

**GCEC Regular Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015
5:30 p.m., UOG SOE Building**

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

GCEC Acting Chair Hendricks called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 11 at the UOG SOE, Room 213, Mangilao.

Commission Members

Present: All Present - Gayle Hendricks, Lisa Baza-Cruz, Roberta Abaday, Connie Guerrero, Elisabeth Ichihara- Rosario and Michelle Santos

Other Present: Joann Muna (GCC). John Sanchez (UOG), Ramon Lizama & Taryn Guzman (DOE)

Hendricks requested for the approval of the agenda. Santos added VIII Executive Session after VII Announcements.

Motion by Abaday and seconded by Baza-Cruz to accept the agenda with the addition of VIII Executive Session. APPROVED.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by M Santos and seconded by Ichihara-Rosario to approve the minutes subject to technical corrections. APPROVED.

III. REPORTS

A. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ichihara-Rosario stated that for the GCEC Local Appropriation Account, the FY15 budget that was approved was \$258,041. As of Feb. 11, 2015, the Total Expenditures and Encumbrances was \$89,318.53 so the balance is \$120,298. For the FY 15 GCEC Collection Fee Account, \$19,436.78 is in the rollover appropriated fund. As of Feb. 11, 2015, the balance is \$18,256.78. From Oct 1, 2014 – Feb 2015, the collected fees totaled \$11,719 and the Grand Total Collection fees available is \$92,392.32. Santos added that the attached Collection Fee History showed the collections peaked from the months of December to January and from June to August.

Motion by Abaday and seconded by M Santos to accept the Treasurer's Report. APPROVED.

B. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Hendricks, L Santos and Guerrero met with Sen. Underwood regarding PL 32-236. Underwood inquired about the "safeguards". Hendricks explained that there was a process that starts with an investigation that will be done by an investigator hired by the AG's office. She added that GCEC certifies all educators, including non-DOE educators. Underwood is considering a two (2) prong approach so that

DOE employees would be handled by CSC and GCEC will handle non-DOE educators. Hendricks asked Underwood if she would take the same approach for those DOE employees with licenses from the Allied Health Board and would she also change their law. Hendricks stressed that the law needed time before amendments were made.

Hendricks mentioned the upcoming Informational Hearing by the Committee on Education and that DOE educators were asked to submit their recommended changes to PL 32-236. Abaday added that it was Rob Malay that sent an email to all DOE educators encouraging them to review the law and to share their concerns by Feb. 13, 2015.

C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

From January 8 to Feb 4, 2015, GCEC issued 67 certificates. There were 171 walk-ins, 322 emails and 401 telephone calls.

- 77 19% Renewal requirements
 - 55 14% Others
 - 54 13% Office info – location, office hours, etc.
 - 46 11% PRAXIS
 - 44 11% Initial info
 - 31 8% DOE
 - 29 7% Costs of Certificates
 - 28 7% SOE
 - 11 3% Replacement certificates
 - 8 2% Reciprocity
 - 7 2% Endorsements
 - 6 2% Extensions
 - 5 1% Educator file / records
- Spoke with AG Solicitor Karl Espaldon on Jan. 21, 2015 regarding AG's legal assistance. GCEC will pay for the outside investigator because the AG does not have the extra manpower to provide free service. Santos added that it is imperative that GCEC speak with the AG regarding the legal assistance that was needed in light of the GFT suit.
 - Jan. 21 Appeals Sub-committee meeting
 - Jan. 22 meeting with Sen. Underwood with Hendricks and Guerrero on PL 32-236.
 - Responded to NASDTEC survey
 - Large data requests for certification
 - How to improve the NASDTEC clearinghouse

D. SUB-COMMITTEE

- a. Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee granted the appeal during the Jan. 21, 2015 meeting.

- b. Guam Educator Complaint Form
Santos sent the draft complaint form to the AG's Office for review and approval.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. LIST OF PRAXIS II CONTENT TESTS

Since ETS only test for Spanish, French, German and Mandarin, they recommended The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Praxis II language tests are aligned with those of the Councils. The packet included the list of languages that are tested - Spanish, French, German, Latin, Japanese and Tagalog languages. SOE is developing a Chamorro content test for Chamorro teachers.

Hendricks added that since content tests are now required for certification, it is important GCEC decide what is the acceptable Chamorro content test. In the past, GCEC has accepted the DOE Chamorro test. Hendricks added that Japanese and Spanish has been consistently taught at DOE and that other languages were offered whenever there was a teacher available.

M Santos and Ichihara-Rosario will work on recommending the alternative language tests that will be accepted by GCEC to fulfill the requirements for content tests. Abaday pointed out that they need to study the portion on the speaking tests because the time difference between Guam and the mainland might be a concern.

B. FY 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

Santos is requesting to increase the budget by \$181,979 from what was previously submitted to BBMR.

Oversight chair Underwood recommended to fully fund legal services because of PL 32-236 so staff added \$165,000 to the original request of \$35,000. Abaday suggested that the commission consider a monthly retainer to the lawyer of about \$1,000 and added that hourly rates of attorneys range from \$175 to \$250.

The budget request also includes \$10,000 for an off-island Trainer / Consultant, addition of \$10,600 for the cost of 4 to attend off-island conferences, \$500 more for Supplies and a decrease of \$4,721 for the staff increment based on the Hay Plan, based on BBMR's instructions.

Abaday asked if the PC IV position in the proposed staffing pattern should be retained or removed in light of the lawyer who will be conducting the hearings. The position was originally intended for an Ethics Officer. Hendricks stated that since the position is not budgeted, she would like to keep it in case we need to fill it later on so that the person can assist the lawyer for the hearings.

Motion by Baza-Cruz and seconded by Guerrero to approve the budget request. APPROVED.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Trainers

Santos reported that of the three that she emailed, James Mavis did not respond to the emails. Since John Grant (Chief Investigator for the Georgia Professional Standards Commission) is employed by the State of Georgia, he has no professional fee and GCEC will just have to pay for his airfare and per diem which might cost less than \$5,000. On the other, Frederick Lane, the author of Cybertraps charges \$3,000 for a 3 hour of professional development or consultation or \$5,000 for two (2) three hour sessions, plus expenses.

M Santos wants to table the discussion to see how the law developments over the next few months.

Hendricks asked which trainer the members preferred. Ichihara – Rosario suggested that since Guam’s rules and regs were based on Georgia, John Grant is the choice.

L Santos explained that the training will be open to DOE teachers and administrators but there will be slots for private schools since there are certified educators in Harvest Baptist and in Catholic schools.

Motion by Baza-Cruz and seconded by Abaday to make plans to bring John Grant for training. APPROVED.

Hendricks and Guerrero suggested that Santos work with the Superintendent to plan for the training in the Fall.

M Santos stated that the DOE calendar for Professional Development has a full day for Sept. 18 and half days for Sept. 30 and Oct. 28.

VI EX – OFFICIO

Muna stated that the Civil Service Commission’s mission is to deal with adverse action and is not the appropriate body. Abaday added that there are other actions – reprimand, suspension or sanctions - before the revocation of certificates. Hendricks added that if GCEC is to remove a certificate on a 1st offense, then the grounds must be so severe that it also warrants termination at DOE.

Hendricks added that the issue of alcohol dominates discussions on the PL 32-236. Guerrero asked for Q&A. Santos stated that she is working on a power point presentation and will state that a written complaint must be filed and that the Ethics Sub-committee will determine if the complaint is valid or frivolous.

VII ANNOUNCEMENTS

Under New Business GCEC will have a consensus agenda. Based on Roberts Rules, the reports must be submitted prior to the meeting so that meetings will be shorter.

Recess at 6:25 p.m. for an Executive Session.

VIII EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Motion by Abaday and seconded by Guerrero to adjourn. APPROVED.

Next meeting scheduled for Mar. 11, 2015