

**GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION**



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**Virgin Islands Board of Education  
Special Meeting Minutes – July 25, 2022**

**I. Call to Order**

The special meeting of the 20th Virgin Islands Board of Education was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Chair Kyza Callwood.

**II. Roll Call**

The following were present: Kyza Callwood, Winona Hendricks, Shawna K. Richards, Emmanuella Perez-Cassius, Jeanette Smith-Barry and Terrence Joseph. Members Angel Bolques, Jr. and Nandi Sekou were absent. Member Judy Gomez joined after roll call.

Staff Members Present: Executive Director Stephanie Berry and BFD Bess  
Legal Counsel: Atty. Jennifer Jones  
Stenographer: Desiree Hill

**III. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Member Smith-Barry moved to amend the agenda to include action clauses related to certification.

**SECOND:** Member Joseph

Voting was as follows:

Yea (3) – T. Joseph, S. Richards and J. Smith-Barry

Nay (1) – K. Callwood. Joseph and N. Sekou

Not Voting (2) – W. Hendricks and E. Perez-Cassius

Absent (3) – A. Bolques, Jr., J. Gomez, and Nandi Sekou

The motion failed.

**MOTION:** Member Joseph moved to approve the agenda.

**SECOND:** Member Perez-Cassius

**IV. Review and approval of certification policies**

Members discussed comments recently made by Senate President Donna Frett-Gregory regarding early childhood education. ED Berry said the Board must be aggressive regarding early childhood certification to support compliance with the law. Member

**MISSION STATEMENT**

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**VISION STATEMENT**

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Richards asked if a conditional certification can be issued for ECE since compliance is important.

MOTION: Member Joseph moved to accept the candidates on the STTJ certification list.  
SECOND: Member Smith-Barry

So ordered.

MOTION: Member Smith-Barry moved to accept the candidates on the St. Croix certification list.  
SECOND: Vice-Chair Hendricks

So ordered.

#### V. Review and Approval of Dress Code Policy

MOTION: Vice-Chair Hendricks moved to adopt the dress code as an insertion under the student discipline policy.

SECOND: Chair Callwood

Objection: Member Smith-Barry said she would like to modify the motion to include the changes that were made. Some are grammatical and some are substantive. She mentioned sections like “tattoos” and “hardship dress” where the language could be clearer and said adjustments need to be made.

Member Gomez suggested amendments being made to specific sections if a member had a concern,

Chair Callwood reminded members that there are many opportunities to review policy and spoke to the need for equitable policies.

Voting was as follows:

Yea (7) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, J. Gomez, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius, N. Sekou

Not Voting (1) – J. Smith-Barry

Absent (1) – A. Bolques, Jr.,

The motion carried.

#### VI. Review and Approval of revisions to the Virgin Islands Promotion and Retention, Grading System and Graduation Requirements for Secondary Levels (Grades 9-12)

Vice-Chair Hendricks said the policy had been previously approved, but that there were sections that were unclear to board members. She referenced a special meeting held with Atty. Jones and VIDE Special Education staff. She said the goal today was to accept the edits provided by the Attorney regarding graduation requirement for children with disabilities.

MOTION: Vice-Chair Hendricks moved to approve the edits defining terms, to approve the reordering of the general information section and to accept the edits done in consultation with the Special Education Division pertaining to students with disabilities.

SECOND: Chair Callwood

Atty. Jones had changes regarding accommodations. She said since 17-5-15(c) was corrected, (d) must also be changed to avoid conflict. Vice-Chair Hendricks subsequently corrected the motion to add:

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“For 17-5-15(d), this subsection applies if the special education program of a student with a disability does not meet the requirements of this policy.”

Objection: Member Smith-Barry said the Board is about to pass a document that is missing information. She said vague language should not be going out to the schools just to get the policy out.

Member Richards said she is not comfortable accepting edits and being unable to see the impact of the changes on the document. She said the voting on the policy was done before the work on K-8 was done and shared her specific concerns about continuity with K-8, especially on literacy.

Vice-Chair Hendricks explained the meetings and process to arrive at this point. She said that all information was circulated. Chair Callwood talked about how many people were involved in vetting the policy. He said the policy is not perfect, but that policies can be changed at any time. He thanked Vice-Chair Hendricks and committee members for their work on the policy.

Voting was as follows:

Yea (6) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, J. Gomez, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius and N.

Nay (2) - S. Richards and J. Smith-Barry

Absent (1) – A. Bolques, Jr.

The motion carried.

Chair Callwood asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chair Hendricks said she had written to the Chair and asked for Virgin Islands Standards of Achievement to be included on the agenda and asked Chair Callwood why it was not included on agenda. Chair Callwood asked ED Berry to respond. ED Berry said it was an oversight on her part. She asked that the members allow for the VISA request to be considered through the PRR Committee.

Atty. Jones said changes to the agenda would need to be unanimous to ensure that Board members who are not present are not prejudiced. Chair Callwood said there would be another meeting to discuss.

## VII. Adjournment

MOTION: Member Joseph moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Chair Callwood

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Submitted By:



Shawna K. Richards, PMP  
Secretary

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