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**Contact: Milton E. Potter, Executive Director**

**Phone: (340) 774-4546**

**Email: [mpotter@myviboe.com](mailto:mpotter@myviboe.com)**

**THE VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION EXPRESSES  
CONCERN REGARDING VIDE'S INTERPRETATION OF RESOLUTION  
001/2020**

Members of the 19<sup>th</sup> Board of Education expressed concern relative to the Department of Education's Plans for Public School Students and Teachers for End of School Year 2019-20. This plan indicates that the Third Marking Period and/or grades earned in previous marking periods may be supplanted by grades earned during the "Fourth Marking Period". This portion of the Plan contravenes the letter and spirit of Resolution No. 001/2020.

The Board noted that the intent of the resolution has always been to allow the instructional period following the March 17, 2020 closure of public schools in response to COVID-19, to serve only as a possible enhancement of a student's third marking period average. Moreover, the purpose of the resolution as stated in the preamble is to "ensure that absences relating to COVID-19 do not negatively impact student achievement or the ability of any student with the potential for promotion to be promoted to the next grade." The Department of Education's interpretation has the unintended consequence of lowering student achievement and creates an inherently unfair process that disadvantages students who have relied on one standard of achievement to now have the goal post moved. The Board is also concerned that this plan may adversely impact the Valedictorian and Salutatorian selection.

The Board of Education strongly urges the Virgin Islands Department of Education to immediately revisit the Plan and comply with the letter and spirit of the Board's Resolution. This will minimize any hard feelings and/or misunderstandings when semester grades are finalized.

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