

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



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Nandi Sekou, Esq.
Jeanette Smith-Barry

Angel L. Bolques, Jr.
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Vacant
Executive Director

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**Virgin Islands Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes – June 24, 2022**

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the 20th Virgin Islands Board of Education was called to order at 3:09 p.m. by Chair Kyza Callwood.

II. Roll Call

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

Staff Members Present: Executive Director Stephanie Berry and Director of Business and Finance Sandra Bess. Atty. Jennifer Jones was also present.

Stenographer: Diane Andrews

III. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Member Richards moved to amend the agenda to remove the FY 23 budget.
SECOND: Vice-Chair Hendricks
Objection: Member Sekou. She said this was the second or third time the budget had been removed from the agenda.

Voting was as follows:

Yea (4) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards and J. Smith-Barry

Nay (2) – T. Joseph and N. Sekou

Not Voting (1) – J. Gomez

Absent (2) – A. Bolques, Jr. and E. Perez-Cassius

The motion carried.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Vice-Chair Hendricks moved to accept the May 27, 2022 minutes
SECOND: Member Joseph

So ordered.

MISSION STATEMENT

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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.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Member Smith-Barry made another request for the findings of fact for the VI History case. Chair Callwood said VI History would be discussed in Executive Session. Member Smith-Barry asked if the documents were submitted. ED Berry said she had shared documents from the VIDE with the Board. Member Sekou conformed that the findings were in the meeting documents.

V. Correspondence

MOTION: Member Joseph moved to waive the reading of the correspondence log.

SECOND: Vice-Chair Hendricks

So ordered.

VI. Executive Director's Report

ED Berry reported a date change for the budget hearing to August 4, 2022. Ms. Bess presented the financial report. CARES processing has been delayed due to competing demands at OMB/DOF. There are 325 slots available for the 2022 CARES cycle. The staff is processing disclosures for grants and CARES. There are 50 CARES checks outstanding from 2021. Four applications have been received for exceptional students.

Ms. Rhymer said the exceptional students are not in school. Member Smith-Barry suggested the Board pursue an amendment of the requirements. Member Smith-Barry also recommended giving OMB a nudge on the outstanding checks. ED Berry said that the Board has been reminding OMB of the outstanding checks as far back as January.

Vice-Chair Hendricks asked if the Board could start admitting scholarships before July 1. She also asked the Board to make a proposal to fund the Teacher Incentive Scholarship. ED Berry asked the Finance Committee to keep the Teacher Incentive Scholarship on their radar.

ED Berry updated on the search for office space and the available options.

VII. Legal Counsel's Report

Atty. Jones said the deadline to submit conclusions in the VI History case has been extended to June 30th. There has been no change in the PERB matter, and she is waiting on dates for the hearing. Member Smith-Barry wanted to set the record straight – she said she was subpoenaed to speak on VI History and said she wished that other members would have stood up and said what the Board is doing.

VIII. Standing and Ad-hoc Committee Reports

Schools, Plants and Facilities

Member Perez-Cassius thanked everyone who supported the completion of the SMAR and said the VIBE is ready to meet the July 1st deadline. Member Smith-Barry said the draft is missing items and asked if the only missing things were pictures. Chair Perez-Cassius said that the draft was missing walkthrough charts and the President's letter.

MOTION: Member Perez-Cassius moved to accept the 2021-22 SMAR and forward to the Legislature and Administration.

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SECOND: Vice-Chair Hendricks
Objection: Member Smith-Barry

Voting was as follows:

Voting was as follows:

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

Absent (1) – A. Bolques, Jr.

Certification

Member Smith-Barry reported that her committee had a good session on Saturday. There are still some issues, and she is seeking input on the certification of teachers in virtual academies.

MOTION: Member Smith-Barry moved for acceptance of the report and approval of the STTJ certification listing.

SECOND: Members Joseph and Sekou

So ordered.

Policies, Rules and Regulations

Vice-Chair Hendricks asked Atty. Jones to review her recommendations to the 9-12 policy for legal sufficiency. Recommendations included a definition of curriculum framework and clear language to non-discrimination of students with disabilities.

Member Smith-Barry spoke about the 9-12 policy not addressing early admissions, dual enrollment and Adult Ed which she said all impact high school promotion retention and graduation. She asked if the issues would be dealt with or if the Board will put it in the parking lot.

Member Perez-Cassius asked if Atty. Jones was able to review the dress code. Member Richards spoke about the importance of the inclusion of financial literacy in the 9-12 policy. Vice-Chair Hendricks said the policy has not been received with respect.

MOTION: Vice-Chair Hendricks moved to accept the recommended changes made by Atty. Jones and ED Berry and incorporate into policy.

SECOND: Chair Callwood

Objection: Member Smith-Barry

Voting was as follows:

Yea (1) - W. Hendricks

Nay (4) – S. Richards, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius and J. Smith-Barry

Not Voting (3) – K. Callwood, J. Gomez and N. Sekou

Absent (1) – A. Bolques, Jr.

The motion failed.

MOTION: Member Perez-Cassius moved to take the 9-12 policy back to committee.

SECOND: Member Richards

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Voting was as follows:

Yea (5) – S. Richards, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius, N. Sekou and J. Smith-Barry

Nay (3) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, and J. Gomez

Absent (1) – A. Bolques, Jr.

The motion carried.

Member Gomez asked what sending the policy back to committee would do. Member Jones reminded members that the policy has to be passed before the school year.

Finance

The collections matters would be discussed in Executive Session.

IX. Executive Session

MOTION: Member Joseph moved to go into Executive Session.

SECOND: Member Richards

So ordered. The Board went into Executive Session at 5:10 p.m.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 6:02 p.m. Chair Callwood reported that the Board addressed collections and legal matters while in Executive Committee. **There were no comments from the public.**

Member Joseph made a motion to adjourn. There was no second.

MOTION: Member Smith-Barry moved that the Virgin Islands Board of Education undergo a thorough review of the Virgin Island History curriculum to ensure, based on the documents that we have gotten, to ensure that there is compliance with the Statute.

Objection: Vice-Chair Hendricks

Member Smith Barry restated her motion.

MOTION: Member Smith-Barry moved that the board undergo a thorough review of the Virgin Islands curriculum that members and the department says exist to ensure that it is based on the Code.

Objection: Vice-Chair Hendricks

There was no second to the motion.

X. Adjournment

MOTION: Member Joseph moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Chair Callwood

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted By:



Shawna K. Richards, PMP
Secretary

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