



December 22, 2022

20th Virgin Islands Board of Education.

Policy, Rules & Regulations Committee : Kyza A. Callwood, Terrence T. Joseph, Shawna K. Richards & Chair- Winona A. Hendricks

PRRC Close Out Report

Introduction –

It has been my honor to facilitate work completed to address policy creation, formation, and drafts for consideration by the 20th Virgin Islands Board of Education.

Tremendous thanks is given to the committee members, other Board members and the Administrative staff for work over time, through research , discussion and search for best practices to improve the quality of education.

Responsibility- Virgin Islands Code Title 17, Section 21, confers the authority and jurisdiction on the Virgin Islands Board of Education to prescribe general regulations and orders, adopt curricula and courses of study and, in general, to do anything necessary for the proper establishment, maintenance and operation of the public schools of the Virgin Islands. Further, Title 17, Section 41 confers the authority and jurisdiction to the Board to promulgate rules and regulations in conjunction with the Department of Education to implement Section 41.

Purpose of Report –

- To facilitate decision making for the 21st incoming board

- To provide overview of policies nearing completion, that need review or may be considered for drafting or deletion

Policies Nearing Completion:

- A. Prekindergarten – 5th policy- review and presentation December 19, 2022. Policy available to be refined, edited, and presented to 21st Board for consideration
- B. 6th – 8th -Draft policy review and presentation December 19, 2022. Policy available to be refined, edited, and presented to 21st Board for consideration
- C. Student Discipline Policy - review and presentation December 19, 2022. Policy available to be refined, edited, and presented to 21st Board for consideration
- D. *Next steps: Each board member will receive a copy of the folder with the three draft policies **before** the 12/19/22 edits.*
- E. *ED Berry will review the 12/19/22 edits and provide **updated** copies of the 3 drafts prior to exit 1/14/22 .*

Policies which need to be Reviewed , Updated or Deleted based on creation dates

- A. **Neighborhood Policy 2009**
- B. **School based Comprehensive Emergency Response Plans & Drill 2010**
- C. **Sports Concussion 2013**
- D. **Home Education 2015**
- E. **Valediction & Salutatorian 2016**

Consideration for New Policies

- A. 50% Grading Policy – *December 19, 2022 discussion provided consensus (but not total agreement) for setting the lowest score for the grade a student could obtain in a course at 50%*

The policy would set clear criteria for who and how a 50% score could be applied; The student would have to demonstrate daily attendance; work and assignments would have to be routinely submitted; effort and participation would have to be visible; both districts would have to implement; support assistance through intervention strategies and early notification factors; special education/assistance for IEP, ESL or new entrance students.

The concern was equitable options to *recover or attempt to (give fighting chance) pass courses*. Lower grades effect not only the current course grade but also academic grades for overall semester and going forward. Teacher/s using the 50% criteria would use and note clause in grade book so administrative justification and data is evaluated and collected.

The decision on the 50% grade is needed for implementation of the promotion and retention policies.

- B. Swimming Policy – opportunities for vital lifesaving skills; primary water safety awareness; competitive swimming, synchronized or artistic swimming, water entertainment ideas, and partnering with community organizations to increase the number of swimmers and reduce the number of drowning in the Virgin Islands. There is draft policy.
- C. Reading Policy Resolution- create a reading resolution by the Board of Education pursuant to its jurisdiction and authority

provided in Title 17 to recognize the importance of Reading as a gateway to academic excellence.

Examples - The Board requires the VIDE to establish:

- A program for primary students to read on grade level before leaving 3rd grade
- To expose middle and high school students to materials for development and literary options for lifelong reading
- To have require a yearly training program for teachers and key educational personnel concerning the Science of Reading.

Policies must continually be revised and updated to comply with local and federal laws and regulations .