



EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam.

October 3, 2016

Honorable Lourdes San Nicolas
Chairwoman
The Board of Education
P.O. Box DE
Hagatna, Guam 96932

Dear Madam Chairwoman,

Allow me to thank you for your leadership of the Board of Education before I make the main point of my letter to you. The Board and I have fostered a relationship built upon mutual respect, trust and esteem in the Board's handling of the Department of Education, and a most professional and honest relationship between the Governor and the Superintendent. There has not been a single hiccup in the operation of DOE and the exercise of fiscal controls between the administration and DOE under your leadership and that of past Chairman Pete Ada. Understanding your unsurpassed history with DOE, I know you will agree with me that such a progressive relationship between the island's chief executive and the lead education agency has allowed for the unprecedented achievements and reforms the past few years.

It's no coincidence this timeline of progress and results aligns with Jon Fernandez's tenure as the Superintendent.

And, in turn, it is no coincidence that major operational shortcomings have been surfacing since Jon took administrative leave. I'm specifically referring to the sudden lack of financial controls and accountability by DOE's deputy superintendent of finance, Taling Taitano. Let me be clear that our administration appreciates acting Superintendent Joe Sanchez's interim leadership. However, I agree with warnings and concerns from the U.S. Department of Education dating back to 2007, when the department kept a revolving door for its superintendents. DOE needs stable leadership. That means its duly selected and hired superintendent needs to be at the helm.

May you kindly express to the Board my request to reinstate Jon Fernandez as Superintendent. I make this request in all humility and with due respect for the autonomy of the Board. I simply ask that the members consider my request and my reasons.

My request in no way is meant to influence the disposition of the board's independent investigation into allegations against Mr. Fernandez. A board member has publicly stated that the investigation into the complaint did not find any wrong doing on Mr. Fernandez's part. That being the case, I hope that we can move forward. I wish to praise the Board for its commitment to due process and righteous action to date. But as the Governor, my concern rests with the ability of the department to operate smoothly and aligned to your mission.

Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex • Adelup, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-8931 • Fax: (671) 477-4826 • governor.guam.gov • calendar.guam.gov



Eddie Baza Calvo



@eddiebazacalvo



@governorcalvo

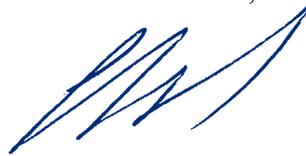


governorofguam

It is obvious that Jon's leadership is essential to correct discrepancies and leadership lacking within its financial management structure. We cannot afford to risk all the progress the Board and the Superintendent have made by allowing inefficient cash management to cause payless paydays, cut off of utilities, or other resource calamities. It is unconscionable that any DOE employee had to face the prospect of a car repossession or foreclosure because DOE's chief financial officer did not manage the department's cash correctly.

I empathize with the Board. When things go wrong, people go to you demanding answers. As the entity where the buck stops, you graciously accept the blame and work with management to find solutions. I understand how that goes. This is among the many reasons my administration prioritizes DOE and makes good on its financial commitments to DOE. We stand ready and willing to help.

Si Yu'us ma'ase,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form the name 'Eddie Baza Calvo'.

EDDIE BAZA CALVO