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Education Suruhanu

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Date: March 31, 2009

To: Honorable Felix P. Camacho, Governor of Guam
 Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Speaker, 30th Guam Legislature
 Dr. Nerissa Bretania-Shafer, Superintendent of Education
 Chairman, Guam Education Policy Board

From: Education Suruhanu

Subject : February 2009 Report.

Notes from the Education Suruhanu.

Each month the Office of the Education Suruhanu provides a report summarizing its activities. The Education Suruhanu investigates any complaints of a person alleging violations of any of the Fourteen (14) Points of the Every Child is Entitled to an Adequate Public Education Act, P.L. 28-45. After completing an investigation, the Education Suruhanu informs the complainant of the conclusion or recommendation in writing and if appropriate, any action taken or to be taken by GPSS. In addition, the Education Suruhanu is authorized to perform inspections of the public schools to ensure compliance with the Fourteen (14) Points. The Education Suruhanu may perform such inspections on its own or with the assistance of various Government of Guam Regulatory Agencies. When working to fulfill the obligations of the office, the Education Suruhanu acts independently, informally, and neutrally. It is the role of the office to approach its duties as a neutral fact finder rather than as an advocate. The information in this report highlights the activities of February 2009.

Complaint Report.

Issue	Status	Conclusion/Recommendation	Action taken
Foul odor in room T-4 at Agana Heights Elementary	Investigation completed in December 2008.	No foul odor detected.	GPSS replaced the ceiling tiles sometime in December.
A/C unit in Agueda Johnston Nurse office not working properly.	Investigation completed.	A/C unit experiencing intermittent operation. A/C unit not able to cool the room properly especially when students fill the nurse's office. GPSS was notified of the problem and it was recommended that the problem be addressed and rectified as soon as possible.	Repairs were made. New A/C unit was installed.

GPSS field trip disclaimer.	Compliant not accepted.	Issue did not meet the criteria of the 14 Points. Caller disagreed with some of the language contained in the GPSS field trip disclaimer concerning issues surrounding GPSS' liability.	N/A
Parent not called after student was treated by school nurse for injury received during play time.	Compliant not accepted.	Issue did not meet the criteria of the 14 Points. Recommended that parent contact Superintendent's office to express her concerns and to discuss GPSS' procedure for contacting parents concerning this issue.	N/A
Complaint concerning awning at Agueda Johnston in disrepair.	Investigation completed.	Violation of P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12) (l) concerning safety issues. The wood ceiling of the awning was rotted and in disrepair. In addition, the roofing tin was rusted in several places. GPSS is aware of the problem and it was recommended that the problem be addressed and rectified as soon as possible.	GPSS entered into a contract with a vendor to repair and/or replace the awning. A recent visit to the school revealed that that the awning was repaired.
Complaint about trash piling up at DL Perez.	Investigation completed.	Violation of P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12) (l) concerning health, safety and sanitary issues. Trash began to pile up as a result of vendor not picking up the trash because of non-payment. However, once trash pick-up services resumed, all of the trash that had collected during the suspension of services could not be placed into the trash bins. GPSS is aware of the trash piling up. I recommended that the problem be addressed and rectified immediately.	The school submitted a work request to GPSS facilities and maintenance requesting assistance in removing the trash piled up on the ground.
Complaint about length of time GPSS is taking to enter into a lease of a building in Tiyan to accommodate JFK students.	Complaint not accepted.	Issue did not meet the criteria of the 14 Points.	N/A
Complaint about restrooms at Southern High being closed for student use.	Complaint accepted.	Violation of P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12) (i) & (l) concerning health, safety and sanitary issues. The restrooms located in the 4000 wing were closed because of a break in the water pipe. In addition, the upper level restrooms located in the 2000 wing were closed because of an electrical issue. GPSS is aware of the problems and it was recommended that they be addressed and rectified as immediately.	Repairs were made and the restroom facilities were re-opened for student use.

Inadequate ventilation in classroom 29 at Agueda Johnston.	Complaint accepted.	Violation of P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12) (f) & (l) concerning health and safety issues. The temperature measured 85° F with a relative humidity of 45%. GPSS was notified of the problem and it was recommended that the problem be addressed and rectified as soon as possible.	The school submitted a work request submitted reporting the problem.
Complaint that parent was not notified that child was being removed from SPED class and placed into regular class.	Complaint not accepted.	Recommended that parent contact school principal and/or the SPED division of GPSS to discuss the matter.	N/A

School inspection report. Schools inspected by the Education Suruhanu only. A report identifying the discrepancies discovered during such inspections was delivered to GPSS. Some of the main discrepancies contained in the report are listed below:

1. Southern High.
 - a. Fire alarm system inoperable.
 - b. Observed signs of termite activity.
 - c. Many of the student restroom sanitary dispensers (soap and toilet tissue) were in disrepair or missing.
 - d. Several restroom facilities were not adequately supplied with the necessary sanitary supplies (soap and/or toilet tissue).
 - e. Overgrown vegetation.
 - f. Inadequate ventilation in the gym. The temperature measured 87 ° F with a relative humidity of 68% with no students present.
2. D.L. Perez.
 - a. Fire alarm system inoperable.
 - b. Sanitary dispensers (paper towel, soap, and/or toilet tissue) in many of the student restroom facilities are in disrepair or missing.
 - c. Several restroom facilities were not adequately supplied with the necessary sanitary supplies (paper towel, soap, and/or toilet tissue).
3. Maria Ulloa.
 - a. Fire alarm system inoperable.
 - b. Observed signs of termite activity.
 - c. Sanitary dispensers (paper towel, soap, and/or toilet tissue) in many of the student restroom facilities are in disrepair or missing.
 - d. Several restroom facilities were not adequately supplied with the necessary sanitary supplies (paper towel, soap, and/or toilet tissue).
 - e. Two different student restroom facilities closed.
 - f. Standing water (flooding) at various locations throughout the campus.

A. Schools inspected by the Education Suruhanu and the regulatory agencies (DPHSS, GFD, and GEPA). During these inspections, DPHSS issues a letter grade to each school based on the total number of demerits received for the noted violations. GFD and GEPA both provide a report noting the discrepancies and they also provide recommendations for corrective action. Some of the main discrepancies identified during the inspections have been listed here.

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1. Marcial Sablan Elementary. On this inspection, DPHSS issued a letter grade A.
 - a. Fire alarm system inoperable.
 - b. Observed signs of termite activity.

2. Talofoto Elementary. This inspection was a follow-up to the original inspection. Talofoto previously received a letter grade C. During the follow-up inspection, DPHSS issued a letter grade A.
 - a. Fire alarm system inoperable.

3. Oceanview Middle. On this inspection, DPHSS issued a letter grade A.
 - a. Fire alarm system inoperable.
 - b. Trash bin in disrepair.
 - c. Observes signs of water leak in library computer room.

4. Inarajan Middle. This inspection was a follow-up inspection to the original inspection. Inarajan previously received a letter grade C. During the follow-up inspection, DPHSS issued a letter grade A.
 - a. Fire alarm system inoperable.

5. Jose Rios Middle. On this inspection, DPHSS issued a letter grade A.
 - a. Fire alarm system inoperable.
 - b. Observed three classrooms with room temperatures measuring above 84° F.
 - c. Observed trash dumpsters overflowing with trash.

Respectfully submitted this 31st day of March 2009.

Dominic S. Terlaje