

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION



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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 Special Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2021

I. Call to Order

The special meeting of the 20th Virgin Islands Board of Education was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by Chair Kyza A. 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, Nandi Sekou and Jeanette Smith-Barry. Member Shawna K. Richards arrived late.

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

Stenographer: Mrs. Verna Turnbull-Carty

MOTION – Member Gomez to move the whole body into Executive Session.

SECOND - Chair Callwood

So ordered. The body entered Executive Session at 5:20 p.m.

MOTION – Member Joseph moved to come out of Executive Session.

SECOND – Member Hendricks

So ordered. The body moved back into Special Session at 6:34 p.m.

Chair Callwood reported that during Executive Session the board discussed the hiring process for the Executive Director, the need for an Executive Assistant and other board vacancies.

III. New Business

A. Board Orientation

Member Hendricks updated members that the Board Orientation originally scheduled for January 29-31 had been moved to February 19-21. Member Perez-Cassius discussed the presenter line up, which included John Abramson, Jorge “Tito” Galiber and Sara Zuckerberg. Mr. Abramson has indicated that he charges for his services. Member Perez-Cassius said all presenters should receive an honorarium.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Virgin Islands Board of Education is to provide leadership and oversight, set policy and advocate for continuous improvement of the Public Education System of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

VISION STATEMENT

Each child is provided with the best quality education which guarantees academic excellence, promotes our history and culture, and builds strong local and global communities.

The orientation budget only allows St. Thomas members to stay at the hotel. Member Gomez said St. Croix members should also stay at the hotel. Member Hendricks said additional funds would have to be identified for the additional rooms.

MOTION – Member Bolques moved to extend the meeting to 7:30 p.m.

SECOND – Member Perez-Cassius

Objection – Member Gomez said more time was needed.

So ordered.

Member Smith-Barry raised her concerns about the amount of time dedicated to strategic planning, which she said feels like an afterthought at the end of the meeting. Member Gomez agreed with Member Smith-Barry. Chair Callwood asked committee chairs to submit their short- and long-term goals and said the schedule will be adjusted to accommodate strategic planning. Member Hendricks said the committee will meet to make the adjustments.

MOTION - Member Hendricks moved to accept the plans for Board Orientation and Professional Development at Buccaneer Hotel from February 19-21, with recommendations, and have AED Hansen provide an estimated budget and active and pending policies.

SECOND - Member Perez-Cassius

Objection – Member Smith Barry was not clear on suggestions.

The vote was as follows:

Yea (8) - A. Bolques, Jr., K. Callwood, J. Gomez, W. Hendricks, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius, S. Richards and N. Sekou.

Nay (1) – J. Smith-Barry

The motion carried.

B. Response to Commissioner of Education Letter

Chair Callwood discussed the introductory meeting with the Commissioner of Education and her team. He asked members to send an email with their concerns by Friday. Member Sekou suggested the Board have a Teams meeting before the requested meeting with VIDE.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Scholarship Announcement

Chair Callwood said the announcement has been published in the paper. The application deadline is April 23 and he expects that the scholarship committee will have a selection criterion in place. Member Perez-Cassius asked for the announcement to be circulated to members as a JPG in order to post on social media.

B. Danica David Scholarship and Tracy Bhola Response

Member Hendricks recommended that the Danica David Scholarship and Tracy Bhola be sent to the committee for completion.

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MOTION - Member Sekou moved to send the Danica David and Tracy Bholu matters to the committee of jurisdiction

SECOND - Chair Callwood

Objection – Member Joseph

The vote was as follows:

Yea (8) - A. Bolques, Jr., K. Callwood, J. Gomez, W. Hendricks, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius, S. Richards, N. Sekou and J. Smith-Barry

MOTION – A. Bolques moved to extend the meeting by 5 minutes

SECOND – Chair Callwood

So ordered.

Member Smith-Barry reminded the members that certification candidates were waiting on action by the Board.

- V. Proposed Meeting Date
The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 10 from 5:30-8 p.m.

- VI. Adjournment

MOTION – Member Hendricks moved to adjourn.

SECOND – Member Joseph

So ordered. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted By:



Shawna K. Richards, PMP
Secretary

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