



October 5, 2010
OCT 14 AM 10:25

Memorandum

TO: Superintendent of Education

FROM: Education Suruhanu

SUBJECT: Agueda Johnston Middle School—Complaint of inadequate ventilation in room 29 and in the Cafeteria dining area.

Office of the Speaker
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D.
Date: 10/6/10
Time: 11:30
Received by: [Signature]

Håfa Adai Dr. Bretania Underwood:

38-10-0833

My office received a report from an individual reporting that the air conditioning units in room 29 and in the cafeteria dining area are not working. During the course of the investigation into the complaint other discrepancies were also observed which are included in this correspondence for your review and action.

During the course of the investigation, it was discovered that the air conditioning unit in room 29 is working but that it is not cooling the room properly. There are two air conditioning units in the room but only one unit works but that unit may not be cooling the room properly. The other air conditioning unit has not worked for quite some time. It was also observed that the room has a rather high ceiling and that there is an opening between the classroom and an adjacent storage room that should be properly sealed in order to limit the space that the air conditioning unit would be required to cool. Using an environmental meter, the temperature measured approximately 83 °F with 63% humidity at approximately 11:15 a.m. with half of the class present in the room at the time of the visit. The teacher also indicated that the room becomes much warmer toward noon time and into the afternoon. The teacher also indicated the problem has been reported to the office numerous times. It was also discovered that the air conditioning unit may have been repaired sometime in early 2010. However, the according to the teacher and school officials, the air conditioning unit has experienced intermittent operation. School officials also indicated that the warranty may still be valid for some of the work that was done on the particular air conditioning unit. As such, I would recommend that an assessment of such air conditioning unit be performed immediately to determine whether or not any warranty still applies.

In addition, the cafeteria dining hall is also without working air conditioning resulting in very warm, humid and uncomfortable conditions. Using the environmental meter, the temperature measured approximately 88 °F with 71% humidity at approximately 12:15 p.m with students present either waiting in the lunch line or eating. I remained in the cafeteria dining hall for approximately 15 minutes taking temperature measurements at various locations. Although I was only present in the area for a short period of time, such conditions were quite uncomfortable. School officials indicated that the cafeteria dining area has four air conditioning units but that only one unit has been in operation for the past several months and that such unit recently went down. The other three air conditioning units have been out of order for some time. Although the remaining working air conditioning unit recently went down, I would recommend that work be done to rectify the cafeteria dining area air conditioning problems immediately in order to ensure that the students who participate in the lunch program or otherwise occupy such room are provided a healthful, safe, and comfortable environment. It was also observed that various doors in the dining area were fixed in the open position in an attempt to provide ventilation into the dining area. However, there are no air curtains or screens on such doors and there is a great possibility that flies and other pests or insects could easily enter the cafeteria dining area while the doors are left opened. I would recommend that until air conditioning can be properly restored to such area, a sufficient amount of fans

be provided and if the doors are to remain open for any length of time, air curtains and/or screen doors should be provided accordingly.

It was also observed that there are various ceiling leaks in the dining area and according to the Kings cafeteria manager on duty, there are two ceiling leaks within the food service line that have been an ongoing problem. The cafeteria manager indicated that the leaks can be observed when it rains. In addition, it was observed that cardboard boxes are placed on the floor in such area in order to soak up any water leaking onto the floor. Ceiling leaks may be a recurring problem for the cafeteria dining area and any reported leaks should be permanently rectified as soon as possible.

In addition, the boys and girls restroom facilities located in the cafeteria dining area were not open for use during lunch time. When the cafeteria is in use, the restrooms should be made available for student use and school officials should ensure that the restrooms are clean, well stocked with the necessary sanitary supplies, and that the fixtures are in good working order.

It was also discovered that room 31 may have an air conditioning problem. The left air conditioning unit blows warm air and the right air conditioning unit does not work. Using the environmental meter, the temperature measured 83 °F with 62% humidity with no students present at the time. The teacher indicated that the room has been without a properly working air conditioning unit since the beginning of this school year, that the room is much warmer when students occupy the room, and that the room gets even warmer in the afternoon. The teacher also indicated that because of the warm and humid conditions of the room, he often conducts class outside the classroom where the conditions are somewhat better.

As you may know, P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12) (f) requires classrooms to be air conditioned or properly ventilated in which the sensible air temperature is no greater than 78 °F. In addition, Public Health generally considers room temperatures above 84 °F inadequate and may require the closure of a room or facility where the temperature exceeds 84 °F and/or where the humidity reading may be excessive. If the conditions of the above-mentioned classrooms cannot be improved immediately, I recommend that students in the affected classrooms be re-located to a more suitable room. As for the cafeteria, it is critical for the continued operation of the school that the cafeteria operations not be interrupted or halted. Therefore, I would strongly recommend that appropriate measures be taken to immediately improve the conditions of the cafeteria dining hall.

Please submit to my office, in writing, GDOE's efforts to rectify each of the discrepancies identified in the inspection report, including but not limited to measures taken or to be taken to rectify each discrepancy and a proposed date when such discrepancy was rectified or would be rectified.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',



Dominic Terlaje

cc:
Honorable Speaker, 30th Guam Legislature
GEB
Agueda Johnston School Administration
Billy Cruz, GDOE Maintenance Manager
Tom Nadeau, Administrator, DEH, DPHSS