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Guahan eviction delayed until end of school year

John O'Connor | The Guam Daily Post Feb 16, 2018 Updated Feb 16, 2018



DELAY: An agreement was reached to delay the eviction of Guahan Academy Charter School's middle and high school campus. David Castro/The Guam Daily Post

It appears that Guahan Academy Charter School will be able to stave off eviction until the end of the school year.

An agreement with Nan Chul Shin Trust, the owner of the Tiyan property that houses GACS' middle and high school campus, stipulates that the school will be able to use the property until June 30 without having to pay additional installments, save for \$45,000 already paid to the company.

A total of \$90,000 has been paid to Shin Trust for the purchase of the \$6 million property.

The purchase agreement for the property is no longer in effect.

The agreement still leaves open payment for attorney fees, and Guahan Academy waived its ability to remove any improvements or fixtures already made at the campus, which was being converted into a temporary facility to house elementary and secondary school students.

Guahan Academy is also liable for utility payments and losses or claims related to the property.

This agreement, although avoiding disruption to the current school year, leaves the charter school without the campus it hoped to occupy while a more permanent facility in Barrigada is developed.

A government agreement to use a separate facility in Tiyan for Guahan Academy's elementary campus will expire by June 2019.

Council concerns

Members of the Guam Academy Charter Schools Council yesterday asked about the funding source for the \$45,000 paid to Shin Trust.

Guahan Academy board Chairwoman Fe Valencia-Ovalles said the funds came from a facilities expansion provision in the school's annual budget. The source is essentially government funding, the chairwoman added.

Franklin Cooper-Nurse, the chief auditor for the Guam Department of Education, said GDOE never validated the release of funding to Shin Trust or Rex International Inc., the company contracted to renovate the Shin Trust property.



"Meaning, it could be improper use of government funds and it has to be reviewed," Cooper-Nurse said.

Cooper-Nurse said GDOE would want to verify whether Guahan Academy is using other funding sources or is using government funding approved for other expenditures to enter into contractual services.

Meanwhile, the charter schools council is seeking a transition plan from Guahan Academy regarding what will happen after June 30.

The school board received a notice on Feb. 7 to quit and surrender possession of the middle and high school campus in Tiyan from Shin Trust.

The letter stated that the campus should be vacated by Feb. 14 due to the nonpayment of \$245,000 in installments for the purchase of the property.

The school managed to prevent the eviction on Wednesday and by that evening, Guahan Academy announced that it reached an agreement with Shin Trust.

John O'Connor

Reporting on utilities, education and other topics.