

**GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
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RESOLUTION NO. 01/2021

**THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE RE-OPENING OF ST. CROIX DISTRICT
SCHOOLS PURSUANT TO VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE, TITLE 17, SECTION 24**

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands Board of Education ("Board") was established as an independent agency of the executive branch of the Government of the USVI by Act No. 2252; and

WHEREAS, the Board has been given authority pursuant to Virgin Islands Code, Title 17, Section 24(a)(2)(B) to certify, upon consultation with the Commissioner of Education, the Department of Labor (OSHA) and the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, that all schools inspected by the Board pursuant to Section 24(a)(1) are environmentally safe;

WHEREAS, environmental reports are obligatory in order to assess the safety and health of school environments and are critical determining factors related to the certification of the reopening of schools;

WHEREAS, the Board's School Plants and Facilities Committee ("SPFC") conducted inspections within the St. Croix District, which inspection is a pre-condition to reopening schools and the reinstatement of in-person instruction;

WHEREAS, the SPFC inspected the following schools on February 8, 2021:

- 1) Pearl B. Larsen School (K-8th),
- 2) Juanita Gardine School (K-8th),
- 3) Lew Muckle Elementary School,
- 4) Alfredo Andrews Elementary school,
- 5) Eulalie Rivera K-8th School,
- 6) Ricardo Richards Elementary School,
- 7) Arthur Richards K-8th School (Located at STCEC), and
- 8) Claude O. Markoe Elementary School.

WHEREAS, the SPFC raised issues and concerns during the inspections with the Virgin Islands Department of Education ("VIDE") regarding minor discrepancies and challenges in most of the schools inspected in the district.

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

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WHEREAS, based on a review of the VIDE's reopening plan and SPFC's inspections, the committee made the following observations:

- 1) All schools have safety signage and instruction placed visibly around campus interior and exterior;
- 2) All schools are equipped with hand sanitizer and soap dispensers in restrooms;
- 3) Outdoor wash stations were installed and operable;
- 4) Hand washing stations were found in some Kindergarten classrooms and inside hallways;
- 5) All school plans included "grab & go" lunch pickup, in-class eating, and were limited as to no scheduled recess;
- 6) All school plans included specific on-boarding and dismissal protocols unique to each school's needs and resources;
- 7) All schools have a secured isolation area marked and prepared;
- 8) Three schools will utilize shuffle nurses until VIDE hires new nursing staff;
- 9) All other schools have site-based nurses on site;
- 10) Based on 8:30 am -1:15 pm and 8:30 am – 1:30 pm instructional scheduling, individual school site instruction methods differ;
- 11) As per the VIDE rollout plan, each school's first week re-opening will entail modified instruction classes, Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten classes, followed by 1st -3rd grades inclusion in week two;
- 12) All teachers' desks have plexiglass separation stands;
- 13) The VIDE has secured L-shaped plexiglass partitions for teachers that are scheduled to be available shortly;
- 14) Student's tri-fold plexiglass is on order for each student's desk;
- 15) The district verified the usage of school buses; however, no schedule information was available at reporting time;
- 16) VIDE officials have not secured bus schedules.

WHEREAS, the Board has received inspection reports from the Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health, the Department of Labor and The Virgin Islands Fire Services;

WHEREAS, a report from the Department of Planning and Natural Resources remains outstanding;

WHEREAS, the Board held a special meeting on February 25, 2021 at which time the VIDE provided additional updates for repairs made to address concerns of the SPFC and responded to various questions posed by the Board;

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board grants certification of the re-opening of the following schools located within the St. Croix district:

- 1) Pearl B. Larsen School (K-8th),

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- 2) Juanita Gardine School (K-8th),
- 3) Lew Muckle Elementary School,
- 4) Alfredo Andrews Elementary school,
- 5) Eulalie Rivera K-8th School,
- 6) Ricardo Richards Elementary School.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board grants a conditional certification for the re-opening of the Arthur Richards K-8th School (Located at STCEC) and the Claude O. Markoe Elementary School upon the VIDE's showing satisfactory proof that the following concerns are addressed by Monday March 1, 2021:

Claude O. Markoe School

- 1) Fix all in-person instruction classroom ceilings that are leaking;
- 2) Paint and cover common walkway spaces in-front of the central office and a joining hall.
- 3) Update bathroom facilities by adding toilet paper and hand towel dispensers.
- 4) Cordon off condemned spaces from student access;
- 5) Trim trees and grounds inside campus faculties;
- 6) Update in-classroom bathroom fixtures, including toilets and sinks;
- 7) Remove or replace lifted tiles within all in-person instruction classrooms; and
- 8) Replace in-class storage doors within all in-person instruction classrooms.

STX Educational Complex

- 1) Fix front panels for water fountains on the lower east wing of the school;
- 2) Removal of all high school desks and chairs from all in-person instruction classrooms;
- 3) Mark flooring and signage for students;
- 4) Repair or replace ceiling fans in all in-person instruction classrooms.

If the concerns are not addressed for each school, the certification with respect to any or both of the schools shall automatically be revoked upon notice to the VIBE.

Adopted this 26th day of February, 2021, by the Virgin Islands Board of Education.

Kyza A. Callwood

Kyza A. Callwood,
Chairperson, Board of Education

Shawna K. Richards

Shawna K. Richards,
Secretary, Board of Education

Daisy R. Williams
Notary Public
2/26/2021

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DAISY R. WILLIAMS

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES APRIL 25, 2022
NP-129-18

NP-123-18
NY COMMISSION EXPIRES APRIL 27, 2025
DANBY R. WILLIAMS