

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

www.gdoe.net
501 Mariner Avenue
Barrigada, Guam 96913
Telephone: (671) 300-1547| Fax: (671) 472-5001
Email: mtreyes@gdoe.net



K. ERIK SWANSON, PhD Superintendent of Education TES REYES-BURRIER
Public Information Officer
2023-PIO-0080

## January 4, 2024 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **GWHS Toy "Air Soft" Pallet Gun Found**

*Tiyan, Guam* – The George Washington High School (GWHS) Principal Dexter Fullo reported yesterday that an anonymous call was made to the office by a concerned citizen who witnessed the student allegedly carrying a weapon, presumably a gun. The bus number was provided to the GWHS and immediately activated proper protocol.

Principal Fullo stated, "We received an anonymous tip about a possible weapon on the bus and we acted quickly to ensure the safety of our students. Therefore, we isolated the target and was able to thoroughly search the students and their belongings to ensure no dangerous weapons or contraband would enter the GWHS campus."

The bus and the students were searched in the morning, but no weapons or contraband were found. There was no sign of any danger to the school community at that time. However, at 11:24 A.M., the Barrigada Department of Public Works (DPW) Supervisor revised the report and notified GWHS that a weapon was hidden in one of the bus seats. **The weapon was a toy "Air Soft" Pellet gun.** DPW contacted GWHS and Guam Police Department (GPD) right away for further investigation.

"At GWHS, the well-being of our students is our top priority. We are providing counseling and assistance to the students who were involved in the bus incident that occurred yesterday. We are also cooperating with DPW and GPD, who are conducting a thorough investigation into the cause and circumstances of the incident. We appreciate the professionalism and dedication of our school leaders, who have been in constant contact with the students, their families, and the authorities. We ask for your patience and understanding as we work together to ensure the safety and security of our school community," Principal Fullo added.

District Superintendent Dr. Erik Swanson stated, "We are very concerned about the threat and we are doing everything we can to ensure the safety of our school community. I appreciate the GWHS team for their prompt action in following the protocol and I am grateful to DPW and GPD for their immediate assistance."

For more information, you can reach us by phone at (671) 300-1677 or by email at mtreyes@gdoe.net.

- END OF STATEMENT-