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CERTIFICATION REPORT

June 24, 2022

As part of the work of the Board's certification committee, the committee chairperson and three other non-committee members of the Board (Perez-Cassius, Sekou, and Joseph) participated in a June 7th meeting with representatives of the Department of Education to address matters related to the Department's first virtual academy (VIVA). Included in discussions were issues surrounding certification of virtual teachers hired by Proximity Learning, review of the Academy protocols, evaluations and reports, and upcoming plans. Among the major concerns expressed by VIBE members were the lack of evidence to support statements made, (especially regarding processes for implementation, successes, evaluation of staff and quality of performance), as well as absence of data reports on student success, and clear plans for expressed intent to expand VIVA to include students from kindergarten through 12th grade. VIBE is expected to insist upon receipt of documentation and exercise keen oversight for this major undertaking of the Department, the VI Virtual Academy (VIVA).

The certification committee's planned policy work session held on June 18th was well attended and included seven members of the Board and UVI's School of Education Dean Dr. Karen Harris-Brown. Much progress was made in reviewing recommended revisions to the Certification Policy. Committee chair will insert recommendations and updates for all members. Members attending were asked to submit language recommendations for areas that members feel must be more specific, including language on certifying teachers for virtual teaching even if they are not part of a contract. Some of the key additions suggested include: adding endorsement in ECE, including police reports for reciprocity situations, different look for virtual certificates with required photo on certificates which must also be on visible on screen backgrounds during instruction, increasing fees for expired certificate renewal, and supporting programs and requesting funding to "grow our own teachers."

The next work session for the Certification Policy is scheduled for **July 30, 2022** from 9a.m. to noon. Full participation will be appreciated. Special thanks to all who attend and contribute to these necessary policy revisions and updates.

Jeanette Smith-Barry

**Report prepared by Jeanette Smith-Barry
PSCHE Committee Chairperson
20th Board of Education**

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.

