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GDOE: More than \$1M needed for SSHS repairs

John O'Connor | The Guam Daily Post 9 hrs ago



David Castro

ASSEMBLY: Sen. Dennis Rodriguez addresses the students of Simon Sanchez High School during an assembly that was a history of struggles the school has gone through trying to get the campus repaired and what the proposed charter school students Wednesday, April 26. David Castro/The Guam Daily Post

Education officials said it will take a little over \$1 million to complete short-term repairs at Simon Sanchez High School as the Guam Department of Education waits on a total reconstruction of the Yigo campus. Members of the Guam Education Board and Superintendent Jon Fernandez discussed the cost and plan of action for the repairs during a work session on Simon Sanchez yesterday afternoon.

The repairs comprises both contracted and in-house work related to room restoration, room modifications, roof and canopy repairs, air-conditioning replacement and other maintenance work.

"If the kind of question is, 'What kind of investment is needed to sustain this campus over two years?' we want to do a good renovation of classrooms so that we can be comfortable we don't have it falling apart over two years," Fernandez said.

Sen. Joe San Agustin, the chairman of the legislative oversight committee on education, has requested the cost information. Sens. San Agustin and Dennis Rodriguez were sponsors of a bill that would have transformed Sanchez High into a charter school. However, after an emotionally charged town hall meeting May 2, during which stakeholders vehemently opposed the concept, lawmakers committed to withdrawing the bill.

Fernandez said he was then asked what the department would need in order to keep the school afloat over the next two years as the current procurement process, intended to rebuild the school, proceeds through the ebb and flow of protests, appeals and other bureaucratic operations.

"That's the right approach," Fernandez said. "If we just focus on getting it open by the beginning of the next school year, that's a short-term fix. But if we're realistic and know (procurement) will take longer, then we'll give them those true costs."

The work list primarily addresses classroom needs and health and safety issues, over which the Department of Public Health and Social Services has repeatedly cited the education department.

The costs will have to be a separate appropriation for the annual GDOE budget but the department is not certain how much resources will be made available. The proposed work list can be prioritized depending on the amount of additional funding granted and how long before the work can be completed. The department is initially looking into modification work that can be done in the main structure of the campus.

While implementing a double session schedule is on the table, it is not desirable, Fernandez said, and low on the priority list of contingencies.

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Reporting on utilities, healthcare, education and other topics.