



The Chuuk Advisory Group on Education Reform
c/o Graduate School USA, Pacific Islands Training Initiative
900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1540, Honolulu, Hawaii 96734

March 5, 2013

Gardenia Aisek Macayaon
Director
Chuuk Department of Education
Weno, Chuuk, FSM

RE: Chuuk High School Pilot Program

Director Aisek:

The members of the Chuuk Advisory Group on Education Reform thank you and the Chuuk Board of Education for all your support and cooperation during our first meetings in Chuuk from January 28 – February 1, 2013. We appreciated the opportunity to clarify our roles and hold frank discussions on how we can collaboratively improve the quality of education in Chuuk.

It has come to our attention that there is a misunderstanding about one of our joint commitments in the Ten Point Action Plan agreed to at the High Level Meeting on Chuuk Education Reform and at the First Quarterly Meeting of the Advisory Group. As discussed and documented, the Advisory Group places high expectations on the continuation of the Chuuk High School pilot project and, among other things, recommends that **“the current Chuuk High School Vice Principal be hired as Principal when deemed appropriate by the Consultant [at Chuuk High School] and reviewed by the Advisory Group (AG) and the Chuuk Board of Education (CBOE).”**

After our meetings, it was our understanding that the AG and the CBOE were in agreement about the above commitment. The issue of Mr. Jason Reyong’s obligations to the Special Education program and any plans by the CBOE or the management of Chuuk Department of Education to have Mr. Reyong transferred were never raised to the AG while we were in Chuuk. We are disappointed to learn, however, that there may have been related plans all along and further decisions following our meeting without our consultation. This adversely affects ongoing reform efforts at Chuuk High School, and the planned transition of the consultant to focus on at least one additional school next year.

Our interest is less about who assumes the leadership role at the Chuuk High School and more about the sustainability of the progress made there, as well as the need for continued communication between the Advisory Group and the CBOE throughout this reform process. Our joint commitment clearly spells out that both the Advisory Group and the CBOE will review the actions regarding the leadership at Chuuk High School. The Advisory Group is strongly in support of the pilot reform initiatives taking place at the high school and believe that they will need time to improve the learning process. If the CBOE or the management of the Chuuk Department of Education believe otherwise, we need to review those concerns together.

Furthermore, the Chuuk State Leadership, the FSM National Leadership and the U.S. JEMCO leadership all agreed on the need for an Advisory Group to act as an integral component of the process to move the Ten Point Action Plan, and the Reform Plan as a whole, forward. Education Sector and Supplemental Education Grant funds for Chuuk State are contingent upon progress made through this well-defined process.

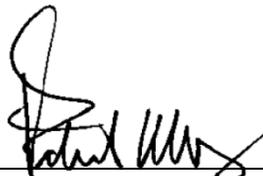
The Advisory Group therefore requests that any further actions regarding Mr. Reyong be placed on hold until the AG and the BOE can jointly review this issue at the next quarterly meeting. As partners on education reform in Chuuk, we need to maintain honest and open communications as well as a productive working relationship.

Again, thank you for your continued commitment to education reform in Chuuk.

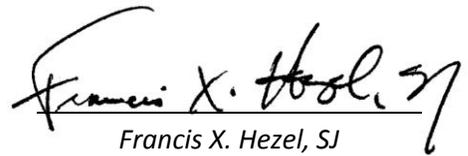
Sincerely,



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