EDDIE BAZA CALVO

Governor

RAY TENORIO

Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam.

October 11, 2016

193-16-2082 Office of the Speaker Judith T. Won Pat. Ed.D

Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D. Speaker 33rd Guam Legislature 155 Hesler Place Hagatna, Guam 96932

Dear Madam Speaker,

Time: 3:21 pm

Received By: 777

I join thousands of students, teachers, parents, and citizens of our community who are growing frustrated and impatient with the lack of transparency and the seeming injustice in the firing of Jon Fernandez. I'm hoping you may use your authority to help shed light and bring some justice to this matter.

Sen. Tommy Morrison asked Sen. Nerissa Underwood to convene the Committee on Education, bring in the Guam Education Board, and get to the bottom of their decision to terminate Jon. Oddly, Sen. Underwood, who has advocated for adverse action against Jon from the start, denied the request and cited her unease with interfering with this process. What process? The one no one but the board, its attorney, and Sen. Underwood know about? The one shrouded in secrecy and speculation?

This has not been transparent. This is not public service.

I find her reasons for denying students and teachers an outlet to express their thoughts completely duplicitous. Sen. Underwood was the very person who interfered with the original investigation, which had closed in Jon's favor until she decided to berate the board in an oversight hearing on July 19. That was the day everything changed. She publicly gave the board a verbal lashing, forcing upon members issues with Title IX, which ironically she refused to take up with the University of Guam when Title IX violations ran rampant.

Madam Speaker, our community for years has relied on you for oversight of education matters. You are a former principal and a lifelong educator, who pioneered the middle school concept on our island. It was only in this past term, when another senator took the helm of this committee. She obviously has obfuscated her responsibilities, for whatever reasons and motives are afoot here. I ask that you fill this vacuum of leadership and convene an oversight hearing on this issue immediately.

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