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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

**For Immediate Press Release (No. 15-2021)
Thursday, February 25, 2021**

**The Virgin Islands Board of Education (VIBE) Announces
School Reopening**

The 20th Virgin Islands Board of Education (VIBE) today authorized the reopening of public schools on the islands of St. Croix. As per Virgin Islands law, the Virgin Islands Department of Education requires the consent of the VIBE to begin the school year.

“There is a shared commitment by both the V.I. Board of Education and the V.I. Department of Education to ensure the quality of education available to the children, as well as their safety,” said Kyza A. Callwood, chairperson of the VIBE. “We have given consent for the reopening of the public schools in the St. Croix District, but with conditions for some,” he added.

The Pearl B. Larsen, the Juanita Gardine, the Lew Muckle, the Alfredo Andrews, Eulalie Rivera and Ricardo Richards elementary schools were given full consent to reopen. The Claude O. Markoe and St. Croix Educational Complex (which will house the Arthur Richards Elementary School) have been given conditional certificates. The two latter schools will be given a hard review on March 1st to see if any deficiencies remain.

“Should any deficiencies remain unattended at the Educational Complex or Claude. O Markoe schools, we will immediately withdraw our conditional consent until such time that the repairs are completed,” Callwood said. “We are not in the business of being obstacles to the Department of Education. As long as we are both working together for the benefit of the children of the Virgin Islands, our cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education will continue enthusiastically,” he concluded.

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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.