



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Seventeenth Congress
1ST Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4926**

Introduced By:

REP. FRANCISCO JOSE F. MATUGAS II

1ST District, Surigao del Norte (*Siargao Island*)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

"The investments we are making here won't just help our students explore music, dance and the arts. They will help these children grow in a way that helps them succeed in school and in life."

-NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio

The importance of culture and arts in society is immeasurable. Mr. Richard Cohen, Vice-President for Research and Policy of Americans for the Arts once wrote, "The arts are fundamental to our humanity. They ennoble and inspire us - fostering creativity, goodness, and beauty. The arts help us express our values, build bridges between cultures, and bring us together regardless of ethnicity, religion, or age. When times are tough, art is salve for the ache."¹

In a study conducted by the Arts Council England, they found the following benefits of arts, especially to students:

1. Engagement in structured arts and culture improves the cognitive abilities of children and young people.
2. High-school students who engage in the arts at school are twice as likely to volunteer than those who don't engage in the arts and are 20% more likely to vote as young adults.

¹ Cohen, Randy. (2014, March 20). Top 10 Reasons to Support the Arts in 2014. Retrieved from <http://blog.americansforthearts.org/2014/03/20/top-10-reasons-to-support-the-arts-in-2014>.

3. Employability of students who study arts subjects is higher and they are more likely to stay in employment.
4. Taking part in drama and library activities improves attainment in literacy.
5. Taking part in structured music activities improves attainment in math, early language acquisition and early literacy.
6. Schools that integrate arts across the curriculum in the US have shown consistently higher average reading and mathematics scores compared to similar schools that do not.
7. Participation in structured arts activities increases cognitive abilities.
8. Students from low income families who take part in arts activities at school are three times more likely to get a degree than children from low income families who do not engage in arts activities at school.

In the Philippines, there is only one Philippine High School for the Arts – located on Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna. Considering the advantages of nurturing the arts, especially in our youths, there is also a need to create a center for arts and culture development in Mindanao. The Philippine High School for the Arts – Siargao will address this need. The said high school will also complement the Sports and Adventure Tourism currently being offered by Siargao Islands.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


FRANCISCO JOSE F. MATUGAS II



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HOUSE BILL NO. **4926**

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REP. FRANCISCO JOSE F. MATUGAS II
1ST District, Surigao del Norte

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS –
SIARGAO**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 SECTION 1. *Creation.* There is hereby established in Del Carmen, Surigao del
2 Norte, a high school to be known as the Philippine High School for the Arts –
3 Siargao (the “High School”), which shall be a regular government entity.
4

5 SEC. 2. *Mandate.* The High School shall implement a general secondary
6 education program, combined with a special curriculum oriented to the arts and
7 geared to the early recognition and development of highly talented children
8 exceptionally gifted in the arts, thus providing a continuing source of artists of
9 excellence and leaders in the preservation and promotion of the Filipino heritage in
10 the arts.
11

12 SEC. 3. *Advisory Council.* The High School shall have an Advisory Council,
13 composed of the following members:
14

- 15 (a) The President of the Cultural Center of the Philippines who shall be the
16 Chairperson, ex-officio;
17
18 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Education who shall be the Vice-
19 Chairperson, ex-officio;
20

- 3
- 1 (c) The Chairperson of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts,
2 ex-officio,
3
- 4 (d) The Artistic Director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, ex-
5 officio;
6
- 7 (e) The Director of the Bureau of Secondary Education of the Department
8 of Education, ex-officio;
9
- 10 (f) The Campus Director of the Philippine High School for the Arts-
11 Siargao, ex-officio;
12
- 13 (g) A representative from each of the fields of music, dance, theater arts,
14 visual arts, and literature to be appointed by the Chairperson, upon
15 recommendation of the Advisory Council.
16

17 The Advisory Council shall meet at least once a month. A quorum of the
18 Advisory Council shall consist of the majority of all its members holding office at the
19 time the meeting is called and present thereat. Each member of the Advisory Council
20 shall receive an honorarium in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and
21 regulations.

22 SEC. 4. *Powers and Functions.* To accomplish the mandate of the High School,
23 the Advisory Council shall advise the Campus Director on the following:

- 24 a) Fixing of the site of the school;
- 25 b) Receipt for, and appropriations for the ends specified by law, of such
26 sums as may be provided by law for the support of the High School;
- 27 c) Approval of appointments made and contracts entered into by the
28 Campus Director in connection with the employment of teachers,
29 lecturers and other employees of the High School, fixing of their
30 compensations and other conditions of employment, with concurrence
31 by the Secretary of Budget and Management; and their removal for
32 cause after due notice and hearing;
- 33 d) Providing fellowships for faculty members and approval of the grant
34 of scholarships, stipends and other allowances to deserving students;
- 35 e) Determining the criteria for the selection and admission of students
36 which shall include, among others, national competitive examinations;
- 37 f) Approval of the issuance of certificates or diplomas to successful
38 candidates for graduation;

- g) Receipt of in trust legacies, gifts, donations, grants, endowments, contributions, or other transfers of ownership and/or possession of real and personal properties of all kinds and administration of the same for the benefit of the High School or for aid to any of its students;
- h) Approval of the annual work program and budget for endorsement to the Department of Budget and Management; and
- i) Such other tasks as may be assigned to it by the Secretary of Education, which are necessary for the efficient and effective accomplishment of the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Authority to Solicit Donations, Grants and the Like.* Upon the recommendation of the Advisory Council, the Campus Director may, without need of authority, approval or intervention by any government agency of any kind whatsoever, solicit, negotiate with, and receive from any public or private, domestic or foreign sources such legacies, gifts, donations, grants, endowments, contributions or other transfers of ownership and/or possession of real or personal properties of all kinds in favor and for the benefit of the High School, subject to ratification by the Secretary of Education; *Provided, That* the Campus Director shall, upon recommendation by the Advisory Council and in accordance with pertinent accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations, prescribe the measures necessary for the proper use, maintenance and safekeeping of said donations, grants, endowments, contributions or transfers and the compliance of the terms and conditions thereon, if any.

All such legacies, gifts, donations, grants, endowments, contributions or other transfers of ownership and/or possession of real or personal properties of all kinds in favor and for the benefit of the High School or for its support and maintenance or for aid to any of its students shall be tax-exempt and shall be an allowable deduction from the gross income of the donors. For purpose of income tax, the High School shall be exempt from the payment of all taxes, fees, assessments and other charges of the Government, its branches and subdivisions.

SEC. 6. *Campus Director.* The day-to-day operations of the High School shall be under the supervision and control of the Campus Director in accordance with Section 4 hereof. He shall be appointed by the Secretary of Education, upon the recommendation of the Advisory Council. His functions, powers and duties, in addition to those specifically provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the principal of any high school in the Philippine educational system.

The Campus Director shall have a fixed term of six (6) years, renewable for another term at the option of the Advisory Council. The Campus Director shall not be removed from office except for cause.

SEC. 7. *Civil Service Coverage.* Personnel of the High School shall be classified into:

- a) Career service personnel, namely, those of the finance, administrative and personnel staff of the High School and its general education faculty; and
- b) Non-career service personnel, namely, visiting professors and arts instructors.

Career and non-career service personnel shall be subject to civil service rules and regulations on wage and position classifications. They shall be entitled to retirement benefits enjoyed by all government personnel, in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations. Provisions for retirement shall be included in the annual budget of the High School.

SEC. 8. *Attachment.* The High School is hereby attached to the Department of Education, in consultation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, for policy and program implementation with special emphasis on subjects pertaining to the arts, with the end in view of preparing its students for a career in the arts.

SEC. 9. *Arts High School Fund.* All legacies, gifts, donations, grants, endowments, contributions and other similar transfers of real and personal properties of all kinds received by the High School shall constitute the Arts High School Fund, which shall be expended or used by, or with the authority from, the Campus Director upon the recommendation of the Advisory Council, to attain the purposes of this Act, in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations. Signatories to this Fund shall be the Campus Director and the officer of the High School responsible for its finances, regular reports on the status of the fund shall be submitted to the Advisory Council.

SEC. 10. *Position Structure and Staffing Pattern.* The position structure and staffing pattern of the High School shall be approved and prescribed by the Secretary of Education, upon the recommendation of the Campus Director of the High School and with the concurrence of the Secretary of Budget and Management, within one hundred twenty (120) days from the approval of this Act and the authorized positions created thereunder shall be filled with regular appointments by the High School or by the President of the Philippines, as the case may be.

SEC. 11. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Secretary of Education shall prescribe the rules and regulations for the efficient and effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

1 SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* Any portion or provision of this Act that may be
2 declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect or nullifying other
3 portions or provisions hereof.

4 SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
5 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or
6 modified accordingly.

7 SEC. 3. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general
9 circulation.

10
11 Approved,