

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

St. Croix Office
1123 King Street
Christiansted, VI 00820
Telephone No.
340-772-4144
Fax No.
340-772-2895

St. Thomas Office
P.O Box 11900
Dronningens Gade
Nos. 60B, 61 & 62
St. Thomas, VI 00801
Telephone No.
340-774-4546
Fax. No.
340-774-3384

WEBSITE
www.myviboe.com

Virgin Islands Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – June 25, 2021

I. Call to Order

The special meeting of the 20th Virgin Islands Board of Education was called to order at 3:07 p.m. by Vice-Chair Winona Hendricks.

II. Roll Call

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

Staff Members Present: Executive Director Stephanie Berry, AED Emmett Hansen and Business and Finance Director Alcenta DeWindt. Also present were Mrs. Petersen-Heath, Ms. Casimir, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Powell, Ms. Rhymer and the VIBE's summer intern.

Stenographer: Diane Andrews

III. Approval of Agenda

Member Sekou noted that correspondence was not listed on the agenda.

MOTION: Member Joseph moved to approve the agenda, with the inclusion of correspondence, which will be placed after the review of minutes.

SECOND: Member Perez-Cassius

OBJECTION: Member Sekou

So ordered.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes

For each set of minutes, members spoke on any matters arising from the minutes.

March 12, 2021

Member Smith-Barry asked whether the deadline for the DPNR grant was met and whether the scope of the Finance Committee had been clarified. Member Richards apologized for not completing the scope, which will first be presented to Finance Committee members.

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 Richards move to approve the March 12 minutes.
SECOND: Vice-Chair Hendricks

So ordered.

March 29, 2021

Member Smith-Barry asked if Asst. Commissioner Somme submitted the requested information about VI History in the 2021-22 school year. She asked if the letter of request was sent and what information the Board has. ED Berry said she would follow up with the VIDE. Vice-Chair Hendricks said the Board has also sent a letter to the VIDE re curriculum framework, strategies and methodology. Member Perez-Cassius clarified that the VIDE never said that VI history was starting in the 2021-22 school year.

April 21, 2021

MOTION: Vice-chair Hendricks moved to accept the April 21 minutes.
SECOND: Member Richards

So ordered.

May 17, 2021

MOTION: Vice-Chair Hendricks moved to accept the April 21 minutes.
SECOND: Member Richards

So ordered.

June 4, 2021

MOTION: Member Perez-Cassius moved to accept the June 4 minutes, with corrections.
SECOND: Members Hendricks and Gomez

June 4, 2021 Executive Session

MOTION: Chair Callwood moved to accept the June 4 Executive Session minutes.
SECOND: Member Gomez

So ordered.

June 11, 2021

Member Smith-Barry asked about the SMAR missing information. Member Perez-Cassius said that some items were still missing and that edits had been made based on VIBE member input. ED Berry said the VIBE has requested documents from VIDE and she will follow up.

MOTION: Member Joseph moved to accept the June 11 minutes.
SECOND: Member Hendricks

So ordered.

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V. Correspondence

AED Hansen reviewed the correspondence logs. Member Sekou asked about the status of correspondence to EDC companies thanking them for their contribution.

VI. Executive Director’s Report

ED Berry and staff presented the Management report. She said staff had returned to regular hours, but the building(s) remained closed to the public. She conducted a walkthrough of the STX building and is working with the property manager to address issues. She updated on the lift and signage. Drainage remains a problem for the STT building.

ED Berry asked board members for the input on budget testimony, with the internal budget call scheduled for July 7.

Member Perez-Cassius asked about the protocol to secure documents in consideration of leaky roofs/hurricane season. There was discussion about securing documents and ED Berry said that resiliency and accessibility of locations should be future considerations. Chair Callwood reminded members about the goal of acquiring a building on St. Croix and asked for members to work to identify possible locations. . MOTION: Executive Director Berry and Business and Finance Director DeWindt reviewed the proposed FY 2022 Budget. Member Sekou questioned the legal costs and who bears the responsibility if the VIBE exceeds the budgeted amount. Vice-Hendricks had questions about training, ADA compliance and the need for a part-time researcher position. ED Berry noted that the researcher position would be posted next month. As far as ADA compliance, specifically for the St. Thomas building, ED Berry said the budget does not allow for a lift.

VII. Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

The Committee Chairs reported on their committee activity.

MOTION: Vice-Chair Hendricks moved to ratify the letters and decision made regarding Ms. Kelsey Bhola.

SECOND: Members Joseph and Gomez

So ordered.

MOTION: Member Perez-Cassius moved for the VIBE to post standing committee reports on the website after vetting at every board meeting.

SECOND: Chair Callwood

OBJECTION: Members Gomez and Joseph

The motion was recalled.

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VIII. New Business

MOTION – Member Joseph moved to accept the candidates for certification for the St. Croix and St. Thomas-St. John districts

SECOND – Chair Callwood

So ordered.

Chair Callwood reviewed the parameters of the conditional certificate for online teaching.

MOTION – Chair Callwood

SECOND – Vice -Chair Hendricks

So ordered.

MOTION – Chair Callwood moved to approve the 2021 board calendar for regular meetings for August 13, October 15 and December 10.

SECOND – Member Richards

So ordered.

MOTION – Member Hendricks moved that VIBE request the presence of the Commissioner of Education to discuss readiness of schools, assessment of reopening, and student instruction on July 19, 2021.

The motion was withdrawn prior to receiving a second.

ED Berry noted that the Board had previously written the VIDE Commissioner to request information pertinent to the Accountability Report.

MOTION – Vice-Chair Hendricks moved that in the event the Commissioner does not respond, to issue a subpoena.

SECOND – Chair Callwood and Member Gomez

So ordered.

MOTION – Member Perez-Cassius moved that the ED prepare a template for all committees to use for reporting that can be posted on the website after board consideration.

SECOND – Chair Callwood

Voting was as follows:

Yea (5) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, J. Gomez, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius and N. Sekou

Absent (2) – A. Bolques and J. Smith-Barry

The motion carried.

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MOTION – Vice-Chair Hendricks moved that the ED and Finance Committee create a gifts and recognition reward policy to present at the August meeting as it pertains to employee recognition.

SECOND – Callwood

OBJECTION – T. Joseph

Voting was as follows:

Yea (5) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, E. Perez-Cassius and N. Sekou

Nay (2) – J. Gomez and T. Joseph

Absent – A. Bolques and J. Smith-Barry

The motion carried.

IX. Adjournment

MOTION: Member Joseph moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Chair Callwood

So ordered. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted By:



Shawna K. Richards, PMP
Secretary

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