



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

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May 17, 2021

Board of Education
State of Hawaii
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, HI 96804

Re: State of Hawaii Employer Contributions for DOE Excluded Members From All Bargaining Units

Dear Members of the Board of Education:

The Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) Board and staff would like to raise an administrative issue should the State Department of Education (DOE) excluded members (from a bargaining unit) not be provided the employer contributions to EUTF health plans effective July 1, 2021 that were recently ratified by certain bargaining units.

At this time, we understand that the following bargaining units have ratified collective bargaining agreements and employers have decided to implement for excluded employees from all bargaining units, updated employer contributions:

1. Bargaining units 01 (non-supervisory employees in blue collar positions), 02 (supervisory employees in blue collar positions), 03 (non-supervisory employees in white collar positions), 07 (University of Hawaii Professional Assembly), and 08 (administrative, professional and technical employees of the University of Hawaii and the community colleges)
2. Excluded employees – all employers, other than DOE, including the State executive branch; Legislature; Judiciary; University of Hawaii system; Hawaii Health Systems Corporation; City and County of Honolulu; Counties of Maui, and Kauai; and the Board and Departments of Water Supply.

Currently excluded members are not separately identified in our benefits administration system under one bargaining unit code (e.g. BU00) as employers often code them under a subcode (e.g. 73 or 93). Unfortunately, these subcodes are embedded under different bargaining units such as BU13. As a result, we cannot easily change the employer contributions for excluded employees (estimated 3,000 impacted). Fortunately, EUTF staff can program a "fix" at minimal cost and time by moving these excluded employee subcodes to BU00. However, this is an "all or nothing" process. If we are unable to execute this for all excluded employees, it will take significant additional EUTF staff hours (estimated at over 200 hours) to manually identify excluded employees not tied to bargaining units that have ratified the new employer contributions.

Your consideration to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Derek M. Mizuno".

Derek M. Mizuno
Administrator

EUTF's Mission: We care for the health and well being of our beneficiaries by striving to provide quality benefit plans that are affordable, reliable, and meet their changing needs. We provide informed service that is excellent, courteous, and compassionate.



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony for 5/20/2021 General Business Meeting-

1 message

To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

Tue, May 18, 2021 at 9:51 AM

As a parent of a student attending Mauka Lani Elementary School, I respectfully request consideration of my comments (including the respective Exhibits) in this written testimony with respect to the May 20, 2021 General Business Meeting, Agenda Item V.C.

My comments pertain to the following excerpt gleaned from Page 3 (Part III. Findings, Transition to interim superintendent) of the Investigative Committee's memo dated 4/15/2021: "Superintendent Kishimoto is currently responsible for closing out the 2020-2021 school year, implementing summer learning for 2021, and preparing schools for opening for the 2021-2022 school year. Additionally, the Board can take other actions in advance of selecting an interim superintendent to ensure schools and the Department are appropriately prepared for the 2021-2022 school year."

To ensure the health and safety of students during summer learning for 2021 and the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, I respectfully request that consideration and inquiries be made regarding the DOE's plans and procedures with respect to cleaning and disinfecting by teachers, staff and students at the school level.

Based on my experience with my child's elementary school (please see Exhibit A), there is ambiguity whether (1) teachers within the DOE can require students to use disinfectant wipes to clean and disinfectant their desk areas and (2) such teachers are allowed to instruct the students to use disinfectant wipes (such as Clorox or Lysol wipes) with their bare hands.

My child's elementary school informed me that, "there is no explicit guidance in the DOE Return to Learn manual on whether or not children can wipe down surfaces" using disinfectant wipes such as Clorox or Lysol with bare hands or while wearing gloves.

My child's teacher required the students in the class to wipe their desk area using Clorox wipes with their bare hands. Although I provided information to the teacher on the non-permissible use of Clorox wipes by children and asked the teacher to stop having the students clean their desks using Clorox wipes with their bare hands, the teacher refused and stated that the teacher will continue the practice of having the students clean their desks using Clorox wipes with their bare hands. See Exhibit A.

As a result of the teacher's practice of having the students clean their desks using Clorox wipes with their bare hands, my child started to have bleeding gums, canker sores in the mouth, severe rash, aggravated chronic rhinitis and ear aches. Only when I presented the school with a doctor's note requesting that the school waive my child from using disinfectant wipes (such as Clorox or Lysol wipes), did the teacher cease requiring my child to use Clorox wipes with my child's bare hands. However, the other students in the classroom would be still required to use Clorox wipes with their bare hands to clean their desks, thus exposing my child to the fumes from the disinfectant wipes.

With the upcoming summer learning for 2021 and 2021-2022 school year, I respectfully request for consideration and inquiries to be made to the DOE on how the DOE plans to train, educate and provide policy and procedures regarding the non-use of disinfectant wipes by students.

Per the EPA at <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/are-disinfectants-harmful-children-can-children-apply-disinfectants> (See Exhibit B), "Children should not apply disinfectants, including disinfectant cleaning wipes. All disinfectant labels include the statement "Keep Out of Reach of Children," as children are considered a sensitive population. Disinfectants are powerful tools for controlling the spread of disease, and they can harm children's health if used or stored incorrectly."

Per the National Pesticide Information Center ("NPIC"), children are defined as individuals under the age of 18.

More importantly, disinfectant labels are legally enforceable and using the disinfectant wipes inconsistent with the disinfectant labeling is a violation of Federal law (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-labels/introduction-pesticide-labels> see Exhibit C).

In addition, the NPIC's guidance recommends the non-use of disinfectant wipes by children (individuals under the age of 18). See Exhibits D and E.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my comments.

5 attachments



Exhibit E-Disinfectant in Schools.jpg
185K



Exhibit A- Teacher email on students cleaning with disinfectant wipes.pdf
87K



Exhibit B - Are disinfectants harmful to children? Can children apply disinfectants? | Coronavirus (COVID-19) | US EPA.pdf
55K



Exhibit C-Introduction to Pesticide Labels | Pesticide Labels | US EPA.pdf
45K



Exhibit D-Using Disinfectant Wipes at School.pdf
10983K

Students cleaning with disinfectant wipes

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your response.

1. MLES Disregarding EPA & CDC Guidance:

I first would like to address that you are still disregarding (a) the instructions on the disinfectant wipes' packaging to "keep out of children reach" the disinfectant wipes and (2) the guidance issued by the EPA and CDC (see my email of 3/21/2021 for the guidance issued by the CDC on not allowing children to use disinfectant wipes).

<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/are-disinfectants-harmful-children-can-children-apply-disinfectants>: Children should not apply disinfectants, including disinfectant cleaning wipes. All disinfectant labels include the statement "Keep Out of Reach of Children," as children are considered a sensitive population. Disinfectants are powerful tools for controlling the spread of disease, and they can harm children's health if used or stored incorrectly.

Being that you may still ask the students to use disinfectant wipes to clean their desks and other areas, I will forward this matter to the regulatory state and federal agencies to see if your practice of having the students touch and use disinfectant wipes is acceptable to the regulatory agencies.

2. Differences in Oral Testimonies:

Although Ms. Deenie has informed you that she has the students wash their hands after touching and using the disinfectant wipes, there are times when the students in the class are rushed to wipe and cleanup their desk areas that sometimes they run out of time to wash their hands according to [REDACTED].

In addition, there are days when Ms. Deenie is absent and another education assistant is substituting for Ms. Deenie. [REDACTED] has told me that the substitute EAs don't tell / have the students to wash their hands after touching / using the disinfectant wipes.

I believe this is a situation where there are differences in oral testimonies.

Is there a daily checklist where Ms. Deenie or the substitute EA checks off each student's name as each student washes his/her hand after touching/ using the disinfectant wipes?

Is this a situation where the students are purportedly told to wash their hands but no actual check is performed to confirm each student actually washed his / her hand?

I believe the boys when they are saying that they are so rushed to eat, wipe & cleanup that they sometimes don't have enough time to wash their hand. I also believe the boys when they say the substitute EA don't tell / have them to wash their hands after touching / using the disinfectant wipes.

Thank you for taking time to respond to my concerns.

As discussed above, I will elevate my concerns to the regulatory agencies as your response states that you will continue to have the students touch / use the disinfectant wipes occasionally as you find this practice acceptable as long as Ms. Deenie or you purportedly inform the students to wash their hands afterwards.

Nowhere in CDC's and EPA's published guidance is such practice allowed. The fact that MLES is allowing you to continue this practice is very concerning to me.

Thank you,

On Mar 22, 2021, at 1:31 PM, Ramonette Agustin <ramonette.agustin@mles.k12.hi.us> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

I asked Ms. Deenie about the routine after lunch. She stated that after lunch, students are given the wipe to clean off their desk from crumbs and spills. They are then asked to wash their hands with their own soap and once all this is done, she does the 2nd temperature check. I don't know why the boys would say that they don't always wash their hands after. But from now on, because our schedule has changed, students will not be eating in the room any longer. Ms. Deenie and I will wipe desks before and after school each day. There may be a time when I will have the kids wipe their desk with the clorox wipes, if that happens, please be assured that I will make sure (as always) to have them wash their hands with soap after.

Ramonette Agustin

On Sun, Mar 21, 2021 at 8:22 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:

Hi Mrs. Agustin, Principal Battad & Vice-Principal Aronica,

I respectfully request that MLES discontinue having its students use disinfectant wipes to clean their desks and other areas.

The CDC advises that, "Disinfection products should not be used by children or near children..." <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/clean-disinfect-hygiene.html#Key>

Please be advised that DOH refers to the CDC on supplemental guidance on cleaning and disinfecting. <https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/files/2021/03/COVID-19-Guidance-for-Schools-Updated-Mar-12-2021.pdf>

Over the spring break, I learned that [REDACTED] students are given disinfectant wipes and are instructed to wipe their desks with the disinfectant wipes after they eat lunch on their desks.

I also understand that [REDACTED] students are not always given the opportunity and/or reminded to wash their hands after touching the disinfectant wipes.

My son and my neighbor's son both stated that they have to wipe their desks with disinfectant wipes that are passed out to the [REDACTED] students and that, not all the time, they are told and/or given the opportunity to wash their hands after touching the disinfectant wipes.

If students are asked to clean their desk areas, I respectfully ask MLES follow CDC's guidance in the NON-use of disinfectant wipes by students. Students could still clean their desks with hand wipes such as baby wipes or antibacterial wipes (wipes that are safe to touch with bare hands).

Please also be advised that other states such as the State of Washington disallow students' use of disinfectant wipes:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth/ClassroomCleaning>

“Students should never use disinfectants. Disinfectant wipes shouldn't be used to clean hands. This includes Clorox wipes.

If students are helping to clean:

- They should only use soap and water.
- Fragrance-free baby wipes could be used for quick cleaning.
- Most store-bought cleaning products are not safe for children to use.”

In addition, please be advised that MLES' continued practice of having students use disinfectant wipes to clean their desks or other areas may lead to MLES being notified and/or fined by a federal or state regulatory agency for violation of using disinfectant wipes in a manner inconsistent with the disinfectants' labeling.

<https://boston.cbslocal.com/2015/05/22/lynnfield-schools-warned-to-stop-making-kids-clean-with-disinfectant-wipes/>

For example, this article discussed how a pesticide inspector from Boston's Department of Agricultural Resources sent a “letter of warning” to a Boston school saying the school had violated a section of state law about using a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling. “Cease and desist having children use products that have ‘Keep out of reach of children’ on the label,” the letter said. “Keep these products in locked cabinets or closets and away from the students’ access.”

Thank you for attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



An official website of the United States government.



Are disinfectants harmful to children? Can children apply disinfectants?

List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2

[View List N, a searchable and sortable list of products for use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel human coronavirus that causes COVID-19.](#)

Children should not apply disinfectants, including disinfectant cleaning wipes. All disinfectant labels include the statement “Keep Out of Reach of Children,” as children are considered a sensitive population. Disinfectants are powerful tools for controlling the spread of disease, and they can harm children's health if used or stored incorrectly.

Always follow the label directions. A part of EPA’s responsibility is to ensure that if you follow the label directions, no unreasonable adverse effects on human health, including the health of children, will occur.

Any person applying disinfectants in children's environments should follow best practices for safe and effective disinfection. EPA-registered disinfectants are for use on surfaces, not humans. Never apply disinfectants to skin or directly to food. Do not mix products unless the label specifically tells you to.

[For information on safe and effective disinfection, see our infographic.](#)

[For information on adverse outcomes of disinfectants for children, see the CDC's article on calls to poison control centers.](#)

[For information on high-risk practices related to disinfectants, see the CDC's article on knowledge and practices related to household cleaning and disinfection.](#)

Information in this FAQ does not apply to any products used on people. [The Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) regulates hand sanitizers, antiseptic washes, and antibacterial soaps for use on people.](#)

[Return to Frequent Questions about Disinfectants and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\).](#)

Related Questions

- [Can I use common household substances to kill the novel coronavirus?](#)

- How can members of my household use disinfectants properly to control COVID-19 if a family member is asthmatic or has other chronic respiratory disease?
- Can disinfectant products be used on people?
- Is there anything I can do to make surfaces resistant to SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)?
- Can I apply a product using a method that is not specified in the directions for use?
- Why aren't ozone generators, UV lights, or air purifiers on List N? Can I use these or other pesticidal devices to kill the virus that causes COVID-19?
- Can I use fogging, fumigation, or electrostatic spraying or drones to help control COVID-19?
- I need to disinfect a public space like a store or school. What do I need to know?
- Do disinfectants kill newer strains of coronavirus?

LAST UPDATED ON JANUARY 7, 2021

An official website of the United States government.



Introduction to Pesticide Labels

Pesticide product labels provide critical information about how to safely and legally handle and use pesticide products. Unlike most other types of product labels, pesticide labels are legally enforceable, and all of them carry the statement: “It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.” In other words, the label is the law.

A key function of the pesticide product label is to manage the potential risks from pesticides. In support of that function:

- state and federal agencies enforce pesticide label requirements;
- educational programs certify pesticide users; and
- pesticide users read and follow the label directions.

Regulation of Pesticide Labels

EPA requires extensive scientific data on the potential health and environmental effects of a pesticide before granting a registration, which is a license to market that product in the United States. EPA evaluates the data and ensures that the label translates the results of those evaluations into a set of conditions, directions, and precautions that define who may use a pesticide, as well as where, how, how much, and how often it may be used.

Requirements for pesticide labels are found in the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR Part 156).

The Label Review Manual provides guidance for product management team members who are responsible for performing label reviews. In addition, it may be useful for state label reviewers, registrants and other individuals interested in producing readable, unambiguous, and enforceable pesticide labels. It compiles existing interpretations of statutory and regulatory provisions and reiterates existing Agency policies.

What is the difference between "label" and "labeling"?

Pesticide law (FIFRA section 2(p)) defines the terms as follows:

- **Label.** The term “label” is defined as “the written, printed, or graphic matter on, or attached to, the pesticide or device or any of its containers or wrappers.”
- **Labeling.** The term “labeling” is defined as “all labels and all other written, printed, or graphic matter: (a) accompanying the pesticide or device at any time; or (b) to which reference is made on the label or in literature accompanying the pesticide or device, except to current official publications of the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Departments of Agriculture and Interior, and the Department of Health and Human Services, State experiment stations, State agricultural colleges, and other similar Federal or State institutions or agencies authorized by law to conduct research in the field of pesticides”.

In these Web pages, we have used the term "label" for simplicity. Please read it to include other materials that are considered "labeling."

LAST UPDATED ON MAY 24, 2017

Using DISINFECTING WIPE

at home & school

Types of Antimicrobials

Sanitizers

Reduce bacterial numbers on surfaces to a safe level.

Disinfectants

Kill bacteria, fungi, and some viruses on surfaces.

Antiseptics/Drugs

Antiseptics like hand sanitizers treat or prevent diseases on living things. They are not pesticides.

Microbes

Bacteria



Fungi

Spores*

*Most wipes do not kill spores



What are they?

- Antimicrobials are intended to kill or slow the growth of microbes
- Disinfectant wipes are disposable for hard surfaces like counters and tables
- Surface cleaners like wipes are not intended for use on skin
- Disinfectant wipes may LOOK similar to hand wipes. Read the label! Look for phrases like "disinfecting", "antibacterial", or "kills germs, viruses, and bacteria". When in doubt, call NPIC: 800-858-7378

Where can they be used?

- Specific locations listed only on the label
- Use sites and dwell time vary by location and purpose



Household surfaces



Public Health



What is dwell time?

- The contact time (seconds or minutes) the product needs to stay on a surface to kill microbes
- The surface should be visibly wet for the entire dwell time
- Time may change based on the microbe and purpose (sanitize vs. disinfect)



Using in schools and daycares

- Only adults should use cleaning wipes – children should NOT use wipes
- Keep out of reach of children
- Follow the dwell time listed on the label
- Leave wipes in the original container
- Use the right product for each situation
- Parents: ask how children are involved in classroom cleaning

These wipes are NOT for:



Food contact



Produce



Hand wipes



Baby wipes

How do I minimize risk?

- Always follow the label, including use sites and dwell times
- Never mix antimicrobial or cleaning products
- You can wear gloves if you prefer, always check the label first
- Wash hands after use
- Avoid touching wet surfaces after use
- Follow first aid instructions
- Open windows or use fans
- Store wipes out of reach of children
- Removing dirt and food from surfaces before helps wipes work
- Misuse or overuse of wipes can lead to antimicrobial resistance



What is antimicrobial resistance?



If similar products are used repeatedly, they may not be as effective over time. This resistance can occur naturally, but overuse or misuse of antimicrobial products increases the chances. Follow the label and dwell time to reduce the risk of resistance.



Where can I get more information?

npic
NATIONAL PESTICIDE INFORMATION CENTER

npic.orst.edu
npic@ace.orst.edu
800.858.7378

Sources

Antimicrobials Topic Fact Sheet - NPIC
Daycare and School Poison Safety - NPIC and AAPCC

Disinfectants in Schools

~a conversation~

Disinfectants make things cleaner and healthier. What's the big deal? They aren't harmful.

OK, so what IS a disinfectant?

Are you sure? Did you know disinfectants are pesticides regulated by the EPA? They can harm people if they spill, splash, or are improperly mixed.

Great question! A disinfectant is a pesticide used to destroy fungi, bacteria, and some viruses found on non-living surfaces.

Disinfectant Examples

- Pine Oil
- Some surface wipes
- Germ-killing sprays
- Bleach (Sodium Hypochlorite)



When not used properly, disinfectants can damage the eyes, skin, and lungs. Children can be particularly sensitive to the chemicals in disinfectant products.

Is there anything I should know about using disinfectants safely?



DOs

- ✓ Read the label and follow the directions every time you use a product, even if familiar with it.
- ✓ Wash your hands right after using disinfectants.
- ✓ Point containers away when opening, pouring, or pulling wipes from canisters.
- ✓ Note the amount of time a surface must remain wet in order for the product to work.

DON'Ts

- ✗ Never let young children use or have access to disinfectant products.
- ✗ Never put disinfectants in food or drink containers. Store in original containers and clearly label anything that contains a pesticide.
- ✗ Never mix disinfectants with other cleaning products. Mixing bleach and ammonia will produce a toxic gas.

Got it! Where can I get more information?

npic
NATIONAL
PESTICIDE INFORMATION
CENTER
1.800.858.7378

Call NPIC for general questions about pesticides, including the potential risk to humans, pets, or the environment.

**POISON
Help**
1-800-222-1222

Call poison control if someone breathes in, swallows, or gets pesticide in the eyes or on the skin.





May 20, 2021
General Business Meeting

Dear Chair Payne and Members of the Committee,

We would like to comment on Item IV. D. and V. C.

Regarding Item IV. D., we like that the Search Committee includes the Vice Chairs of the Human Resource Committee, the Finance and Infrastructure Committee and the Student Achievement Committee as well as the Chair of the BOE. We agree that it is important to have officer representation from all the standing committees and to give these representatives the opportunity to provide their insights and expertise.

Regarding Item V. C., we support the Transition Committee's recommendation regarding the process for selecting a permanent superintendent.

First, we like that the Transition Committee will use both the Search Firm and the Advisory Group to provide direct input for the superintendent characteristics and job description.

Second, regarding the process to reach out to the public for input on the superintendent characteristics and job description, we offer a suggested process for obtaining broad input from stakeholders, the steps of which are listed below.

1. For obtaining initial stakeholder comment, the BOE could take the 2017 Superintendent Position Description¹ as a starting point and then go to the public to solicit comment and additional ideas. Perhaps a survey could be created highlighting the main points of the 2017 Superintendent Position Description. The survey could also include some elements that principals identified as necessary for DOE leadership in the 2021 Principal Survey administered by Ward Research and The Learning Coalition, such as a clearly articulated strategic plan, metrics to define success, and useful guidance on implementation.² Having some information proposed ahead of time may be more efficient than

¹
https://boe.hawaii.gov/Meetings/Notices/Meeting%20Material%20Library/GBM_03072017_Board%20Action%20on%20Superintendent%20Characteristics%20and%20Job%20Description.pdf

²
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P2leVCkp3jXAk5p6uWeU7VMtzLF5y50D/view?fbclid=IwAR2jQRsdDkZ2o50eY0ydQhPDgrgalox34alt8BeW6ll_oaoErntqBYvBLzc

simply going to the public with a blank slate in asking what important characteristics are needed for an effective superintendent.

2. We believe it is important to receive input from the entire state. While an online survey will be accessible to those who have internet access, we must also consider those who may not have internet access, particularly those living in rural areas. We, therefore, suggest that if the BOE creates this initial survey, it should not only be posted online, but also, presented at in-person BOE community meetings in rural areas to ensure that constituents in these areas are heard.
3. Once the first round of input is collected, the Search Committee, Search Firm and Advisory Committee could collaborate on a proposed superintendent characteristics and job description, which could then be presented at a BOE General Business Meeting. This would provide a second opportunity to gather stakeholder input through testimony.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21

Alliance for Place Based Learning

American Civil Liberties Union

*Castle Complex Community Council

*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS

*Education Institute of Hawai'i

*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawai'i

Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

*HawaiiKidsCAN

*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and
Economic Justice

*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists

Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars

*Hawai'i Children's Action Network

Hawai'i Education Association

Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity
Coalition

* Hawai'i State PTSA

Hawai'i State Student Council

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Hawai'i P-20

Hawai'i 3Rs

* Hawai'i Youth Service

Head Start Collaboration Office

It's All About Kids

*INPEACE

Joint Venture Education Forum

Junior Achievement of Hawaii

Kamehameha Schools

Kanu Hawai'i

*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council

Keiki to Career Kaua'i

Kupu A'e

*Leaders for the Next Generation

Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the
Odds

Native Hawaiian Education Council

Our Public School

*Pacific Resources for Education and
Learning

*Parents and Children Together

*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Special Education Provider Alliance

*Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

Voting Members () Voting member organizations
vote on action items while individual and non-voting
participants may collaborate on all efforts within the
coalition.*

Board of Education General Business Meeting
May 20, 2021
Testimony

IV. D Investigative Committee RE: Search OPPOSE

This report is lacking any updated information since the closing of the interim superintendent search that closed on April 30, 2021.

A brief mention/idea of the number of applications received, reviewing process etc.

Reference: GBM Meeting April 15, 2021 III B. Reports: Investigative Committee Timeline
In reviewing the timeline for selecting an Interim Superintendent, the length of time between the closing of applications and selection (July) is two months. Start date is August 1, 2021. School starts on August 3, 2021.

My comment is that it would have been more prudent to relieve the Superintendent of her duties once she announced that she was no longer interested in a new contract. This was a feasible option the Board decided not to pursue. Regardless of the budget, with approval from the Governor, it was an option. There were many red flags that could have been presented to alleviate some of the current effort in identifying an interim. With chain of command, an acting superintendent could have been identified. A search for an interim superintendent could have occurred months ago and would be already complete.

However, here we are. This Board was well aware of the public concern since last March 2020. As the school year progressed, many more complicated issues developed due to actions taken by the superintendent without Board knowledge until after the fact. Public outcry was loud. The Board has written testimony and recorded testimony throughout this ordeal.

In most instances, when a person cannot carry out their duties due to inadequacy, someone takes the helm. Hindsight is 20/20, but I believe we all learned some lessons during this past year.

Do not use a pandemic, as an excuse to our students, for lack of proper planning, action, and results.

Remember: We are here to SERVE the students of Hawaii.

Board of Education General Business Meeting
May 20, 2021
Testimony

DISCUSSION

IV.B Operating Budget and CIP Budget (Testimony on Reports at Finance Meeting)

Reattached document

IV. D Investigative Committee RE: Search OPPOSE

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Remember: We are here to SERVE the students of Hawaii.

Board of Education General Business Meeting
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Testimony

ACTION ITEMS

V.C. Investigative Committee RE: Search OPPOSE

This report is lacking any updated information since the closing of the interim superintendent search that closed on April 30, 2021.

A brief mention/idea of the number of applications received, reviewing process etc.

Reference: GBM Meeting April 15, 2021 III B. Reports: Investigative Committee Timeline
In reviewing the timeline for selecting an Interim Superintendent, the length of time between the closing of applications and selection (July) is two months. Start date is August 1, 2021. School starts on August 3, 2021.

My comment is that it would have been more prudent to relieve the Superintendent of her duties once she announced that she was no longer interested in a new contract. This was a feasible option the Board decided not to pursue. Regardless of the budget, with approval from the Governor, it was an option. There were many red flags that could have been presented to alleviate some of the current effort in identifying an interim. With chain of command, an acting superintendent could have been identified. A search for an interim superintendent could have occurred months ago and would be already complete.

However, here we are. This Board was well aware of the public concern since last March 2020. As the school year progressed, many more complicated issues developed due to actions taken by the superintendent without Board knowledge until after the fact. Public outcry was loud. The Board has written testimony and recorded testimony throughout this ordeal.

In most instances, when a person cannot carry out their duties due to inadequacy, someone takes the helm. Hindsight is 20/20, but I believe we all learned some lessons during this past year.

Do not use a pandemic, as an excuse to our students, for lack of proper planning, action, and results.

Remember: We are here to SERVE the students of Hawaii.