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Guahan Academy School officials say students will have school, despite eviction notice

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(Photo: Frank San Nicolas/PDN)

Officials from Guahan Academy Charter School said classes will happen at the Tiyan middle and high school campus Wednesday, despite the school receiving a notice of eviction.

School board of trustees treasurer Victor Perez assured members of the Guam Academy Charter Schools Council Tuesday that an eviction won't happen Wednesday.

"They're going to school," he said.

The council held an emergency work session with Guahan Academy at 4 p.m. Monday, a few days after the school received a Feb. 7 eviction notice from property owner Nan Chul Shin Trust.

Nan Chul Shin Trust, through attorney Daniel Berman, said Guahan Academy failed to pay the first and second installment of \$245,000, under an amended May 2017 agreement to buy the land for a new Tiyan campus.

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[Race against time to save Guahan Academy](http://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2018/02/13/race-against-time-keep-guahan-academy-being-evicted/327900002/)

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Perez said the charter school will meet with the landowner Wednesday afternoon to discuss the issue, but was told by their attorney that they have time before an eviction would take place.

He said the best option to avoid eviction is for the government to release funding to pay the landowner, and he was working with the Department of Administration and the governor's office to try to get the payment.

"Payment is the best option," Perez said.

Charter school officials met with Guam Department of Education officials Tuesday morning to discuss validating a request to pay Shin Trust.

Superintendent Jon Fernandez said charter school officials weren't able to provide a procurement record for the purchase, but that they would give DOE the documents at a later date.

He said DOE remains committed to working with Guahan Academy to address its validation request relative to the Shin Trust property.

Charter school action plan

Council Chairwoman Amanda Blas said she was uncomfortable with the charter school not having anything in writing from the landowner, assuring the eviction wouldn't happen.

She was also concerned that the charter school didn't provide the written action plan she requested during Monday's work session, due Tuesday.

The action plan would address the school's options, should students be displaced.

She called for a short recess to allow officials to bring back a written plan to present to the council.

Officials came back with a handwritten plan, which included double sessions in the elementary school classrooms as an option should an eviction happen. They said the plan would be for elementary students to go to school in the morning and then secondary students in the afternoon.

However, busing would be an issue because the school has students from all over the island.

The Guam Department of Education has offered to transition students into public schools as another option for the charter school students.

Parent's concern

Jacqueline Balbin, a parent of a middle school student at Guahan Academy, said as of Tuesday she was still not informed by the school about what will happen Wednesday.

She said it's unheard of for a school to just close, especially in the middle of the school year. She said she's concerned about her son's education and trying to transfer him with only a few months of school left.

Her son already started school late, and she isn't sure if he'll have enough school time if he transfers to a public school, she said.

She said she would rather have her son finish school at Guahan Academy and then have the summer to figure out her next option. Balbin said the pending eviction is forcing parents to have to make a big decision in a short period of time.

"What kind of education are we providing for our children here?" she said.

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[Guahan Academy faces eviction for non-payment](http://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2018/02/09/guahan-academy-faces- eviction-tivan-campus-over-non-payment/321898002/)

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