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Education Suruhanu

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Date: December 31, 2008

To: Felix P. Camacho, Governor of Guam  
Judith T. Won Pat, Honorable Speaker, 29<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
Dr. Nerissa Bretania-Shafer, Superintendent of Education  
Chairman, Guam Education Policy Board

From: Education Suruhanu

Subject: November 2008 Monthly Report.

### November 2008 Activities

#### Summary.

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 (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. The Education Suruhanu may perform such inspections on its own and/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 November 2008 office activities.

#### I. Complaint Report.

Issue	Status	Conclusion/ Recommendation	Action taken
Phone call from parent concerning school bus transportation. Parent alleged that her child was not able to attend school on the basis that the school bus failed to arrive at the village bus stop (Bello-Nandez route) at the scheduled pick up time.	No complaint filed.	Mr. Taitano indicated that he was aware of this matter. He indicated that several busses were not in operation during that time and that there is a shortage of qualified bus drivers. He also indicated that the bus for that route was driving the route but may have been running late because of the shortage of busses and drivers.	Mr. Taitano indicated that additional busses are needed to meet the demands of the schools. He also indicated that his office has requested for the funding to purchase additional busses and awaits for a response to such request. He also requested for additional qualified bus drivers.

Issue	Status	Conclusion/ Recommendation	Action taken
Phone call concerning a foul odor in classroom T-4 at Agana Heights Elementary.	No complaint filed.	Investigation ongoing.	N/A
Phone call from parent concerning previous complaint filed with the office concerning lack of certified teacher at Oceanview Middle.	N/A	Previous complaint was investigated and completed in October 2008.	N/A
Phone call from teacher concerning lack of certified teachers at Southern High.	No complaint filed.	Investigation ongoing.	N/A
Phone call from individual concerning inadequate ventilation in a classroom at Finegayan Elementary.	No complaint filed.	Investigation ongoing.	N/A
Phone call from individual concerning lack of certified teacher at Price Elementary.	No complaint filed.	Investigation ongoing.	N/A
Phone call from individual concerning lack of certified teacher at Simon Sanchez	No complaint filed.	Investigation ongoing.	N/A
Phone call from individual concerning inadequate ventilation in a classroom at Finegayan Elementary.	No complaint filed.	Investigation ongoing.	N/A
Phone call from individual concerning the ratio of students enrolled in a kindergarten class at Price Elementary.	No complaint filed.	Investigation ongoing.	N/A

II. **School inspection report.** The office conducted inspections of the following schools. Hard copies of the inspection reports can be made available upon request. However, such reports will be submitted electronically via email.

- a. Schools inspected by OES:
  - i. MU Lujan Elementary
  - ii. Inarajan Middle
  - iii. Finegayan Elementary
  - iv. Price Elementary
  
- b. Schools inspected by the OES and the regulatory agencies:
  - i. George Washington (Follow up inspections)
  - ii. JP Torres

**III. Meetings, phone conferences, office visits, and/or other communications.** The Office of the Education Suruhanu engaged in meetings, phone conferences and various other means of communications concerning issues related to the 14 Points.

- Meeting with a public school teacher discussing issues concerning the lack of certified teachers at Southern High.
- Attended meeting at GW High Principal's office concerning the discrepancies discovered during the inspection of the school. The following individuals attending the meeting: Mr. Peter Roberto, the Director of Public Health; Ms. Begonia Flores, GW High Principal; Mr. Ken Chargualaf, JFK High Principal; Mr. Ken Calvo, GPSS Facilities and Maintenance manager; and the DPHSS Environmental Health inspectors.
- Attended meeting at the Superintendent's office concerning school inspection reports and GPSS's plan to address such discrepancies. Met with Ms. Arlene Unpingco, Deputy Superintendent for Education Support and Community Learning; Mr. Fred Nishihira, GPSS legal counsel; and Mr. Ken Calvo, GPSS facilities and maintenance manager.
- Attended PTO meetings at Tamuning Elementary and Inarajan Middle discussing the role of the Education Suruhanu and the services the office provides.
- Phone conference with Benavente Middle School Principal concerning issues surrounding the school gym. Ms. Perez expressed her desire to have the gym opened beyond the time that the Guam Fire Department imposed as a result of the discrepancies in the gym noted by the GPSS Health and Safety Task Force.
- Phone conference with Mr. Bruce Williams, GPSS' safety officer, concerning the discrepancies noted from the GW High inspection.
- Phone conference with Mr. Frank Taitano, DPW Bus Operations Superintendent concerning bussing issues for a particular bus route for Benavente Middle. Mr. Taitano indicated that several busses are inoperable at this time and that DPW is also short of qualified bus drivers. In addition, Mr. Taitano indicated that he has requested for funding to purchase additional busses but has not received word on such request.
- Phone conference with the Speaker Won Pat discussing various issues pertaining to school inspections.

Respectfully submitted this 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 2008.

Dominic S. Terlaje

Six Attachments: Copies of the school inspection reports will be delivered electronically via email.