

Marlanas High School

P.O. Box 207 C.K.
Saipan, MP 96950

-1466-

June 26, 1995

Mr. Henry U. Hofschneider
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary
and Other Elected Offices
Third Northern Mariana Islands
Constitutional Convention
Caller Box 10007 C.K.
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I appreciate the opportunity you have extended to me to comment on the proposed amendments to **Article XV: EDUCATION**.

Section 1 (a): Terms of Public Education

1. I feel the time has come to remove the word "free" from all reference to public education.
Allowing the Board of Education (BOE) to charge fees for various school related services would be appropriate. However, these fees must be carefully regulated.
2. In order to encourage students to graduate from high school the compulsory age for education should be from 6 - 18 years.

Section 1 (b) and (c): Governance of Education System

1. It is time to decentralize education and allow the community to become more involved in the education of their children.
However, there must remain a central office for coordination of efforts and the check and balance on funds.
2. Keep the School Board as an elected board not appointed. This will allow more interested people to be a part of the education community.
3. The school board should remain at its present size.

Section 1 (d): Qualification for School Board

1. Additional qualification - All elected candidates must possess at least a BA degree.

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Rec'd 6/27/95 - em

Section 1 (e): Guaranteed percentage of Commonwealth revenues

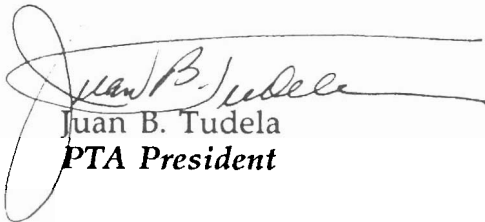
1. The allotment should be increased to at least 30%.

Other Issues

1. Chamorro and Carolinian should be required subjects for all students in the CNMI.
2. Open Government provision should apply to the Public School System.
3. Yes - the Board of Education should have taxing authority.
4. Parents of school-age children should be encouraged, not required, to contribute community service.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on these amendments.

Sincerely,



Juan B. Tudela
PTA President