

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION



BOARD OFFICERS

Kyza A. Callwood, MPA
Chairman

Winona A. Hendricks
Vice-Chairman

Shawna K. Richards
Secretary

St. Croix Members
Winona A. Hendricks
Terrence T. Joseph
Emmanuella M. Perez-Cassius
Shawna K. Richards

St. Thomas/St. John Members
Kyza A. Callwood, MPA
Judy M. Gomez, Esq.
Nandi Sekou, Esq.
Jeanette Smith-Barry

Angel L. Bolques, Jr.
At Large Member

Vacant
Executive Director

Emmett Hansen II
Associate Executive Director

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Sunday, January 17, 2021**

Virgin Islands Board of Education (VIBE) Announces appointments to the Board's Standing Committees, Ad-Hoc Committees, and Advisory Committees

The 20th Elected Virgin Islands Board of Education convened its Regular Board Meeting on Saturday, January 16, 2021, at the Virgin Islands Board of Education Conference Room. During the teleconference meeting, Board Chairman Kyza A. Callwood announced the following appointments to the Board's Standing Committees, Ad-Hoc Committees, and Advisory Committees. A majority of members voted to approve the appointments.

Professional Staff Certification and Higher Education

- Reviews the credentials of professional staff to ensure each candidate is qualified for certification in accordance to the Board's policies
- Sponsors courses and workshops that provide materials for professional staff applicants seeking certification

Jeanette Smith Barry – Chair (jsmithbarry@myviboe.com)

Members: Judy M. Gomez, Winona A. Hendricks, Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

School Plants and Facilities

- Oversees all Department of Education buildings inclusive of all schools and administrative office buildings in the Territory
- Conducts regular site visits to provide recommendations for repairs and improvements.

Emmanuella Perez-Cassius – Chair (epcassius@myviboe.com)

Members: Nandi Sekou, Esq., Winona A. Hendricks, Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

Public/Private Liaison

- Identifies strategies to engage the community and education stakeholders in the Board's programs
- Forms partnerships with the private sector to promote the goals and visions of the board through activities such as radio appearances and town hall meeting

Angel L. Bolques, Jr. – Chair (abolques@myviboe.com)

Members: Terrence T. Joseph, Emmanuella M. Perez-Cassius, Jeanette Smith Barry

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.

Policies, Rules, and Regulations

- Researches and writes all school policies
- Drafts policies for committee's review, public comment and full Board approval

Winona A. Hendricks – Chair (wahendricks@myviboe.com)

Members: Terrence T. Joseph, Shawna K. Richards, and Kyza A. Callwood

Finance Committee - Scholarship and Collections (NEW)

- Advise the Board on executing awards policies for undergraduate and graduate programs
- Develop, review and recommend for consideration by the Board, policies and regulations concerning scholarship awards criteria and application procedures
- Monitor labor trends and recommend amendments to legislation concerning scholarships
- Develop, review and recommend policies, procedures and regulations concerning loan applications, awards and debt collections
- Review scholarship applications and recommend candidates to receive scholarships and loans

Shawna K. Richards – Chair (srichards@myviboe.com)

Members: Judy M. Gomez, Jeanette Smith Barry

Internal Control Ad-Hoc Committee (NEW)

- In conjunction with the Executive Director, serve as the Board's liaison with the Office of the Inspector General and or all other public or private auditors approved by the Board. However, the Executive Director shall have primary responsibility to interface with the Office of the Inspector General.
- Conduct investigations and hearings and recommend decisions to the Board pertaining to ethics violations, labor relations, and Human Resources issues. pursuant to VIBE's By-laws, and policies and in accordance with federal and territorial laws.
- Develop, review and recommend for consideration by the Board due process procedures, standards and guidelines for considering employee and Board member grievances and complaints
- Develop, review and recommend for consideration by the Board, VIBE operational guidelines, labor relations and Human Resources policies.
- Develop, review, and recommend for consideration by the Board all policies related to conducting internal audits and internal controls.
- Monitor corrective action plans implemented in response to external audits and reviews conducted by any government or private agency.
- Recommend requests for public and/or private audits.
- Review audit reports and prepare corrective action plans in response to external audits.

Judy M. Gomez, Esq. – Chair (jmgomez@myviboe.com)

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**Members: Kyza A. Callwood, Emmanuella M. Perez-Cassius,
Legislative Liaison Ad-Hoc Committee (NEW)**

- Draft and update a legislative agenda for consideration and approval by the Board.
- Coordinate with Board committees regarding recommendations for legislative revisions.
- Coordinate relations between the Board and the Virgin Islands Legislature.
- Draft positions on proposed legislation for consideration and approval by the Board, as needed
- Monitor and provide recommendations for code compliance.
- Coordinate the timely preparation and submittal of reports to the Legislature.

Nandi Sekou, Esq. – Chair (nsekou@myviboe.com)

Members: Terrence T. Joseph and Shawna K. Richards

Executive Committee

- Provide oversight of the budget development process and conduct budget-based program reviews in conjunction with the Director of Business and Finance.
- Develop, review and recommend changes to the Virgin Islands Code concerning Board operations and finances.
- Supervise the Executive Director to assure the acts of the Board are executed, and it keeps the members informed of issues on the local and national level.

Kyza A. Callwood, Chair (kcallwood@myviboe.com)

**Members: Winona A. Hendricks, Vice-Chair and Shawna K. Richards,
Secretary**

VIDE's Strategic Planning Steering Committee

- **Strategic Planning Steering Committee:** The Strategic Planning Steering Committee's is made up of hired, elected and appointed leaders and business owners. Members of this committee provide recommendations for the Department's strategic direction and transformation over the next five years.

Member Kyza A. Callwood

VIDE's Community Council

- Education is everyone's responsibility. As such, it is essential that the Department of Education has the support and input of the community to acquire the best educational outcomes for students. This council is a microcosm of the community as it is made up of all members of the VI community including educators, students, parents, elected and government officials, business leaders, spiritual leaders, community activists, and more. Finally, the council is essential to helping the Department achieve its goal of restoring and rebuilding community trust.

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Member: Shawna K. Richards

VIDE's New Schools Construction Advisory Board

- The New Schools Construction Advisory Board will guide the planning and development of better facilities and learning environments designed to facilitate the districts' and the community's desired learning experiences for our students.

Member: Nandi Sekou, Esq. – STT District

Member: Terrence T. Joseph – STX District

VIDE's Curriculum Council

- The State Office of Curriculum & Instruction launched the Curriculum and Open Educational Resources (COER) Council during the October 14, 2020 Collaborative Design Team meeting. This curriculum council is a governing body established to determine policy, monitor, support, and guide all things related to curriculum development. Key to the responsibility of the council is the alignment of standards, instructional strategies, learning experiences, and assessment.

Member: Winona A. Hendricks

VIDE's Curriculum Design Team

- The Collaborative Design Team (CDT) was established on February 4, 2020 based on the premise that curriculum is the "Heartbeat" of the department; it is not solely the responsibility of C&I. Different perspectives are required to move the work of Curriculum and Instruction forward. The goal is for all entities within VIDE to embrace the vision, mission, values and goals, and address all matters pertaining to curriculum to include academic standards, instructional resources, personnel, management, budget, IT, etc.

Member: Emmanuella M. Perez- Cassius

WTJX – Virgin Islands Broadcasting System

(Title 30 VIC, Chapter 7, Subsection 201)

Member: Kyza A. Callwood

University of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees

(Title 17 VIC, Chapter 33, Subsection 455)

Member: Kyza A. Callwood

Morris F. de Castro Fellowship Board

(Title 17 VIC, Chapter 15, Subsection 190)

Member: Kyza A. Callwood

Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast & Islands (REL-NEI)

Member: Winona A. Hendricks

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Chairman Callwood stated in his first chairman’s report that he had adopted the theme of “Collective Aspirations, Measurable Achievements.” “As the Board works in unison, it is critically important for us to put aside personality differences, character conflicts and create a template of excellence for the future to follow and hopefully emulate,” said Chairman Callwood. He further stated that the board members took an oath to serve and must strive to revitalize our Educational system with new, creative, and innovative ideas. Collectively, this requires thinking outside of the box.

For more information, please contact the St. Thomas office at 340-774-4546 or the St. Croix office at 340-772-4144. You may also email questions to Emmett Hansen, Associate Executive Director, at ehansen@myviboe.com.

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