

PRRC Report for Dec. 10, 2021 Board Meeting



COMMITTEE REPORT – December 10,2021

Policies, Rules & Regulations Committee : PRRC met Thursday, December 09, 2021 . The meeting began at 4: 01 pm and ended 5:06 pm. Members in attendance were PRR /Winona A. Hendricks, Terrence Joseph , Shawna K. Richards, & Kyza A. Charleswell and board members/ Nandi Sekou & Jeanette Smith- Barry. Agenda items addressed were - Electronic Devices Policy, Recommendations for the 9th -12th Policy, Update on the Student Discipline Policy, Update on School Posters, & recommendation for VIBE Townhall Meeting .

AREAS in progress and actions completed between September to December 2021 :

Curriculum Framework The Board of Education adopted the VIDE Curriculum Framework (June 2021 revision) . A letter of notification was sent to the VIDE requesting merging the two documents received. The VIDE must work with its Attorneys to properly promulgate the document to the community.

Member Judy Gomez greatly assisted in moving this policy forward beginning in the 19th Board.

9th- 12th Policy

The 9th -12th grade graduation policy was revised, updated and approved by VIBE at the October 2021 Board meeting . Members Jeanette Smith -Barry, Nandi Sekou , Terrence T. Joseph greatly assisted to move this policy forward.

Copies of the policy were sent to numerous critical stakeholder for feedback by a November deadline. (A month was allowed to receive response.) Limited feedback was received. Feedback received from respondents was addressed at

the PRRC November committee meeting . *Actions to insert , delete , add or rephrase sections was approved in committee. A Special Meeting of the full board will be held to address the recommendations. Approved responses will be inserted in the policy through the Executive Director.*

The policy will be sent to the Governor's office for promulgation by January 2022.

Students entering the ninth grade for the first time in the 2022-2023 school year will be affected by the ratified 9th – 12th Graduation Requirements.

A continuing issue with the policy was the Social Studies section. How many credits and what were the required courses?

There were several factors and determinants in this area:

- *The desire of the Board to keep the number of total credits for high school graduation at 26 credits. The number of Carnegie units to offer for Social Studies - 3 or 4 credits.*
- *The request for additional credits from other curriculum area(s)- Physical Education.*
- *The input and suggested options by the State Curriculum Advisory Council to the Board. A collaborative meeting to discuss the matter included social studies teachers , coordinators & director. Four varying options were presented and shared in PRRC meeting.*
- *The need to prioritize Virgin Islands History.*
- *The need to address the law to provide Civics.*
- *The need for our students to be exposed to historical, geographic, civic, political, economics, cultural and sociological events in their high school courses*

“Social sciences is the study of society and human relationships. This broad field covers many disciplines. The five main divisions of social science are psychology, sociology, political science, anthropology and history, but it also includes archaeology, education, geography, law and criminal justice.”

Given all the factors: The High School requirements for graduation in the area of Social Studies are-

Credits required – 3

Required courses - Virgin Islands History & Civics (1), United States History (1) , World History ...including the Caribbean area (1) .

Other elective courses- may be determined by the VIDE (examples... Caribbean history, economics, geography, comparative governments, microeconomics macroeconomics , anthropology, archaeology , sociology, psychology etc.

Student Discipline Policy

Each board member received a draft copy of SDP to review and prepare for January action . The document has 44sections : Policy, Infractions, Forms & Definitions

- An insertion on corporal punishment will be developed in January
- Ideas for a name changes will occur in January
- Members need to focus on yellow highlighted sections in preparation for January
- Members need to be prepared with recommendations

Electronic Communication Device Policy

A 3rd draft of the policy was presented for consideration to PRRC

Tremendous work by Member Shawna K. Richards move this policy forward.

Motion – Move to approve the Electronic Device Policy . 12/09/21

Maker – Kyza A. Callwood. Second – Terrence T. Joseph . No objections.

So ordered. This policy will be presented to the full board and disseminated to stakeholders for response.

Posters

Several policy posters are being prepared for print by P&P. Edits are being made . These posters will be distributed to schools. Members are asked to send comments by December 17, 2021 to ED Berry. Photocopies were sent to the Board, ED & attorney . Member Emmanuella Perez-Cassius assisted with posters.

Communication with Deputy Commissioner Dr. Charleswell

A letter was sent to Dr. Charleswell from ED Berry seeking collaboration between VIDE & PRRC on the following issues ;

- 504 Section for 9th -12th policy
- Assistance 7th -8th policy
- Assistance PreK-6th policy
- VISA progress reporting

Strategic plan goals

Under the strategic goals plans the PRRC must address the following in January 2022

- Set schedule to review policies
- Develop criteria to evaluate policies for relevance, use , understanding etc.

Town Hall Meeting .

There was agreement that a town hall meeting is needed. No details were put in place.

The purpose of the Town Hall meeting is to share key policies with the community :

- Distance Learning
- Electronic Device
- Progress On Student Discipline Policy (& Corporal Punishment)
- Curriculum Framework
- Other Board issues

Submitted by Winona A. Hendricks -PRRC Chair