

# GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## BOARD OFFICERS

Kyza A. Callwood, MPA  
**Chairman**

Winona A. Hendricks  
**Vice-Chairman**

Shawna K. Richards  
**Secretary**

**St. Croix Members**  
Winona A. Hendricks  
Terrence T. Joseph  
Emmanuella M. Perez-Cassius  
Shawna K. Richards

**St. Thomas/St. John Members**  
Kyza A. Callwood, MPA  
Judy M. Gomez, Esq.  
Nandi Sekou, Esq.  
Jeanette Smith-Barry

Angel L. Bolques, Jr.  
**At Large Member**

Vacant  
**Executive Director**

Emmett Hansen II  
**Associate Executive Director**

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## Virgin Islands Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2021

### I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the 20th Virgin Islands Board of Education was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Chair Kyza Callwood.

### II. Roll Call

The following were present: Angel L. Bolques, Jr., Kyza A. Callwood, Judy M. Gomez, Winona Hendricks, Terrence T. Joseph, Emmanuella M. Perez-Cassius, Shawna K. Richards, Nandi Sekou and Jeanette Smith-Barry.

VIBE Staff members in attendance: AED Emmett Hansen, Business and Financial Director, Alcenta DeWindt and Atty. Jennifer Jones

Stenographer: Ms. Porter of Porter's Court Reporting

### III. Disposition of Minutes

#### *January 9, 2021 Minutes*

Member Sekou asked if the packet circulated to members reflected the corrected minutes, which they did not. Members Richards reviewed the corrections that were made. Corrections to the minutes were as follows: Page 2, line 10: Change "Member Joseph nominated himself" to "Member Smith-Barry nominated Member Joseph." Also, page 2, line 16": "Change Member Smith-Barry nominated Member Joseph" to "Member Joseph nominated himself".

**MOTION** - Member Joseph moved to accept the minutes of January 9, 2021 as corrected.

**SECOND** – Member Hendricks

Voting was as follows:

Yea (9) – A. Bolques, Jr., K. Callwood, J. Gomez, W. Hendricks, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius, S. Richards, N. Sekou and J. Smith-Barry.

The motion carried.

The Board then acted on minutes that were not disposed by the 19<sup>th</sup> Board.

#### *December 28 and 30, 2020 Minutes*

Member Smith-Barry said the voting record did not amount to 9 people and discussed

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other discrepancies. Member Bolques said Member Moorhead’s name is not reflected in the vote. AED Hansen was directed to get a copy of the transcript from that meeting’s stenographer.

MOTION - Member Joseph moved to table the special board meeting minutes of December 28, 2020.

SECOND – Member Sekou

So ordered.

MOTION – Member Smith-Barry moved to table minutes of December 30, 2020.

SECOND – Member Sekou

So ordered.

#### IV. Correspondence

AED Hansen reviewed the correspondence log in both districts, which includes press releases and a letter from Ms. Tracy Lynch Bhola regarding a scholarship awarded to her daughter.

MOTION – Member Richards moved to make the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> minutes going forward available on the VIBE’s website.

SECOND – Member Perez-Cassius

So ordered.

#### V. Reports

A. Associate Executive Director – AED Hansen discussed the second opinion he received on the roof for the STT office, the implementation of temperature checks in both offices for better tracking, and a scheduled meeting on January 21 with Ms. Bhola.

AED Hansen said that neither the original contractor, 4 Star Construction, or the Department of Public Works representative, Mr. McLean, have shown up for scheduled meetings.

There was discussion about precautions taken for employees. AED Hansen said that on STX masks are mandatory and social distancing is observed and on STT, the VIBE will be installing plexiglass shields in the next few days. Employees in both districts are expected to return to an 8-5 schedule on Tuesday, January 19. Member Sekou asked that STT employees not work fulltime on Tuesday unless the plexiglass is installed.

Chair Callwood will have a meeting with DPW Acting Commissioner Brow, Mr. McLean, AED Hansen and Ms. DeWindt on the repairs. Member Hendricks asked the AED to install a bell for the front entrance for the STX office and to send a follow- up letter to DPW regarding the STT building fascia board and roof. Member Gomez commended AED Hansen on his initiative to get a second opinion on the roof.

B. Director of Business and Finance – Ms. DeWindt gave an extensive report

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to include:

1. Scholarships and collections. She has questions about the valedictorian and salutatorian scholarships, based on recently passed legislation. Ms. DeWindt briefly discussed the new collections software which should be rolled out in the next 30 days (February). Orientation for members and staff will take place once installation is complete.
2. VIBE budget, to include shortfalls filled by vacancy savings, professional services, rental costs and funds available for capital projects, FEMA and COVID reimbursements and the upcoming budget call. Ms. DeWindt will be following up with Property and Procurement after the budget call on capital projects.

Member Richards asked for the record to reflect that Member Joseph had made an unprofessional and derogatory remark to her when she asked about FEMA reimbursements. Chair Callwood asked members to refrain from unprofessional comments.

3. Bank Accounts

MOTION – Member Smith-Barry moved to make corrections to accounts and update signatories to all Board accounts immediately.

SECOND – Member Sekou.

So ordered.

Chair Callwood will work with the AED to update the signatories.

- C. Legal Counsel – Atty. Jones said the Board has been dismissed from the case currently pending in the Superior Court regarding VI history. She also discussed matters involving PERB.

MOTION - Member Smith-Barry moved that the Board take a specific position on the teaching of VI History and have the Department make clear how VI History will be taught in schools on all levels effective 2021-2022 school year.

SECOND – Member Sekou

There was discussion about VI History and the Board taking a position. Member Gomez said the Board should give the Department the opportunity to address the issue and not take sides on a pending legal issue.

Voting was as follows:

Yea (4) – A. Bolques, Jr., T. Joseph, N. Sekou and J. Smith Barry

Nay (5) - K. Callwood, J. Gomez, W. Hendricks, E. Perez-Cassius and S. Richards

The motion failed.

Atty. Jones discussed legislation, policies, the promulgation process for the bylaws and specific projects she is working on. Member Sekou said that policy development should not be the responsibility of Atty. Jones.

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MOTION - Member Bolques moved for all policies and all pending policies to be compiled by the Associate Exec. Director and sent to members as two sets – approved and pending.

SECOND – Member Sekou

So ordered.

AED Hansen said that no policies were pending from the 19<sup>th</sup>.

D. Chairman – Chair Callwood reported on his goals and accomplishments.

VI. Announcement of Committee Chairs, Members and Responsibilities

Chair Callwood announced the standing and ad-hoc committee assignments (see Attachment A).

MOTION - Member Gomez moved to make Finance a standing committee with oversight for scholarship and collections

SECOND – Member Richards

OBJECTIONS: Members Sekou and Joseph

The motion was withdrawn.

Member Smith-Barry and Member Sekou were excused.

MOTION – Member Gomez moved to extend the meeting time.

SECOND – Member Callwood.

So ordered.

MOTION - Member Gomez moved to establish a standing committee with oversight for scholarship, collections and all financial matters.

SECONDED – Member Richards

Vote was as follows:

Yea (5) - A. Bolques, Jr., K. Callwood, J. Gomez, W. Hendricks,

E. Perez-Cassius, S. Richards

Nay (1) – T. Joseph

Absent (2) – N. Sekou and J. Smith-Barry

The motion carried.

Chair Callwood also announced all Department of Education assignments.

MOTION - Member Gomez moved to accept all newly formed committees

SECOND – Member Callwood

So ordered.

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Member Richards made a motion to table the balance of the agenda because of the time. The motion failed for lack of a second. Member Hendricks said personnel and orientation were time sensitive. Chair Callwood will poll members for a special meeting. The next regular meeting was set for February 19, 2021 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. The Executive Committee will set the calendar for future meetings.

MOTION - Member Bolques moved to table executive session, personnel matters, new and unfinished business because of time constraints.

SECOND - Member Callwood

Vote was as follows:

Yea (5) – A. Bolques, Jr., K. Callwood, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius, S. Richards

Nay (2) – J. Gomez and W. Hendricks

ABSENT: N. Sekou, J. Smith-Barry

The motion carried.

MOTION – Member Gomez moved to extend meeting time by an additional 15 minutes to allow for public participation.

SECOND – Member Callwood

So ordered.

#### VII. Public Comments

1. Senator Genevieve Whitaker introduced herself as the Chair of the Senate's Education and Workforce Development Committee and discussed her legislative priorities. She asked to receive notice of future meeting.
2. Former Member Moorhead stated she returned the VIBE's iPad and cord. She spoke about violations of the Code and Bylaws, specifically T1 Section 254 and page 19 of the bylaws. She said the bylaws provide for public participation at the end of each agenda item.
3. Former Member Lockhart congratulated Chair Callwood and the members.

#### VIII. Adjourn

MOTION – Member Joseph moved to adjourn.

SECOND – Member Callwood.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Submitted By:



Shawna K. Richards, PMP  
Secretary

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