanu

September 13, 2010

TO: Superintendent
 FROM: Education Suruhanu
 SUBJECT: FBLG campus safety and security concerns

30-10-0796
 Office of the Speaker
 Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D.
 Date: 9/14/2010
 Time: 1:24 PM
 Received by: [Signature]

Hafa Adai Dr. Bretania Underwood:

My office recently received a report alleging various issues at FBLG that may present serious campus safety and security concerns. The information our office received indicates that are suspended FBLG students are appearing on or around the campus during school hours. In addition, it was reported that there is a rather large hole in the chain link fence located at the rear of the school near the fence that divides FBLG and the Simon Sanchez High School. It was also reported that Simon Sanchez students may be entering the FBLG campus during school hours. After discussing such issues with Mr. Joseph, FBLG's Assistant Principal, and actually observing students gathered outside the fence where the hole is located during school hours, I contacted Mrs. Unpingco immediately to inform her of the situation. I believe all issues surrounding this matter may present s campus safety and security concerns for students and others and as such, should be addressed immediately. I would strongly recommend that the GDOE Safety Office and any other necessary GDOE officials be contacted for their review and action.

According to Mr. Joseph, on September 8, 2010, a fight nearly broke out between various FBLG students on campus and while students were waiting for the after-school bus pickup near the cafeteria. Mr. Joseph and other school personnel were fortunately able to intervene, separate, and identify some of the students involved before any physical contact occurred. GPD was contacted and picked-up some of the students involved. Mr. Joseph also reported that one of the students involved in the incident was an FBLG student who was currently on suspension from FBLG and who had been referred to JP Torres. Mr. Joseph indicated that this particular student has been observed at various times on or near the FBLG campus before the September 8 incident but he has not been seen since that date. On the day of the incident, the suspended student was brought into the FBLG office but before his mother could pick him up, the student ran away. Mr. Joseph has not seen him on campus since September 8 but is concerned that such student may appear un-noticed on campus or that he may be one of the students gathering in the jungle near the hole in the fence.

Another issue discussed involves the presence of various students gathering on the outside of the FBLG fence at the back of the school near the jungle during school hours. Mr. Joseph indicated that the large hole in the fence was brought to the school's attention sometime last week and that the hole was repaired only to find that another hole has recently been made. Various unidentified students have been observed going through the hole in the fence and disappearing into the jungle when school officials would approach. Mr. Joseph indicated that on some occasions, rocks have been thrown over the fence from the jungle area as school officials would approach but the individuals responsible for throwing such rocks have not been identified.

During my visit to the affected area, we observed at least four male students gathered outside the fence where the hole was located and we also observed one male student sitting under a tree just inside the fence of FBLG. As we approached the area, the four students walked toward Simon Sanchez and out of our view. The other student got up, walked through the hole in the fence, and disappeared into the jungle. Mr. Joseph warned me not to walk any further as he was concerned that rocks may be thrown toward us. As we walked back toward the school building, the male student re-appeared from the jungle and seemed to wait to see what we were going to do. I took pictures of the students and their location, but their faces could not be recognized. It was also observed that there are student desks and possibly other school equipment just outside fence where the students were observed. In addition, as we walked back toward the school building, we observed at least four

other students on the FBLG soccer/baseball field who were unattended. As we walked toward them, they proceeded to the back fence and eventually climbed over it. I also have pictures of these individuals but their faces could not be recognized either.

Because unidentified students are observed gathering outside the fence during school hours, at various different times, disappearing into the jungle, re-appearing from the jungle, possibly throwing rocks into the campus, and all in the presence or observation of school officials, such actions may present serious safety concerns for the students and others that warrants immediate attention. The safety of all students is of utmost concern, including the students who may be gathering outside the fence. Disregard for school authorities, possible destruction or taking of school property, and disregard for school rules, raises serious concerns about the behavior of such students that requires immediate attention.

It was also brought to my attention that FBLG currently has five school aides who are assigned to provide student supervision. However, it was also brought to my attention that such school aides are often assigned to cover classes on any given day where a teacher is reported absent. As an example, today, a total of 11 teachers were absent and as such, the school aides and other school staff including custodians were assigned to cover the various classrooms where the teacher was absent. FBLG's student population is approximately 1,200 and according to GDOE's recommendations of 1/150 for adequate student supervision, FBLG would need a total of eight adults at all relevant times in order to provide adequate student provision. I would recommend that additional personnel be assigned to FBLG in order to provide adequate student supervision based on the student population. If additional personnel are unable to be assigned to the school, other personnel at FBLG should be designated and assigned accordingly to perform student supervision at the important times and as often as necessary. Efforts to ensure that student supervision is adequately being provided at all times of the school day should be addressed to all school personnel to ensure that the campus remains safe and secure at all times and most especially in light of the recent events.

I would encourage GDOE officials to coordinate with other various school officials to determine an appropriate course of action to take in order to address and rectify this important concern. I would also recommend that GDOE contact various entities such as GPD, GFD, Guam Customs, DYA, the Mayor's Office, and/or Homeland Security, to perform a sweep of the jungle area where students are observed. In addition, I would recommend that a significant portion of the vegetation surrounding the school including the affected area be removed and regularly maintained for security purposes. As far as the rock throwing is concerned, I believe that would be an issue for GPD especially where the rocks are being directed toward individuals and as such, GPD should be contacted accordingly.

Later in the afternoon, my office received a report concerning the hole in the fence and the individuals seen gathering there. The caller believes that some of the individuals that have been observed gathering outside the fence may be adults because such individuals are not wearing school uniforms. The caller also reported that school aides have tried to ask the individuals to leave only to have rocks thrown at them. Further, the caller expressed concern that the school aides may not be receiving the proper support from the administration concerning this matter and that the entire situation is rather frightening.

I am confident that your office will address this matter expeditiously. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',



Dominic Terlaje

cc:

Arlene Unpingco (via email)
Bruce Williams (via email)
FBLG administration (via email)
Billy Cruz (via email)
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