



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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JON J. P. FERNANDEZ
Superintendent of Education

December 17, 2013

The Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo
Governor of Guam
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 2950
Hagatna, GU 96932

Re: Request for Update on Tiyan Lease Agreement

Hafa Adai Governor Calvo:

It is with a sense of urgency that I am requesting for an update on the status of the lease agreement for the Tiyan campus currently occupied by Untalan Middle School ("UMS"). Earlier this year, I asked that the Guam Department of Education ("GDOE") be allowed to utilize the leased property for a new central high school in the coming school year, once UMS returns to its renovated Barrigada campus. As we are all aware, there are over 2,600 students that attend George Washington High School ("GWHS") and the opening of a new high school campus will help us to reduce that number and promote a safer learning environment. It is an idea that has been welcomed by many GWHS teachers, parents and students, and I am hopeful that we can meet the commitment made earlier this year.

I understand that you and the Attorney General have committed to addressing the lease as it pertains to the Guahan Academy Charter School no later than December 31, 2013. It is my hope and expectation that the 2,600 students and families who comprise the GWHS school community will also garner the same consideration. Without a timely resolution of the Tiyan agreement, it will be difficult to adequately plan for a new central high school and provide affected students and families an opportunity to prepare for the transition.

Additionally, our previous discussion of the Tiyan lease envisioned the relocation of GDOE central offices from the dilapidated Department of Administration building in Hagatna up to Tiyan. We provided you with our square footage needs and the number of employees to be relocated, so you would have this information as you moved forward with the agreement. While our school facilities remain my priority, we also know that the present conditions of the current headquarters need to be addressed somehow in order to ensure the health and safety of my central office employees. One way or the other, it is important that the Tiyan agreement be resolved, so I know how to move forward.

Thank you for your assistance so far in this process. Please keep our public school students, parents, teachers and staff in mind as you work with the Attorney General to finalize the Tiyan agreement as expeditiously as possible and, hopefully, at the same time you are working to resolve similar issues faced by the charter school at its current Tiyan location.

Senseramente,

Jon J.P. Fernandez
Superintendent of Education