

[https://www.postguam.com/news/local/charter-school-faces-looming-eviction/article\\_7c42f71e-108b-11e8-b645-2393e537b6b9.html](https://www.postguam.com/news/local/charter-school-faces-looming-eviction/article_7c42f71e-108b-11e8-b645-2393e537b6b9.html)

## Charter school faces looming eviction

John O'Connor | The Guam Daily Post Feb 13, 2018 Updated 9 hrs ago



**FACING EVICTION:** Guahan Academy Charter School has been served an eviction notice for its middle and high school campus in Tiyan. David Castro/The Guam Daily Post

The Guahan Academy Charter School is expected to remain open today and the rest of the week, according to school board member Victor Perez, but it still faces eviction.

More than \$200,000 in payments that would keep the school from being evicted still remains in limbo.

No written action plan for the middle and high school students occupying the campus was immediately available from the board either, despite the request from Amanda Blas, chairwoman of the Guam Academy Charter Schools Council.

The status update, after an emergency work session with the council Monday, resulted in serious concerns from council members.

An 11 a.m. meeting yesterday between the Guahan Academy board and officials with the Guam Department of Education did not result in any significant change for the payment status because the board failed to provide procurement documentation needed to validate payment to Nan Chul Shin Trust, the Tiyan landlord for the charter school.

Absent from the meeting was Guahan Academy board Chairwoman Fe Valencia-Ovalles and consultant and acting CEO Marilyn Manibusan.

However, a letter from GDOE Superintendent Jon Fernandez stated he was told documentation was in Manibusan's possession, and the department remains open to receive those documents.

Perez suggested working with the executive branch to expedite payment to Shin Trust.

Parent Teacher Organization members Jolene Toves and Jacquie Balbin said they still haven't received official notice from the Guahan Academy board, and were concerned about their students' future at the school.

Toves and Balbin also had concerns with legal fees the school may incur with the eviction situation, and added it may be more financially viable to simply relocate students to the elementary campus and proceed with a double-session schedule.

Board members returned to the meeting after a brief recess to come up with a plan.

Double session is an option if needed, according to board officials, but that's not yet on the table.

Guahan board members will be meeting with Shin Trust today to discuss the matter further, Perez said.

A more detailed action plan is expected later in the day.

## Notice of eviction

The charter school board received a notice to quit and surrender possession of the middle and high school campus on Feb. 7.

The letter stated that the campus should be vacated today due to the nonpayment of \$245,000 in installments for the purchase of the property.

Valencia-Ovalles stated in an emergency council meeting Monday that delays in the school's funding validation resulted in the current situation.

GDOE is responsible for validating charter school purchases before the Department of Administration releases funding.

## Tiyan property

**OUT WITH THE OLD**  
IN WITH THE **NEW**

NO PAYMENTS FOR **90 DAYS** **0% DOWN 1.9% FINANCING**

**2017 CIVIC**

STARTING AT **\$19,993** STARTING AT **\$161 PER MONTH**

TO LEARN MORE VISIT: [WWW.TRIPLEJGUAM.COM](http://WWW.TRIPLEJGUAM.COM)

**TRIPLE J HONDA**  
127 South Marine Corps Drive  
TEL: (671) 648-9100 FAX: (671) 649-2248 [salesmanager@triplejguam.com](mailto:salesmanager@triplejguam.com) [WWW.TRIPLEJGUAM.COM](http://WWW.TRIPLEJGUAM.COM)

**HONDA**

Guahan Academy purchased the new Tiyan property while an agreement for the existing elementary school campus is set to expire.

The new temporary Tiyan campus would eventually be converted to house all Guahan Academy students while a permanent campus is developed in Mangilao.

The board also pointed to the validation process affecting the school's ability to pay Rex International Inc., the company contracted to renovate the new Tiyan campus.

But GDOE had its own concerns with Guahan Academy's procurement law compliance. The charter school was expected to provide some documentation during the 11 a.m. meeting yesterday to show that it had followed procurement law in instituting the property contract with Shin Trust.

However, a February letter from the school's procurement manager already stated that they did not believe the property purchase was subject to procurement law, to the disagreement of the council and GDOE.

The purchase of the Tiyan property was a major factor in a financial-risk assessment published by the education department in October 2016.

### **Mired in controversy**

Guahan Academy has been mired in financial controversy this fiscal year, beginning with the over-enrollment of about 300 students after failing to receive an anticipated expansion of its enrollment cap to 1,015 students.

The enrollment expansion was to fund the facilities expansion plan – including the \$6 million purchase of a Tiyan campus to house middle and high school students.

All charter school funding represents a portion of annual appropriations to GDOE based on the charter school's enrollment. Charter schools must follow Guam procurement law under the charter school statute.

This means Guahan Academy is also subject to steep budget cuts for this fiscal year, due to newly implemented federal tax cuts that affect the entire local government budget. The school needs to cut about \$416,000 this fiscal year.

---

**John O'Connor**

Reporting on utilities, education and other topics.