

**18<sup>TH</sup> CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.  
Board of Education Conference Room  
Building 1241, Capitol Hill, Saipan  
via zoom (see link below)**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members present:**

Herman M. Atalig, SGM (Ret)  
Antonio L. Borja  
Gregory P. Borja  
Andrew L. Orsini  
Maisie B. Tenorio  
Dora B. Miura  
Ronald E. Snyder  
Ryan M. Nuera (online)

Eight (8) members were present, a quorum was established.

**PSS/BOE Staff Present:**

Alfred B. Ada, Ed.D. – Commissioner of Education  
Eric Magofna – Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services (ACAS)  
Yvonne R. Pangelinan – Senior Director, Student & Support Services (SSS)  
Rizalina Liwag – Senior Director, Accountability, Research & Evaluation (ARE)  
Melisha San Nicolas – Acting Federal Programs Officer (FPO)  
Arlene Lizama – Finance Director  
Lucretia Deleon Guerrero- Human Resources Office (HRO) Director  
Leila Yumul – Family Engagement Coordinator  
Edward Tenorio – PSS Financial Consultant  
Tiberius Mocanu, Esq. – Legal Counsel, BOE  
Michael Ernest, Esq. – Legal Counsel, PSS  
Ferdinand Ngirmekur – Network Specialist, SIT  
Nikita P. Robert – Administrative Specialist, BOE  
Valerie K. Malwelbug – Office Manager, BOE

**Others Present (online):**

Ashley Roberto  
Elvira  
JB  
JM  
Joe  
Kai  
Kevin Adachi  
Leith Poole  
Mhsadmin  
Paul's Iphone  
Rita Sablan  
R.N.  
Tanya Vila  
Charles V. Cepeda  
Janelle Cepeda  
Jen Villagomez  
Anthony Frank  
NNishimura  
Tatiana Palacios  
Wayne  
Villagomez  
Kimberly Duenas  
Iphone 4x  
Jimbo  
Shirley Cepeda  
Ronna Eriich  
Ruth Calvo  
Ryan Michael  
S. Norita  
Shawn San Nicolas  
Shirley Cepeda  
Spongebob  
Tanya King  
Tri Manglona  
Vannah Hocog  
Victoria Nicholas  
Victorino Borja  
Vince Dela Cruz  
Walt  
Zack Camacho  
U  
User (3x)  
Preston Basa

**Others Present (online):**

Lei La  
Frank  
Albert Camacho  
Alisa Pangelinan  
Brin  
Celine Biado  
Cherlyn Osung  
Justise Quitugua  
Kevin De Torres  
L. Sablan  
L.C.  
Lanessa Lizama  
Lo  
Leah Montealegre  
LM  
Lucia's Iphone  
Lucille  
Lynette Villagomez  
Marvin Tamangided  
Mdguerrero  
Melisa Mendez  
Michelle Rasa  
Mildred Ebuena  
Mr. T  
Nadia Benjamin  
Nadia Benjamin Pua  
Nat  
Nick Gross  
Parent  
Pbermudes  
Probio  
PSS  
Tired  
Paul Miura  
Monica Pua  
Grina Mizutani  
Lou  
Lucine  
August Loste  
August Otter  
AV  
Frankie  
Jaclyn

**Others Present (online):**

Leiwischem Pua  
Nace Soalablai, Jr.  
Karen Manuel  
Elvie Mesngon  
HMS  
KES  
Lynnaray Sablan  
Sierra Barcinas  
James Sablan  
Nora Fujihira  
AL  
User  
Jen Cubangb  
Benjamin Seman  
Zack Camacho  
Alex King  
Alex Menor  
Alisa  
Angie Muna  
B  
B106  
Celin  
CNMI PSS Media  
Dale  
Dan Wollak  
Denicia Dela Cruz  
Dr. Jennifer  
Elfrieda Suda  
Fisherie's phone  
Glenn Smith  
Guest  
Iphone  
Janessa  
Jenny Villagomez  
Jolene Sablan

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Member Andrew Orsini nominated Member Maisie B. Tenorio for Chairperson, Member SGM Herman M. Atalig seconded the nomination but Member Tenorio respectfully declined.

Member Tenorio nominated Member Antonio L. Borja for Chairperson, Member Gregory P. Borja seconded the nomination, all five (5) voting members voted yes, Member Borja is Chairperson.

As Chairperson, he continued to meeting by opening the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Member Orsini nominated Member SGM Atalig, Member Gregory Borja seconded the nomination, all five (5) members voted yes, Member SGM Atalig is Vice-Chairperson.

Member Tenorio nominated Member Gregory P. Borja for Secretary/Treasurer, Member Orsini seconded the nomination, all five (5) members voted yes, Member Gregory Borja is Secretary/Treasurer.

The 18<sup>th</sup> State Board Officers were congratulated and applaud after giving brief remarks.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Member Orsini moved to adopt all items on the agenda except for V. New Business no. 15 Update Enforcement of the Slip Opinion Regarding the Certified Question. Secretary/Treasurer Borja seconded. Three (3) members voted yes (ALO, HMA, GPB) and two (2) members voted no (ALB, MBT); the motion carried. The agenda item no. 15 is tabled.

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Member Orsini moved to adopt the Minutes as presented; April 7, 2022 Regular Board Meeting, August 17, 2022 Special Board Meeting, September 26, 2022 Special Board Meeting, and October 13, 2022 Special Board Meeting. Secretary/Treasurer Borja seconded; all five (5) members voted yes. The four (4) meeting Minutes were adopted.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

At 10:22 a.m., Ambrose Bennett submitted written comments and was emailed to the Board while he read his comments.

Chairman Antonio Borja informed everyone that due to the Board having to meet only today after a while, he will allow more than three (3) minutes each for public comments.

At 10:27 a.m., Paul Miura attended the meeting virtually. He shared that he is joined by his students in his English class. Discussing these topics as a learning opportunity. On agenda item no. 15, which is no longer on the agenda, was filed in March 2018. Certified question asked the supreme court....(NTS – listen to tape)

At 10:29 a.m., Congressman Manny Castro shared that the bill being proposed (from 4 to 3 members for a quorum) would not remove their voices. It is now going to the Senate but it can still be tweaked. There will be time for public hearings. Please come and work with us.

At 10:33 a.m. Congressman Roman Benavente shared that he was a board member for eight (8) years so he is not new to the situation. Try to eliminate the interference of the political arena. The autonomy of the BOE should be guarded as much as possible. I believe in communication. We cannot solve by confrontation. Search your soul and ask yourself why you ran for the Board.

### **REPORTS**

Commissioner Alfred B. Ada (Commissioner Ada) stated that Federal Programs Office (FPO) Director Jacque Che will report on the Federal Funds Status and Director of Finance (DoF) Arlene Lizama will report on the Local Funds Status. All reports were emailed to the Board for their information and review prior to the meeting.

The Head Start Program (HSP) Report was submitted via email to the Members. HSP Director Lathania Angui presented the HSP Report.

In other matters, Commissioner Ada shared that the Special Education Annual Performance Report (APR) was due and submitted on February 1, 2023. The annual grant application is up for public circulation and will be submitted on or before May 24, 2023. Other matters discussed were the CNMI PSS Education Legislative Summit on March 31, 2023, the Statewide Professional Development on April 10-12, 2023.

A break was called at 12:30 p.m. and resumed at 1:31 p.m.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **ACTION NO. 001**

Member Orsini moved to approve the Early Head Start (EHS) Disaster Assistance Grant 09ND000029 Low-Cost Extension Request. Secretary/Treasurer Borja seconded. Four (4) members (HMA, GPB, ALO, MBT) voted yes; one (1) member (ALB) recused himself. The motion carried.

#### **ACTION NO. 002**

Member Orsini moved to approve the Head Start (HS) Disaster Assistance Grant 09ND000031 Low-Cost Extension Request. Secretary/Treasurer Borja seconded. Four (4) members (HMA, GPB, ALO, MBT) voted yes; one (1) member (ALB) recused himself. The motion carried.

#### **ACTION NO. 003**

Member Orsini moved to approve the HS/EHS 09CH011167-04 Carry Over Grant Application and Budget. Member Tenorio seconded. Four (4) members (HMA, GPB, ALO, MBT) voted yes; one (1) member (ALB) recused himself. The motion carried.

**ACTION NO. 004**

Secretary/Treasurer Borja moved to approve the HS/EHS 09HE000941 American Rescue Plan/Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Grant Low-Cost Extension Application Request. Member Orsini seconded. Four (4) members (HMA, GPB, ALO, MBT) voted yes; one (1) member (ALB) recused himself. The motion carried.

**ACTION NO. 005**

Member Orsini moved to approve the HS/EHS SY 2022-2023 Self-Assessment Goals and Objectives. Vice Chairman SGM Atalig seconded. Four (4) members (HMA, GPB, ALO, MBT) voted yes; one (1) member (ALB) recused himself. The motion carried.

**ACTION NO. 006**

Member Orsini moved to approve the HS/EHS Selection Criteria. Member Tenorio seconded. Four (4) members (HMA, GPB, ALO, MBT) voted yes, and one (1) member (ALB) recused himself; the motion carried.

**ACTION NO. 007**

Member Tenorio moved to approve the HS/EHS Cost Allocation Plan. Member Orsini seconded. Four (4) members (HMA, GPB, ALO, MBT) voted yes, and one (1) member (ALB) recused himself; the motion carried.

**ACTION NO. 008**

Member Orsini moved to approve the HS/EHS Training and Technical Assistance Plan. Member Tenorio seconded. Four (4) members (HMA, GPB, ALO, MBT) voted yes, one (1) member (ALB) recused himself; the motion carried.

**ACTION NO. 009**

Member Orsini moved to approve the Accountability Report System Proposed Policy. Member Tenorio seconded. All five (5) members voted yes; the motion carried.

**ACTION NO. 010**

Member Orsini moved to approve the SY 2023-2024 K-12 Calendar. Member Tenorio seconded. Four (4) members (ALB, GPB, ALO, MBT) voted yes, and one (1) member (HMA) voted no; the motion carried.

**ACTION NO. 011**

Member Orsini moved to approve the SY 2023-2024 Head Start/Early Head Start Calendars. Secretary/Treasurer Borja seconded. Four (4) members (HMA, GPB, ALO, MBT) voted yes, one (1) member (ALB) recused himself; the motion carried.

**ACTION NO. 012**

Member Orsini moved to approve the SY 2023-2024 Early Intervention Calendar. Secretary/Treasurer Borja seconded. All five (5) members voted yes; the motion carried.

**ACTION NO. 013**

Member Orsini moved to approve the 2023 School Library Month Proclamation. Secretary/Treasurer Borja seconded. All five (5) member voted yes; the motion carried.

**ACTION NO. 014**

Member Orsini moved to approve the CLO Report No. 2023-18-01 (Revised). Secretary/Treasurer Borja seconded. All five (5) members voted yes; the motion carried.

**ACTION NO. 015**

Member Orsini moved to approve the ratification of Board and PSS Actions after January 11, 2023 which includes 2023 Counselors Week Proclamation, 2023 Pupil Transportation Week Proclamation, Special Education Annual Performance Report, Travel Authorizations for Student Competitions, Leaders Conferences, etc. as well as Timesheets for BOE Staff, travel vouchers, and commutes. Member Tenorio seconded. All five (5) members voted yes; the motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Secretary/Treasurer Borja moved to descend into executive session at 2:34 p.m. to discuss legal updates and personnel matters. Member Tenorio seconded. All five (5) members voted yes; motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT-** The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.<sup>1</sup>

**CERTIFIED BY:**

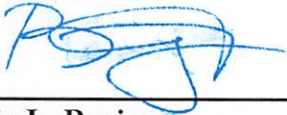


\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory P. Borja  
BOE Secretary/Treasurer

8/16/2023

Date

**CONCURRED BY:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Antonio L. Borja  
BOE Chairperson

8/16/2023

Date

<sup>1</sup> This Minutes was adopted at the May 18, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.