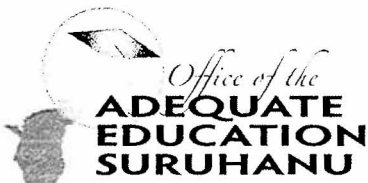


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Dominic Terlaje
Education Suruhanu

Office of the Adequate Education Suruhanu (Ombudsman)
An Entity of the Office of the Attorney General
126 Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex, Adelup
P.O. Box 2950 Hagatna, Guam 96932

Telephone: (671) 475-9130 · Fax: (671) 477-4826
Email: educationsuruhanu@guam.gov
Web Page Address: www.guamlegislature.com



November 8, 2010

TO: Superintendent of Education
FROM: Education Suruhanu
SUBJECT: Complaint that classroom B-110 is not properly ventilated/air conditioned.

Office of the Speaker
Judith T. Wen, Ph.D.
Date: 11/09/10
Time:
Received by:
36-10-0971

Hafa Ádai Dr. Bretania Underwood:

On October 26, 2010, our office received a complaint alleging that room B-110 at the George Washington High School may not be properly ventilated. The complainant reported that upon visiting the room, she observed that the room was hot. The complainant indicated that her child has a class in room B-110 and that her child also has a disability which may be aggravated by the warm conditions of the classroom. The complainant also indicated that she hopes the problem can be corrected immediately.

On November 5, 2010, at approximately 12:00 in the afternoon, our office conducted an investigation into the complaint and found that the A/C unit in room B-110 is in operation but that such unit does not appear to be working or cooling properly. Using an environmental meter, the room temperature measured approximately 85 °F with a humidity reading of 52% with no students present at the time of the investigation. In addition, the teacher indicated that the classroom becomes much warmer in the afternoon. It was observed that five fans were in operation but the room felt warm. Ms. Bernie, GW's Administrative Assistant, indicated that a work request has been submitted reporting the A/C problem and that follow-ups with GDOE maintenance have occurred but she has not yet received feedback on when the A/C problem in room B-110 would be rectified. Ms. Bernie also indicated that classroom B-110 has been experiencing air conditioning problems since August 2010.

P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12) (f) states that public schools are required to provide air conditioned or properly ventilated classrooms in which the sensible air temperature is no greater than 78 °F. Because the temperature measured in such classroom measured approximately 85 °F, I strongly recommend that the A/C unit in room B-110 be addressed and rectified immediately to come into compliance with the law. It is also important for a classroom to be air conditioned or properly ventilated to prevent any health or safety issues that may arise as a result of warm room temperatures 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.

Please submit to my office in writing, within five days of receipt of this correspondence, the action GDOE is taking or will be taking to rectify the above-identified problem and the date when such problem would be rectified.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

Dominic Terlaje

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SECONDARY DIVISION
REC'D BY

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cc: Honorable Speaker, 30th Guam Legislature
Billy Cruz, GDOE Facilities and Maintenance Manager

Taling Taitano, GDOE Deputy Superintendent
George Washington High School Administration

Chairman, GEB
Attorney General

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