

**17TH CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
Via google hangouts at meet.google.com/qsy-ecyv-imh**

FINAL MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Chairman Andrew L. Orsini called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present:

Andrew L. Orsini
Herman M. Atalig, SGM (Ret)
Maisie B. Tenorio
Antonio L. Borja
Gregory P. Borja
Phyllis M. Ain, J.D.
Ronald Snyder, EdD
Rainalyn Reyes

All eight (8) members present, a quorum was established.

PSS/BOE Staff Present:

Alfred B. Ada, Ed.D. – Commissioner of Education
Eric Magofna – Interim Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services (ACAS)
Tim Thornburgh – Federal Programs Officer (FPO)
Arlene Lizama – Finance Director
George Palican – Internal Auditor
Michael Babauta – Interim Comptroller
Lucretia Borja- Human Resources Office (HRO) Director
Tiberius Mocanu, Esq. – Legal Counsel
Valerie K. Malwelbug – Administrative Officer
Edward Tenorio – PSS Financial Consultant
Ferdinand Ngirmekur - IT
Anna Guerrero
Anthony Frank
Arisa Sakai
Alisa Pangelinan
Ben Jr.

Others Present (online):

Bobby Cruz
Crispin Deleon Guerrero
Dale Roberts
Derwin Johnson
Dominic Pangelinan
Donna Flores
Elizabeth Aguon
Evonne Cabrera
Frances Ulloa
Hilda Rios
Ignacia Demapan
Jackie A. Quitugua
Jacquelin Che
Jessica Taylor
Jocelyn Manibusan
Karen Alla
Liela Yumul
Lynn Mendiola
Micah Page
Michelle Rasa
Janice Tenorio
Jasylene Parico
Jeremiah Rother
Jesse Tenorio
Lathania Angui
Leah Murphy
Lynette Villagomez
Maria Amog
Martha Kintol
Melisa Mendez
Melisha San Nicolas
Michelle Taisacan
Paula Bermudes
Raena Camacho
Robin Palacios
Sharon Seivers
Sheena Saures
Tambra Reyes
Tanya King
Kristina Springer
Claudia Palacios
Josefa Mikel
Jane Pagsolingan

Others Present (online):

Norman Borja
Paul Murphy
Joann Lane Cepeda
Joshua Villagomez
Helen Ann Bucher
Esco Ulloa
Dominica Tebuteb
Ben Seman
Dionne Santos
Elfriede Suda
Jonathan Aguon
Josiah Kyonka
Kevin Adachi
Justine Nauta
Melanie Sablan
Rita A. Sablan
Manuela Babauta
Tambra Reyes
Lizah Blesoch
Bertha Orsini
Jack Diaz
George Palican
Naomi Nishimura
Nick Gross
Nora Fujhira
Peter Arriola
Sally Limes
Shawn San Nicolas
Shirley Norita
Victoria Nicholas
Vince Dela Cruz
Yvonne Pangelinan

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Member Antonio L. Borja moved to adopt the agenda as amended to include the under New Business No. 3 Private School Funding Support, and No. 4 Proposed Environmental Biodegradable for PSS, Secretary/Treasurer Maisie B. Tenorio seconded. All five (5) members voted yes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeremiah Rother reminded the Board that the 16th CNMI State Board of Education ordered Commissioner Alfred B. Ada to drop the injunction. He is asking the 17th CNMI State Board of Education to please reconsider bringing back the lawsuit.

REPORTS

The Chair's report was sent out via email to all the Board members.

CIP Committee Chair Borja stated that there is no report but a meeting is proposed for February 18, 2021.

FPA Committee Chair Herman M. Atalig reported on the meeting of January 20, 2021 and that there is another one set for February 17, 2021. Included in the agenda is the 80 hours restoration, Below \$20K employees to be increased in tier, spending plan for ESF II, and the revised calendar for SY 2020-2021 that the committee endorsed for Board approval.

ISA Committee Chair Gregory P. Borja stated that he is waiting on the minutes of previous meetings but will schedule one soon.

There is no report for the LIA.

SICPP Committee Chair Tenorio stated that she, too, is waiting on the minutes of previous meetings but will schedule one.

The SARC Report was emailed to everyone.

Commissioner Ada stated that Federal Programs Officer (FPO) Tim Thornburgh will report on the Federal Funds Status, Director of Finance Arlene Lizama will report on the Local Funds Status and Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director Lathania Angui will report on HS/EHS.

Before going to New Business Chairman Orsini shared that this coming year, the Board will be having meetings on Tinian and Rota; meeting venues will also be at the schools to accommodate teachers, students, and families. It will also allow the Teacher and Student Representatives to attend.

Secretary/Treasurer Tenorio re-emphasized her comment on the email to the Board members on conducting meetings in the afternoon; whether they (teachers, parents, etc.) participate or not, we need to create those opportunities for a great dialogue.

Member Phyllis M. Ain shared that the students are not using the cafeteria because breakfast and lunch are being served in the classrooms and are pre-packed.

Member Gregory P. Borja agreed with Secretary/Treasurer Tenorio and Member Ain in afternoon meetings. He, too, would like to see parents and teachers but it would be brutal to have meetings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and closing at 9 p.m. He also agrees with virtual participation.

Member Antonio Borja moved for a recess at 11:49 a.m. for 40 minutes, Secretary/Treasurer Tenorio seconded. All five (5) members voted yes; motion carried.

The meeting was called back from recess at 12:38 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION NO. 01 Member Antonio L. Borja moved to approve the 80 hours restoration; Member Gregory P. Borja seconded. All five (5) members voted yes; motion carried.

ACTION NO. 02 Member Gregory P. Borja moved to approve the \$20K Tier increase, Secretary/Treasurer Tenorio seconded. This is to increase the salaries of those earning less than \$20K based on the three-tier proposal. All five (5) members voted yes; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

ACTION NO. 03 Member Gregory P. Borja moved to approve the Education Stabilization Fund II Spending Plan; Secretary/Treasurer Tenorio seconded. All five (5) members voted yes; motion carried.

ACTION NO. 04 Vice Chairman Atalig moved to approve the Revised Calendar for School Year 2020-2021 to reflect the blended learning starting on February 2, 2021, Member Antonio L. Borja seconded. All five (5) members voted yes; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Member Antonio L. Borja moved to descend into executive session at 2:38 p.m. for the purpose of discussing legal updates and other matters. Vice Chair Atalig seconded, all five (5) members voted yes, motion carried. Member Antonio L. Borja moved to rise out of executive session at 3:02 p.m., Vice Chair Atalig seconded, all five (5) members voted yes, motion carried.

Legal Counsel Mocanu stated that things discussed in executive session were updates to lawsuits, and were proper to be discussed in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT- Member Antonio L. Borja moved to adjourn the meeting, Member Gregory P. Borja seconded. All five (5) members voted yes; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.¹

CERTIFIED BY:



Maisie B. Tenorio
BOE Secretary/Treasurer

04.09.2021

Date

CONCURRED BY:



Andrew L. Orsini
BOE Chairperson

4/9/2021

Date

¹ This Minutes was adopted at the April 9, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.