



J&B MODERN TECH
ACR EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

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January 19, 2024

Re: Story titled “Unacceptable” in January 15, 2024 Pacific Daily News

Dear Editor:

As the President of J&B Modern Tech, I am writing to express my concern about many statements and allegations in a story published on January 15, 2024, with the title “Unacceptable: Broken air conditioners, lack of workers to fix them force Tamuning Elementary School to remain on alternating schedules.” It is unfortunate that your reporter and some of the people quoted in that article did not contact J&B or the appropriate persons at DOE to get the facts about the situation.

J&B has a contract with the Guam Department of Education to install air conditioners in DOE schools. The lead sentence in the story refers to “broken air conditioners, insufficient supply on island, and the contractor’s lack of workers to fix and install them.” This sentence contains errors that are repeated throughout the story.

First, J&B’s contract is for installation of new air conditioners to replace old units that can no longer function. The contract does not include repairing or “fixing” broken air conditioners.

Second, J&B has maintained a sufficient supply of units to meet the installation schedule. J&B was able to begin installation on the first day of the contract, October 12, 2023, with units it already had on hand. Since then J&B has been receiving regular shipments of new units, a total of eleven containers to date, which have arrived in ample time for J&B to meet contractual requirements and deadlines.

Third, while J&B is seeking to hire additional workers so it can perform at an even faster pace, J&B does have sufficient workers to install new units in accordance with contractual procedures and deadlines.

There is a comment in the article about classroom A/C’s going down in the C-building over Christmas break. Again, J&B’s contract covers installation of new units, not repairs of old units that break down. If the units that went down over Christmas break were new units installed by J&B in recent months, the units would be covered by a five year warranty. J&B would repair or replace those units. J&B has not received any calls involving warranty claims from DOE. J&B will respond promptly if informed of a problem with a unit covered by this warranty.



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There is also a statement in the article that the contractor has been unable to assess certain classrooms in the C building. There were problems with A/C units previously installed in those classrooms by a prior vendor. J&B commenced the assessment but was instructed to put the matter on hold while DOE decides whether to replace those units with a five ton unit or mini-split units.

Aside from these specific issues, the article is misleading because the reporter and the persons quoted did not obtain information about the procedures mandated by J&B's contract with DOE. The DOE project manager gives J&B a schedule specifying which schools, and which rooms in each school, require replacement of air conditioners. J&B must follow this schedule. If an air conditioner breaks in a room not on the schedule, J&B cannot divert workers and units from the scheduled work to address that. J&B has completed the scheduled work in a timely manner, and the project manager has been giving J&B new schedules in a timely manner. J&B's contract specifies the number of new units to be installed in a year. J&B is on target to meet that number within that time frame.

I can fully understand the frustration of any student or teacher who does not have functioning air conditioning in a classroom. The condition of air conditioning in the schools was in a very unfortunate state when J&B's contract began. It was not possible to waive a magic wand and replace all of those air conditioners in a short time frame. There is no potential vendor on island with an unlimited workforce and unlimited supply of air conditioning units on hand. DOE issued a request for bids for replacement to be done as quickly as reasonably possible under existing circumstances. J&B met the requirements of the bid and has been fulfilling the requirements of the contract for installation of new units in a timely manner.

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the allegations in the January 15, 2024 article.

Sincerely,



GENEROSO M. BANGAYAN
President, J&B Modern Tech