

**19th CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Via Zoom (see link below)

**BOE Conference Room, Building 1241
Capitol Hill, Saipan**

FINAL MINUTES

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present:

Aschumar Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong
Anthony Dela Cruz Barcinas
Antonio L. Borja
Andrew L. Orsini
Maisie B. Tenorio
Dora B. Miura
John S. Blanco
Vinnie Juan Q. Sablan

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

PSS/BOE Staff Present:

Lawrence F. Camacho – Commissioner of Education (COE)
Eric Magofna – Associate Commissioner of Education (ACAS)
Jacqueline Che – Federal Programs Officer (FPO)
Jonathan Aguon – Director of Finance (DOF)
Rizalina Liwag – Senior Director, Office of Curriculum & Instruction (OCI)
Yvonne Pangelinan – Senior Director, Office of Accountability, Research & Evaluation (ARE)
Lucretia Deleon Guerrero – Director, Human Resources Office
Lorraine Catienza – Director, Office of Instructional Technology & Distance Education (ITDE)
Jesse Tenorio – Director, State Infrastructure Technology (SIT)
Liela Yumul – Program Director, Family Engagement & Community Involvement (FECI)
Viola Alepuyo – Legal Counsel
Tiberius Mocanu – Legal Counsel (Virtual)
Robert L. Coldeen III – Coordinator, School Attendance Review Committee (SARC)

Valerie Malwelbug – Office Manager, State Board of Education (SBOE)

Jocelyn Saures – Administrative Assistant, SBOE

Mary-Jo Camacho – Administrative Specialist, SBOE

Ulusmar Ogumoro – Intern, SBOE

Others Present:

Dan Shore – KSPN2 News

Emmanuel Erediano – Marianas Variety

Others Present (via Zoom):

Acelia Castro

Alisa pangelinan

Andrew Golden

Aubrey Tabenas

BOE IA

CM

Desiree Masga

DGM

Florence Calvo

Glenn Smith

Joan Lare Cepeda

Joshua Villagomez

Kristina Springer

Marvin Tamangided

Michelle Rasa

Nadia Benjamin

Nick Gross AD

Parent 1

r.o.

Randee-Jo Barcinas-Manglona

Rich and Jen Villagomez

Robin Palacios

Robyn Spaeth

Ronnakella Eriich

Samsung SM-A14661

Shirley Norita

Tanya Vila

Tiberius Mocanu

Vanessa Andreas

Nace Soaldblai

Madel Tenorio

Lathania Angui

Jessica Taylor

Lynette Villagomez

Jessica Fernandez

Jeremiah Camacho

Micah Page

Jaclyn Quitugua

Heather Stole

Grace Naputi

EC

Elohn Deleon Guerrero

ACMB

Asap Ogumoro

Kimberly Oxales

Denicia Dela Cruz

Dominic “DP” Pangelinan

Francine b Camacho

Janice Muna

MCT

Miss Leora

Ms. T

Oswald Quitugua

Patrick Castillon

Zoom user

Jayvelen Camingawan

Charlene Cruz

ECA

Patty Aguon-Cruz

Kimberly Camacho

Elizabeth Romolor

KST

USER

Arlene Ayuyu

Preston Basa

Estella Igisomar

Benjamin Seman

Angie Mister

Michelle Taisacan

Marie C. Quitugua

LM

Palacios

Zoom user

MB

Clair Cecilia P. Borja

CK

CNMI Public School System

Richard Masiwemai

Jesse Tenorio

Kimo Rosario

Paul Miura

Rachelle Sablan

W

Wayne Pangelinan

Zoomy McZoom Face

Victorino Bora

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Member Maisie B. Tenorio motioned to adopt the agenda. Secretary/Treasurer Antonio L. Borja seconded the motion. Member Andrew L. Orsini requested to amend the agenda to include “Agenda Formation and Member Input” as New Business Item 5. All members voted in favor, and the agenda was adopted as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. PSS Fiscal Year 2026 Budget** – The meeting focused on the Public School System (PSS) Fiscal Year 2026 budget, including the furloughing of 17 central office employees and implementing austerity measures to reduce costs, such as cutting substitute teachers and freezing vacant positions. Commissioner of Education Lawrence Camacho (COE Camacho) plans to reduce work hours to sixty-four (64) for all personnel starting in November and will assess further cuts after central office cost-saving measures are completed. The Governor is expected to revise the budget, with a reduction from \$179M to \$156M, prompting concerns about the impact on educational quality. COE Camacho emphasized the importance of town hall meetings to communicate changes and gather stakeholder feedback on cost-saving measures, including the transition to solar energy for further utility savings.
- 2. CNMI Constitutional Mandate on PSS Budget** – Chairman Aschumar Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong introduced Item 2, noting the budget projection has been revised from \$179M to \$156M, with the new proposal closer to a 25% mandated appropriation for PSS. Chairman Ogumoro-Uludong emphasized the need for continued outreach to both the Board and the community regarding the ongoing budget discussions. Member Tenorio highlighted the importance of finalizing the definition of the 25% mandated appropriation for PSS, urging resolution of the issue, as it’s a recurring conversation. Chairman Ogumoro-Uludong expressed optimism about the revised budget, noting the potential for a higher PSS appropriation. Teacher Representative Dr. Dora B. Miura and Member Orsini agreed that any actions, such as enforcing the 2020 slip opinion, should focus on gaining clarity.
- 3. PSS State of Emergency Declaration** – Chairman Ogumoro-Uludong noted that COE Camacho had already clarified the State of Emergency Declaration, calling it moot due to the suspension of the related clause, but emphasized the need for clarity once the new budget bill is finalized. COE Camacho requested guidance on how to communicate the potential budget revision to the community, highlighting that the \$31.7M budget is a

crisis for PSS. If the budget remains at \$31.7M next week, COE Camacho would ask the Board to declare a crisis to the public.

4. Legal Counsels Contracts

ACTION NO. 001:

Member Orsini motioned to approve the contract renewal of Legal Counsel Tiberius Mocanu. This is the first of two (2) 1-year extensions as allowed in the Contract. Vice-Chairman Anthony Dela Cruz Barcinas seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- 5. Agenda Formation & Member Input** – Member Orsini, reflecting on his seven years with the SBOE, emphasized the importance of collaboration when setting the agenda, stating that no single member can determine the agenda alone, and any proposed action must be voted on by the Board. Member Tenorio agreed, noting that while there are conflicts between regulations and statutes, updating policies is essential, and a collaborative agenda helps create a unified voice for PSS. Chairman Ogumoro-Uludong prioritized the PSS budget as the immediate focus and proposed scheduling another special meeting to track its progress. He also instructed committee chairs to review their responsibilities and ensure they're meeting the requirements set out in regulations and bylaws, aiming to improve the Board's efficiency and organization. Members were encouraged to propose agenda items for future meetings in an organized and systematic manner.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Member Tenorio motioned to descend into Executive Session. Secretary/Treasurer Borja seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried. The Board descended into Executive Session at 6:29 p.m.

Member Orsini motioned to ascend from Executive Session. Vice-Chairman Barcinas seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried. The Board returned to plenary session at 6:52 p.m.

Legal Counsel Mocanu stated that the content of the Executive Session included discussions on personnel matters and legal questions regarding the PSS budget, all of which were appropriate for Executive Session.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ogumoro-Uludong proposed scheduling a Special Board Meeting for Wednesday, October 8, to discuss the budget. The Regular Board Meeting will be held on October 15, which will also mark Vinnie Juan Q. Sablan's last meeting as the Student Representative on the 19th CNMI State Board of Education.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Orsini motioned to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chairman Barcinas seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.¹

CERTIFIED BY:



Antonio L. Borja
BOE Secretary/Treasurer

10/15/2025

Date

CONCURRED BY:



Aschumar Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong
BOE Chair

11/10/25

Date

¹ These Minutes were adopted at the October 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.