

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION



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Terrence T. Joseph
Emmanuella M. Perez-Cassius
Shawna K. Richards

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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 – February 4, 2021

I. Call to Order

The special meeting of the 20th Virgin Islands Board of Education was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Chair Kyza A. Callwood.

II. Roll Call

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

VIBE Staff members in attendance: Deirdre Petersen-Heath, Theolinda Connor (via phone), Emmett Hansen II, and Atty. Jennifer Jones

Stenographer: NONE

III. Approval of the St. Thomas-St. John Certification Candidates

Member Smith-Barry reviewed the seven candidates for certification in the St. Thomas-St. John district and discussed shortcomings in VIBE policy which do not allow for certification of certain candidates. Member Richards suggested waiving board policy which unfairly penalizes candidates. Member Perez-Cassius was in support of looking at policies instead of individual candidates and circumstances and recommended revisiting the application in 30 days to allow the policy committee to look at the policy. Member Smith-Barry questioned whether the Board was comfortable telling the public that a candidate is denied because the Board's policies haven't been updated or are outdated. Member Sekou asked if the Board was in executive session.

MOTION – Member Smith-Barry moved to add a candidate's name to the list of candidates for certification in the St. Thomas-St. John district and make the candidate eligible for certification.

SECOND – Member Joseph

Objection – Member Callwood asked Member Smith-Barry to withdraw the motion.

MOTION – Member Smith-Barry moved to withdraw the previous motion and move into Executive Session.

SECOND – Member Gomez

The motion carried.

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.

MOTION: Member Smith-Barry moved to come out of Executive Session.
SECOND – Member Gomez

The motion carried.

MOTION – Member Smith-Barry moved that the candidate be added to the certification list for the St. Thomas-St. John district.
SECOND - Member Gomez
Objection – Member Callwood

The vote was as follows:
Yea (3) – J. Gomez, S. Richards, J. Smith-Barry
Nay (3) – W. Hendricks, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius,
Not Voting (2) – K. Callwood, N. Sekou
Absent (1) – A. Bolques, Jr.

The motion failed.

MOTION – Member Gomez moved to accept the candidates on the St. Thomas- St. John listing for certification.
SECOND –Member Hendricks

The motion carried.

IV. Approval of the St. Croix Certification Candidates

MOTION: Member Hendricks moved to accept the candidates on the St. Croix listing for certification.
SECOND – Member Joseph

The motion carried.

V. Adjournment

MOTION – Member Joseph moved to adjourn.
SECOND – Member Callwood

The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Submitted By:



Shawna K. Richards, PMP
Secretary

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