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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GDOE CLEAR ON WISHES FOR NEW SIMON SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL

The Guam Department of Education is clear about the scope of work desired for the pending Simon Sanchez High School procurement, according to Superintendent Jon Fernandez.

In response to testimony given at a roundtable to discuss the rebuild of SSHS before the Committee on Education, Finance and Taxation Monday morning, Fernandez made the following statement of clarification:

“At today’s hearing, there seemed to be an implication that GDOE’s scope of work was an issue in the prior procurement efforts,” Fernandez said. “There was an implication that GDOE did not ‘know what we wanted’ with regard to the school’s rebuilding. That is far from the truth.”

“Let me clarify that we definitely knew what we wanted, based on the work we did with the administrators and faculty, to include lessons learned from the two new high schools, to determine how to build a school that the students and teachers deserve. Our initial scope was based on what the school community asked for, and all parties involved in the procurement were aware of this,” Fernandez said.

“Let me also clarify that any deviation from that initial scope of work was both reasonable and in response to negotiations with the selected contractor, which is required by the Request for Proposal process, to determine how to build the school and at a cost that would leave a targeted amount of \$25-30 million for the remaining schools under the original \$100 million set aside,” he said. “All parties in the procurement were aware of the negotiations and the result before moving forward to an award. That procurement has since been canceled due to administrative errors.”

“Because of the switch to an Invitation for Bid process which leaves no room for negotiations, and based on further guidance from the Guam Economic Development Authority regarding the funding that could be raised for SSHS alone, we further defined the scope down to where it is today. As Department of Public Works Deputy Director Andrew Leon Guerrero indicated in his testimony, today’s scope is squared away,” Fernandez added.

“It is my hope that the testimony today did not leave the impression with legislators that, somehow, the scope of work requested by the SSHS school community was a problem. While

Public Auditor Doris Flores Brooks mentioned her opinion, she did not include it in her decision regarding the prior protests,” Fernandez said.

- END OF STATEMENT -