

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION



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Winona A. Hendricks
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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 – July 7, 2021

I. Call to Order

The special meeting of the 20th Virgin Islands Board of Education was called to order at 1:00 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, Judy M. Gomez, Nandi Sekou and Terrence Joseph. Members Angel Bolques, Jr. and Judy M. Gomez were absent.

Staff Members Present: Executive Director Stephanie Berry, AED Emmett Hansen and Business and Finance Director Alcenta DeWindt.

III. Discussion of FY 2022 Budget

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.

MOTION: Vice-Chair Hendricks moved for the VIBE to request that Mr. Turnbull (architect) provide an estimate for the cost of a lift to make sure that the VIBE is ADA compliant.

SECOND: Chair Callwood

OBJECTION: Member Joseph

Voting was as follows:

Yea (3) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards

Nay (3) – T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius, N. Sekou

Absent – A. Bolques, J. Gomez, J. Smith-Barry

The motion failed.

MOTION: Chair Callwood moved to decrease the operating expenses to \$11,000 and use the additional monies for training.

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.

SECOND: Member Perez-Cassius
OBJECTION – Member Joseph

Voting was as follows:

Yea (5) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, E. Perez-Cassius and N. Sekou
Nay (1) – T. Joseph
Not voting (1) – J. Smith-Barry
Absent (2) – A. Bolques and J. Gomez

The motion carried.

MOTION: Member Sekou moved that legal fees be capped at \$53,000 absent any litigation.

SECOND: Member Joseph
OBJECTION: Chair Callwood

Voting was as follows:

Yea (3) – S. Richards, T. Joseph and N. Sekou
Nay (3) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks and J. Smith-Barry
Not voting (1) – E. Perez-Cassius
Absent (2) – A. Bolques and J. Gomez

The motion failed.

Member Perez-Cassius asked about the creation of a board database to support continuum of services. ED Berry said she is trying to buying software and asked the Board's indulgence to do an IT assessment. Member Sekou inquired about the placement of vendor CrucianPoint in communications as opposed to Professional Services and whether the letter had been sent to Crucian Point regarding the website being taken down. ED Berry asked Member Sekou to email her the relevant points for the letter.

Member Hendricks asked about insurance for board members. ED Berry said that insurers are not willing to carry the Board because of the litigious nature of the board and said she would re-visit.

Member Smith-Barry asked about the timeline of completion for Guirly House that can alleviate ADA concerns. She also noted that going virtual also supports access.

MOTION: Member Joseph moved to approve the budget
SECOND: Chair Callwood
OBJECTION: Member Sekou

Voting was as follows:

Yea (5) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius and J. Smith-Barry
Nay (1) – N. Sekou
Not voting (1) – S. Richards
Absent (2) – A. Bolques and J. Gomez

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The motion carried.

Chair Callwood asked Ms. DeWindt to send an email with personnel/fringe costs and legal expenses/monies owed no later than Friday. Ms. DeWindt reminded members that the VIBE had spent its budget and to look at the budget book. Member Perez-Cassius asked that VIBE explore the use of CARES funds for Guirly House,

IV. Adjournment

MOTION: Member Joseph moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Chair Callwood

So ordered. The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Submitted By:



Shawna K. Richards, PMP
Secretary

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