GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION



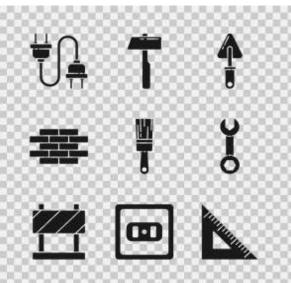
VIRGIN ISLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORT

INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION

When maintaining a school, we pay not only for bricks and mortar but also for student and staff well-being. Effective school maintenance protects capital investment, ensures the health and safety of our children, and supports educational performance. https://nces.ed.gov/







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GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION



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September 13, 2023

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Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington Commissioner Virgin Islands Department of Education 1834 Kongens Gade St. Thomas, VI 00802

Dear Commissioner Wells-Hedrington:

The Virgin Islands Board of Education, through its School Plants and Facilities Committee, has been hard at work visiting our public-school facilities to verify that they are ready to accommodate students, parents, teachers, administrators, and faculty staff. We on the Board understand even if the school is well-maintained, it takes time, effort, and resources to keep it that way. This is where school upkeep comes into play. Our parents and the community should learn about school maintenance, who is in charge, and why it is essential. Also, learn what you can do to equip your child's school with a maintenance plan that promotes student learning. The Department and Board of Education can only work with your support and assistance.

Aside from instruction, the safety of children on school grounds is the primary responsibility of any school. As a result, every school must ensure that health and safety laws are followed. Both the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advocate for a healthy physical environment in schools to promote learning. This includes exposure to biological or chemical agents and other physical factors such as temperature, sound, and illumination. A well-maintained facility, on the other hand, is directly related to higher student accomplishment. A disruption-free school facility boosts teaching time and reduces teacher turnover by 25%. However, the difficulty with a public school's failure to provide a comprehensive facilities management plan is finance. Local and federal governments provide funding based on a National Funding Formula (NFF) perpupil basis.

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.

Investing in school infrastructure upgrades and repairs can benefit students, staff, and the school community enormously. To begin with, updating technology, facilities, and equipment can improve the learning experience by making it more engaging, intuitive, and accessible to all students. The Virgin Islands Department of Education is to be commended for its steadfast efforts in taking schools to the next level, one school at a time. Finally, investing in school infrastructure displays a commitment to providing children with the finest education possible while making the school atmosphere more welcoming and safer.

We all must work together to prioritize routine school upkeep. This could include donating money, assisting with project planning, volunteering through school programs, or joining the local Parent-Teacher Association or the school's improvement team. Let us work together to build better communities by investing in our educational system today!

Educationally yours,

Kýžá⁄A. Callwo

Chairman

SUMMARY

Prior to the passing of Act 8717 establishing the Bureau of School Construction & Maintenance in April of this year, Title 17 Education, Chapter 3 Virgin Islands Board of Education, § 24 School management accountability mandated "(a) The Board of Education shall: (1) in consultation with the Department of Education, conduct a thorough annual assessment and evaluation of all public-school facilities, school guidance division, and school administration in the territory." In the absence of a functioning Bureau, the Board is committed to ensuring that schools are safe, healthy, and conducive to learning. As such, VIBE's School Plant & Facilities (SPF) Committee conducted a fall 2023 back-to-school walkthrough which provided valuable insight into the state of public schools in the Territory. Site visits were conducted from August 2nd through August 16th. The walkthrough inspection report provides an overview of the condition of each school along with recommended actions to ensure a productive start to the 2023-2024 school year. These findings and recommendations guide the Virgin Island Board of Education in making informed decisions to support students' and staff's well-being and experience.

Walkthroughs were driven by a comparative review of maintenance projects outlined in the Virgin Islands Department of Education's (The Department or VIDE) school-by-school summer maintenance projects listing provided during the July 7, 2023, SPF Committee meeting. This review revealed that approximately 70% of the work was either started and/or completed, with the remaining 30% stalled and/or pending startup. It is also noted that some of the projects have been identified since the 2022-2023 school year and prior. The Department's Maintenance Team identified and shared several contributing factors which resulted in delays of work plans and schedules. Challenges & Concerns include:

- 1. The volume of work required for maintenance projects far surpass the available manpower both by VIDE maintenance staff and contracted maintenance providers.
- 2. Maintenance problems/issues which are caused and/or delayed by external factors do not appear to get the urgent attention required the agencies of jurisdiction such as the Water and Power Authority, Department of Public Works, Waste Management Authority etc.
- 3. A lengthy procurement process coupled with an ongoing scarcity of supplies and materials locally continues to be a major factor which impacts negatively on the Department's ability to resolve maintenance issues in a timely manner.
- 4. Certain maintenance issues are classified as capital improvement projects and therefore cannot be addressed by the maintenance staff.

Common Findings:

- 1. **Fire Safety:** Fire extinguishers have been appropriately spaced across campuses, therefore improving safety and compliance for inspections, functionality, and school alerts.
- 2. **General Safety:** There are slip and fall hazards throughout most of the campuses, which need posted warning signs to protect students and personnel.
- 3. **Infrastructure Improvements:** Renovations have been undertaken in various schools, to include installation of new tiles, floors, ceilings, and the application of a fresh coat of paint. Additionally, AC filters have been replaced or cleaned to maintain optimal air quality.
- 4. Water Accessibility: Schools have transitioned to cistern water, with access to potable water if required, ensuring a stable campus water supply in emergency situations.

- Additionally, schools are receiving bottled water supplies as an alternative to water fountains which may be inoperable or have poor water quality.
- **5. Maintenance Needs:** Several schools require exterior door replacements, missing light shades, alarm system upgrades, and kitchen equipment installation etc.
- **6.** Custodial Needs: while restrooms are clean, they are not stocked with basic necessities.

Recommendations:

- 1. **Safety First:** Prioritize safety measures such as:
 - a) Plug stoppers (particularly in pre-K and kindergarten classes)
 - b) Utilize caution tape/signage to make students and personnel aware of dangers around them.
 - c) Conduct a comprehensive playground and gym safety assessment of structures, equipment, and surrounding debris before student use to enhance safety measures.
 - d) Implement proper material disposal practices to avoid waste storage around campuses therefore promoting a safe, clean, and organized learning environment.
 - e) Communication Systems:
 - i. Upgrade and install functional alarm systems, camera systems, intercom systems, and electrical systems (to include charging stations for school issued devices to prevent a strain on the existing electrical system).
 - ii. School intercom systems are important to improve building/campus security and expeditious emergency broadcasts.
 - iii. Intercoms allow urgent messages to deter, warn, and reduce risks of loss of life and injury as well as loss of property and damage.
 - iv. Schools need efficient and reliable intercom systems which include: live video monitoring of remote areas and visitor entry; emergency notification; walkie talkies; wall mounted, strategically place loudspeakers; working phone system; and smart televisions in key locations.
- 2. **Historical Property Considerations:** Address challenges posed by historical property regulations promptly to facilitate necessary repairs and improvements.
- 3. **Adequate Resources:** Allocate resources for installing new kitchen equipment and completing ongoing projects. Many of the product acquisition issues seem avoidable. Project and order standard materials such as lights, tiles, AC filters etc. beginning in January or the 2nd half of the school year to ensure optimal functioning facilities.
- 4. **Capital Improvement Projects:** There is a need for information sharing and discussions between and amongst Faculty & Staff, Maintenance Leadership, Division of New Schools, and VIDE Administration regarding maintenance vis-à-vis capital improvement plans and projects. During the walkthrough, some school-based leaders were informed for the first time that certain maintenance requests were placed on hold due to being classified as capital projects.
- 5. **Cafeteria:** School Lunch needs to be a component of school reopening. Many non-maintenance issues need to be addressed such as boxed kitchen equipment in cafeterias.
- 6. **Sanitary Concerns:** All schools need health and sanitizing supplies readily available for students. Basic needs such as toilet paper, paper towel, soap and hand sanitizers should always be available in restrooms.

AUGUST 2, 2023 WALKTHROUGH

The Virgin Islands Board of Education, School Plant & Facilities Committee conducted a School Reopening Walkthrough with the following persons:

Board of Education Members & Staff

- Winona A. Hendricks, SPF Chair
- Terrence T. Joseph, Member
- Nandi Sekou, Member
- Barabara Sluss, Administrative Assistant

Office of Senator Marise James – 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands Committee on Education & Workforce Development

- Juanita Philip, Communications Director
- Joel Mercado, Special Projects Coordinator

Department of Education Staff

School administrators were at the Superintendent's meeting. The following persons assisted with walkthroughs. It is obvious that they know their school and are proud to be of service.

- Tryone Davis, Maintenance Engineer (Educational Complex and Eulalie R. Rivera)
- Ms. Danica David, Administrative Secretary (Eulalie R. Rivera)
- Akeel Phillips, School Monitor (Claude O. Markoe)
- Yauncey Milligan, District Director of Maintenance STX

SCHOOL 1 – ST. CROIX EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX HIGH SCHOOL

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- Replace 2000 window operators
- Replace 150 ceiling fans
- Paint classrooms
- Repair auditorium and band suite
- Installation and maintenance of potable water and cistern

- Main Office Start of school year bulletin board with welcome message
- Board Policy Signs on attendance, FERPA, how to file a parental complaint
- Smarter Balance Assessment Poster
- School registration in progress in the cafeteria and gymnasium
- Visit to classrooms
 - a) 400-500 window operators installed (less than 50% of projected 2000)
 - b) Room A110 replaced approximately 80 ceiling fans expecting another 70-80
- Electrical outlet detached from wall (safety hazard)

- Auxiliary agencies walkthrough completed by Virgin Islands Fire & Emergency Medical Services and Department of Health Division of Environmental Health
- Kitchen 2 schools use kitchen area (Complex and Eulalie Rivera)
 - a) Ms. Taylor kitchen manager was on site
 - b) Food for Eulalie Rivera School prepared at Complex and sent to elementary campus
 - c) *Evidence of roaches* Two extermination companies service the school once per month (Terminix and Real Text).
 - d) Real Text on campus extermination in progress
 - e) Kitchen was power washed
 - f) School is near farmlands which increase critters drawn to food -27 bait boxes strategically placed in kitchen
 - g) High School Students reluctantly participate in meals provided by school More advertisement about value of meals and creative announcements needed (average serving 250-300 vs. enrollment of 800 students)
- Chewing gum is dropped all over campus and has created polka dot floors liquid solvent to be use to address unsightly appearance
- Gym scoreboard not functioning and strand of lights used from courtyard to gym does NOT meet electrical codes
- Down Spouts critical problem throughout the school. This problem has existed since the hurricanes and needs to be addressed.
- Band Room & Auditorium Capital Projects (long standing problems)
 - a) AC unit to be changed
 - b) Fire alarms need to be checked
- Pump Room & Cistern
 - a) Cistern holds 150 thousand gallons of water
 - b) Water tested weekly by Mr. Ritter Chlorinated regularly
 - c) WAPA water is used throughout school and cisterns are used as backups

SCHOOL 2 – EULALIE R. RIVERA K-8 SCHOOL

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- Interior & exterior painting
- Modular Mold Remediation

- Main office being decorated by staff. VIBE Policy posters included: Complaint process, Attendance Counts, FERPA
- AC Units
 - a) Screens are needed to assist AC units to operate properly
 - b) 26 AC units installed (type of AC unit is critical for proper operations 110 unit vs 240 unit adjustments need to be made)
 - c) Regular classrooms with panorama windows are hot if closed while raining.
- Kitchen equipment
 - a) Equipment located in cafeteria near entrance (reduced space for other activities)

- b) Installation of kitchen equipment was placed on bid and person selected died (situation needs to be addressed)
- c) Missing floor tiles Fall and trip hazard
- d) Oliver Exterminating services the kitchen
- e) Electrical problems need to be addressed
- f) Food satellited from Complex complaints of Cold food
- A school nurse just came onboard (not sure whether itinerant or stationed)
- School lights are functional at night
- Modular wing
 - a) School mold problem shut down wing from March to close of school . Students learned Virtually
 - b) Room 103 Deep cleaning completed, some ceiling tiles need to be changed
 - c) Room 104 No AC, temperature unbearable (Refrigeration Engineer, Larry Finley is working on the unit)
 - d) Room 105 severe odor, unacceptable room for students or personnel

SCHOOL 3 – CLAUDE O. MARKOE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

See attached Scope of Work

- Main office set up with sign-in books
- Outer entrance area Education Enhancement & Positive Social Development Poster
- Kitchen
 - a) Equipment on floor in boxes
 - b) DVD contractor is working on kitchen too slow
 - c) Numerous Fall and tripping hazards Signs needed



- Rodents and roach in various classes
- Termites room 207 and 208
- Not painted room 901 and 207
- Swollen doors due to rain and water 207 and 208
- Mosquito infestation is problematic
- Water settling on ground near 300 wing
- Roof power washed so clean water goes to cistern (backup for WAPA)
- Playround
 - a) Human Services has separate playground with no access for COMS
 - b) The playground issue is compounded by lack of developmentally age-appropriate play areas for each group of students
 - c) separate playgrounds are needed for Pre-K to 2^{nd} grade, 3^{rd} to 5^{th} grade, and 6^{th} to 8^{th} grade requires another setting
 - d) Playground(s) will require restrictions and safety compliance based on age and developmental stages.
- Fire extinguishers are up to date
- Need fire hoses due to distance between buildings
- Gymnasium
 - a) This is a Capital project which requires input from Territorial managers Allan Fleming and Davidson Charlemagne
 - b) Critical problem where review, orientation, and decisions need to be made 3 years of project work:
 - Phase 1 Roof and doors addressed
 - Phase 2 More work needed on interior and exterior (flooring in progress)
 - Phase 3 Theoretical concerns of jurisdiction and purpose of Gym.
 - i. Community gym for larger usage and functions
 - ii. Education and instruction based for school use
 - iii. Other options could include an exterior basketball court with Covering for shelter

AUGUST 8, 2023 WALKTHROUGH

The Virgin Islands Board of Education, School Plant & Facilities Committee conducted a School Reopening Walkthrough with the following persons:

Board of Education Members & Staff

- Winona A. Hendricks, SPF Chair
- Arah C. Lockhart, Member
- Ernie Barry, Maintenance and Messenger

Office of Senator Marise James – 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands Committee on Education & Workforce Development

- Juanita Philip, Communications Director
- Joel Mercado, Special Projects Coordinator

Department of Education Maintenance Staff

- Alan Fleming, Chief Operations Officer
- Davidson Charlamagne, Territorial Facilities Manager
- Gene Weeks, District Director of Maintenance STTJ
- Swayne Jurgen, Compliance Monitor

SCHOOL 1 – JANE E. TUITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- Painting
- Replace and realign plastic screens
- Install window operators
- Change doors and locks
- Exterminating
- Replaces broken tiles
- Clean AC units
- Upgrade panel boxes

Walkthrough Findings

Principal Thelca Bedminster indicated that communication is essential with maintenance. Maintenance should explain problems and procedures with principals. Principals can then communicate necessary information to staff. The *work order process* needs to be publicized in school communication. There needs to be a documented process for maintenance work orders. Visitors were greeted by creative artwork on the entrance walls. One of the paraprofessionals, Ms. White, monitors maintenance issues and assists with specific areas and project inspections. Other discussions and observations include:

• Classrooms were well decorated in preparation for teaching

- Oliver Exterminating is contracted to address woodlice and rodents. Kitchen extermination completed.
- The school buildings are Sinking. The sinking problem is beyond a school maintenance issue and needs to be addressed by capital projects
- The door to the restroom in the main office needs to be addressed. Due to sinking and swelling persons entering can potentially be trapped.
- Fire extinguishers are currently up to date but will need recertification in September
- There is need for a designated space for nursing services
- Plastic screens were available but not completely replaced or realigned because windows
 were not cleaned by custodial staff. Screens need to be replaced for AC untis to function
 properly.
- 3 Ac units have started to leak since the opening of school. Gene Weeks is aware and will address the matter.
- Buildings were pressure washed
- Upstairs steps were completed
- The entrance building roof was repaired in April. The installation material is swelling due to water or rain. Mr. Allan Fleming indicated the roof contract is still under warranty.
- School bathrooms were clean but hand soap, paper towel and sanitizers were not readily available. Soap dispensers needed
- Passageways illuminated

SCHOOL 2 – ULLA F. MULLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Gene Weeks and Davidson Charlemagne indicated resources such as floor tiles and window operators are hard to get: the Government has approximately \$16,000 worth of materials on order/or back order.

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- Clean AC Units
- Replace ceiling tiles
- Repair doors
- Exterminate
- Fix electrical problems

- New AC units installed
- Meal of the day spaghetti and meatballs with corn
- Exterminating
 - a) Oliver Exterminating is scheduled to regularly service school (bait traps also need to be used)
 - b) Termites repairs/treatment were completed
 - c) The back area of the kitchen by the walk-in freezer has holes where rodents can enter
- Removed gasoline line behind kitchen (debris needs to be thrown away not left on the ground)

- A gate is needed to separate students from the kitchen area (slip-fall hazards)
- Electrical work is being completed by Genesis Electric Co.
- Some classrooms, main office and other areas were painted
- Other ongoing projects:
 - a) Door replacement 10
 - b) AC units cleaned 1
 - c) Screen fasteners still in progress 18

SCHOOL 3 – JOSEPH SIBILLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Upgrade

- Plumbing
- Leaking roof
- Ram for kitchen area
- Paint main office and principal office

Walkthrough Findings

The school has a new principal and new interior sign with school name and hibiscus that was donated by community member. Minor projects that were completed include: AC unit cleaning, painted classroom partition, replaced water tank, and remedy of sewage issue. Other discussions and observations include:

- Teacher's Lounge
 - a) Several plastic screens including a broken one was placed on top of the refrigerator. Screens should be repaired and reinstalled, not be a hazard to personnel.
 - b) The refrigerator was full of outdated food products. At the end of the school year refrigerators should be emptied and cleaned.
 - c) The plumbing problem in lounge was satisfactorily addressed.
- Ram for kitchen area due to the uneven flooring, a ram is needed for safety and should be addressed
- Ther is no water in the upper level cistern
- Generator The generator on sight is old, non-functional, and corroded rusty edges can cause lacerations
- There was a long line of lights hanging dangerously low in personnel and students walking area. Mr. Fleming and Charlamagne addressed the line problem on site.
- Fire detectors and extinguishers are operable and certified until September
- The roof on Building B is in danger of collapse. FEMA may be involved in the project. A call should be placed to Chaneel Callwood to address this matter.
- This school has multiple levels of stairs signage should be placed to warn about uneven surfaces and steps
- The lower playground located by the arts area presents inadequate, unsteady, and slippery surfaces for personnel and students. This needs to be addressed.
- Other issues remain unaddressed due to lack of supplies such as AC, tiles, lumber, and valves for toilets.

SCHOOL 4 YVONNE MILLINER-BOWSKY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal D. Gonzales-Thomas guided the team on the walk through.

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Upgrade

- Filters and vents cleaning
- 2 AC units
- Retaining wall for teacher's lounge

- AC units were cleaned (AC COOLING).
- Painting was completed all around campus.
- 2 Dehumidifiers were being placed in the classrooms.
- The treatment plant has a new operator to monitor and manage the plant. Upgrades are taking place to address problems.
- Termite eradication is a serious problem
 - a) Several classrooms closed as a result. The classrooms at the upper levels are reopened and the music wing is completed. Cabinets were removed from the home economics class which is being refurbished.
 - b) Oliver exterminating was used to address treatment and subterranean problems.

AUGUST 9, 2023 WALKTHROUGH

The Virgin Islands Board of Education, School Plant & Facilities Committee conducted a School Reopening Walkthrough with the following persons:

Virgin Islands Board of Education Members & Staff

- Winona A. Hendricks, SPF Chair
- Arah C. Lockhart, Member
- Ernie Barry, Maintenance and Messenger

Office of Senator Marise James – 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands Committee on Education & Workforce Development

- Juanita Philip, Communications Director
- Joel Mercado, Special Projects Coordinator

Virgin Islands Department of Education Maintenance Staff

- Davidson Charlamagne, Territorial Facilities Manager
- Swayne Jurgen, Compliance Monitor
- Gene Weeks, District Director of Maintenance STTJ

SCHOOL 1 – JOSEPH GOMEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- Sugar Apple (Early Childhood) classroom and playground
- 4 classroom units
- New Building repairs

- Sugar Apple
 - a) Workers were on site to open pre-k classes by August 14, 2023. They were working on AC units, screens, tiles, flooring etc.
 - b) Toilets were expected to be delivered over the weekend
 - c) The current Playground is substandard with corrosion and inappropriate protective flooring. The playground needs to be upgraded.
 - d) Fences should be erected in the play area for safety.
 - e) The play area is next to a sewage gut with rocks this needs to be brought to the attention of waste management.
 - f) The old home economics classroom next to Sugar Apple classrooms is derelict and should be bulldozed and removed from site prior to the arrival of children. Project alignment is important. The removal of the derelict building should be planned at the same time. The alternative to securing the building is "wrapping", which more than likely will turn a temporary solution into a permanent structure. That is also space that can be utilized in another way.

- g) Furniture and supplies are needed for the building
- Urinals were replaced. Soap and sanitizers should be routinely provided.
- The Kitchen areas need attention Water and leakage may cause falling hazards
- Moldy rooms are being addressed by contractors. Personnel should be informed of access
 to dehumidifiers and air purifiers as well as receive instruction on how to operate them.
 One classroom had 2 new products stored in the closet.
- A transformer is on order
- Companies addressing issues are: Mac Construction, JP Construction, Preston Environmental Plumbing, WAPA, HKT

SCHOOL 2 – CHARLOTTE AMALIE HIGH SCHOOL

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- AC unit in piano lab, social studies, band room, N104, auditorium, and Sprung unit
- Mold issues
- Walkway deck pealing

Walkthrough Findings

- Main office gutted and fixed
- Great salad bar
- Study hall Students should be more productive and engaged either academically or recreationally. Suggestions are homework, trivia games, board games etc.
- The boys' bathroom was vandalized
- Bleachers needed in the gymnasium

SCHOOL 3 - LOCKHART K-8 SCHOOL

New principal and 3 assistant principals

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

Walkthrough Findings

- Team K section of the school campus is often forgotten by maintenance
- The Physical Education area is unacceptable, substandard, deplorable, and detrimental to school morale.

SCHOOL 4 – EDITH L. WILLIAMS ALTERNATIVE ACADEMY

Principal Alcede Edwards was unable to participate in the walkthrough due to a scheduled meeting with Commissioner Hedrington.

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

The school was not listed on the Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 list. A copy of the suggested recommended maintenance issues was provided by Carlton Stevens, Director of Alternative Education.

- This school is underserved and is an inappropriate environment for the social, academic, and developmental needs of the student population.
- The school needs painting
- The playground is not age appropriate for middle and high school students. This equipment can be removed and placed at an elementary school.
- Leaking roof repair in progress
- Other maintenance needs:
 - a) Fence repair
 - b) Tree trimming
 - c) Railing repairs
 - d) Ceiling tiles

AUGUST 10, 2023 WALKTHROUGH

The Virgin Islands Board of Education, School Plant & Facilities Committee conducted a School Reopening Walkthrough with the following persons:

Board of Education Members & Staff

- Dr. Kyza A. Callwood, Chair
- Winona A. Hendricks, SPF Chair
- Arah C. Lockhart, Member
- Ernie Barry, Maintenance and Messenger

Office of Senator Marise James – 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands Committee on Education & Workforce Development

- Juanita Philip, Communications Director
- Joel Mercado, Special Projects Coordinator

Department of Education Maintenance Staff

- Davidson Charlamagne, Territorial Facilities Manger
- Swayne Jurgen, Compliance Officer
- Gene Weeks, District Director of Maintenance STTJ

SCHOOL 1 – JULIUS SPRAUVE SCHOOL

Mr. Swayne Jurgen is credited with facilitating the travel to St. John. Principal Sharon Richardson and Assistant Principal Clifton Boyd guided the team on the walkthrough. Julius Sprauve has an enrollment of about 214 students and this school is scheduled to be demolished. The visit focused on the modular units.

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- Urinal dividers
- Classroom windows (device to open and close)
- Inoperable water fountains
- Kitchen operation
- Ceiling tiles,

- Travel to St. John allowed the VIBE team to understand the route students and personnel experience daily to attend schools.
- Classrooms are decorated and ready for learning
- The majority of modular related issues are being addressed
- Urinals in boys' bathroom have been completed
- The shutter devices to open and close outer windows are on order
- Broken blinds installed (not by maintenance)

- Most water fountains are repaired (there is a small number left to be repaired)
- Front gate not addressed
- Mold:
 - a) Davidson Charlamagne provided a class for school personnel on mold and remediation tips.
 - **b**) Moldy rooms are being addressed with deep cleaning and installation of dehumidifiers.
- Some Fire alarms need to be checked.
- Damaged walls are addressed.
- Cafeteria needs additional work:
 - a) Water on floor slip and fall hazard
 - b) Vents, stoves, steam table, and serving area need to be checked
 - c) Meal of day stewed beef, rice and red beans, milk, and peaches
 - d) Broken water line repaired
 - e) No visible smoke detector or alarm seen in kitchen.

SCHOOL 2 – IVANNA EUDORA KEAN HIGH SCHOOL

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- Main office
- Painting
- Acs
- Lights
- Ceiling tiles
- Outlets

Walkthrough Findings

The school is accredited. However, the administration is experiencing issues receiving accreditation monies in a timely manner (\$50,000.00). There are challenges with 3rd party requirements and punitive responses (deletion of \$5,000.00) if timely actions are not taken. These issues undermine school repair efforts. Extremely coordinated effort between Principal Petty and Maintenance to rectify school problems. Many of the problems have been addressed but shortage of materials and products has delayed some projects. Key visits were made to the Study Hall, Gymnasium, and Cafeteria. Other discussions and observations include:

- School monitors are very visible.
- Tiles Need for replacement (size and design availability are a problem)
- Lights Need for replacement (size and design availability are a problem)
- Gymnasium To address lunch time behavior, a basketball league is ran effectively by the Physical Education Department.
- Study Hall Tiling OK, AC unit needed
- Cafeteria School lunch staff at Kean are well prepared and have a process in place for students to quickly use the salad and fruit bar, which is eye-catching, filled with great options, and located in a convenient space.

SCHOOL 3 – BERTHA C. BOSCHULTE MIDDLE SCHOOL

School was used for Summer program. Principal Terence Corbett sat with the team and reviewed the summer projects list.

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- AC units
- Mildewed ceiling tiles
- Leaky roofs
- Auditorium
- Gymnasium
- Cafeteria
- Main office
- Library

- Completed items:
 - a) AC units
 - b) Replacement of ceiling tiles
 - c) Electrical outlets
 - d) Contract work
- Key Areas: 4 years of no AC units in some areas
 - a) Auditorium AC unit working.
 - b) Gymnasium AC unit working well
 - c) Cafeteria Closed at time of visit. However, a makeshift office was set up in the cafeteria with documents openly available. Mr. Gene Weeks will check the situation.
 - d) Music Classrooms need to be addressed so music instructors are not distracting each other with several programs being conducted at the same time in the auditorium.
- Consider an Agricultural program to utilize the land mass and space available at BCB.

AUGUST 14, 2023 WALKTHROUGH

The Virgin Islands Board of Education, School Plant & Facilities Committee conducted a School Reopening Walkthrough with the following persons:

Board of Education Members & Staff

- Terrence T. Joseph, Member
- Winona A. Hendricks, SPF Chair
- Barbara Sluss, Administrative Assistant

Office of Senator Marise James – 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands Committee on Education & Workforce Development

• Joel Mercado, Special Projects Coordinator

Department of Education Maintenance Staff

- Alan Fleming, Chief Operations Officer
- Davidson Charlamagne, Territorial Facilities Manager
- Yauncey Milligan, District Director of Maintenance STX
- Bernard Alexis, Career & Technical Education Maintenance Mechanic

SCHOOL 1 – CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER

Mr. Alexis and 2 laborers are assigned to the school.

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- Repair copper pipes and install potable water system
- Transfer between potable water and cistern (when vocational side has no water bathrooms on the academic side are utilized)
- Potable water system was installed to address power outages
- Extensive work was done in replacing copper pipes to pvc pipes throughout the school
- Three (3) new water fountains were installed
- The school was power washed but not painted

Walkthrough Findings

The major problem at this site is a leaking roof which has compromised the cosmetology, culinary arts, childcare, and other programs. Large areas of classrooms are without ceiling tiles, wires are exposed, and student seating is arranged to avoid getting wet. The ceilings are unsightly and may not meet regulatory codes. The problem has been classified as a capital project and referred to New Schools. Concerns are expressed due to the desire for safe classrooms, shops, labs, and programs at the Career & Technical Education Center. Preventing injury and illness is critical for the safety, health, and environment at school. During the walkthrough numerous "promises" were made to repair items of concern. The principal is not yet familiar with the site design and facility problems.

With a new administration at the school:

- The principal needs to assess and ask personnel to submit maintenance issues in their program area.
- The principal and maintenance team need to establish regular walkthroughs to address tremendous, neglected areas.
- There is debris on campus in several areas (affects morale).
- Lockers at the school entrance contain excessive dust.

Microsoft Word - safetyguide.doc (cdc.gov)

An attitude of "Safety Consciousnes" need to be developed and promoted around the school:

- a) clean and orderly working environment
- b) awareness of possible accident situations
- c) trade & program rules and regulations
- d) knowledge and skills in the use and the proper maintenance of tools and machinery
- e) reinforcement of safe operating procedures
- f) respect for hazardous waste and proper disposal.

SCHOOL 2 – RICARDO RICHARDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- AC unit leaks on roof
- Cistern use during power outage
- Replace broken floor tiles
- Removal of abandoned trailers
- Interior and exterior painting

Walkthrough Findings

The school is in good condition with a strong leadership team. Findings include:

- Classrooms engaging and prepared for learners
- Painting completed
- Leaks on roof addressed (ceiling tiles need to be replaced as a result)
- Floor tiles replaced
- Mr. Charlemagne indicated abandoned trailers will be removed when the October allotment is received
- Cafeteria
 - a) Menu on walkthrough day Seasoned rice, stew beef, red beans, milk
 - b) Water leak and pressure issues resolved
 - c) Cafeteria roof improvements are planned
 - d) New kitchen equipment installation is pending.
 - e) AC unit will be addressed by Mr. Finley
 - f) Paint peeling in kitchen office and outer walls need to be addressed
 - g) School Lunch Division need to address freezer fresh products must be acquired and used daily
- School gate corroded fixture (dangerous)

- The soft-fall rubber where children play (near main office) need to be resurfaced due to wearing and uprooted tree growth
- Flooring under playground area needs to be changed

SCHOOL 3 – YOUTH REHABILITATION CENTER

The principal was not available. Ms. Prasada Solomon provided an excellent overview of the school and its program. The capacity is 2-30 residents with a population of 3 students.

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update – no maintenance work list

Walkthrough Findings

The team entered where a special education class was in session with 2 students

- The 1st trailer is condemned Mr. Charlemagne said it will be removed.
- VIBE policy signs were postered.

SCHOOL 4 – ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The team met with Principal Debra Abel and Director Aisha Williams. Ms. Williams is more detailed about problems at the site. The program population is 15 and accommodates $7^{th} - 12^{th}$ grade.

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update – no maintenance work list

- Building # 1 roof repaired but still leaking (possibly pipe in wall) Maintenance will evaluate
- Building #2 AC unit is needed a bid was requested from Caribbean Cooling
- School received Imprest allotment in April for 2023
- School Lunch
 - a) AC unit is needed in the multipurpose building used for feeding the building is hot and leaking
 - b) No cafeteria food satellite from Juanita Gardine
 - c) School Lunch Division needs to investigate the possibility of implanting a small salad & fruit bar (there is a functioning freezer)
- Computer Lab needs work leak repairs, deep cleaning, and dehumidifiers are needed
- Although there is limited land a recreation area is needed- Students' day includes school assignments and work assignments
- Fencing used to restrict parking needs to be repaired
- Old office needs to be repaired to maximize efficient use of space
- The Great House with expansive view needs to be repaired and purposed. A proposal or focused program needs to be developed for the historical building. Suggested uses are:
 - a) Library
 - b) Study Hall
 - c) Museum 1848 artifacts, books, poems, art, film version of Von Schulten and Anne Heegaard etc. where the public can visit the site (fundraiser for school from

2:00 pm to 6:00 pm with Alternative Education students as guides, presenters, curators etc. to receive community service credits toward graduation requirement)







AUGUST 15, 2023 WALKTHROUGH

The Virgin Islands Board of Education, School Plant & Facilities Committee conducted a School Reopening Walkthrough with the following persons:

Board of Education Members & Staff

- Winona A. Hendricks, SPF Chair
- Terrence T. Joseph, Member
- Samanta Prentice, Associate Executive Director
- Barbara Sluss, Administrative Assistant

Office of Senator Marise James – 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands Committee on Education & Workforce Development

• Joel Mercado, Special Projects Coordinator

Department of Education Maintenance Staff

- Davidson Charlamagne, Territorial Facilities Manager
- Alan Fleming, Chief Operations Officer
- Yauncey Milligan, District Director of Maintenance STX

SCHOOL 1 – LEW MUCKLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Assistant Principal Alexander guided the team on the walkthrough. Enrollment is about 328 students. There is no school nurse. Dennis Hendrickson, Angel Diaz and J. James (laborer) are the maintenance personnel at Lew Muckle. For identification purposes, pride, and direction, it is good to see maintenance staff in uniforms at the schools.

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

• interior and exterior painting

- Painting was completed over the entire school campus.
- Classrooms and the main office are prepared for instruction.
- Lew Muckle is well prepared to begin the school year
- There were no major maintenance issues
- Campus improvements are underway including pressure washing and safety crosswalks.
- Building JJ with additional classrooms is back in service.
- The "dungeon" is used for storage it needs signage to keep unauthorized persons and students from entering.

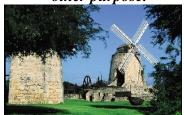


- The kitchen and cafeteria are fully operational.
- Walkthrough Day Menu rice, red beans, flounder, and fruit cups
- Old Main Office Can be repurposed as a music suite or storage for steel orchestra etc.
- Lew Muckle staff does not keep toilet paper and paper towels in bathrooms for fear of waste Students must bring supplies from classroom

Lew Muckle needs to expand to consider an *agribusiness* relationship with Mr. Roy Rogers whose farm is 2 blocks away by sidewalk



- *Historical property regulations impact repairs*. Due to historical requirements, windows and tiles that are needed to complete some areas must be investigated (boarding up windows is not the answer) Meet and discuss the matter with the historic society.
- Old Library (Historical Site) The school is a historical site. The Old Library is being used as book storage. The Danish colonial era had plantation houses and windmills as functional buildings used for sugar processing in Estate Sion Farm. Sugar was an important crop and profitable to the economy. Lew Muckle's beautiful site with arches and sturdy structures can be reimagined and rebranded as a museum or used for some other purpose.







SCHOOL 2 – JUANITA GARDINE K-8 SCHOOL

Principal Barbara McGregor guided the team on the visit. The school has 1 maintenance coordinator, laborer, and support staff.

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- painting throughout campus
- Install 50 AC units
- Electrical upgrade from 400 amps to 600 amps with plans for 800 amps
- Gymnasium roof leaks
- Replace urinals

Walkthrough Findings

The school is aesthetically (plants & flowers adorn the campus) and instructionally prepared. Enrollment is 314.

- AC units were replaced throughout the school. As a result, there were electrical upgrades.
 The Contractor missed placing an outlet to connect the AC unit in room 208. Companies
 affiliated with electrical and construction work are: Genisis, HKT Co., and DVD
 Construction
- The Focus Building is not in use due to A/C drainage concerns.
- The panel box area needs to be cleared and organized
- Water fountains are not in use due to sargassum odor and taste of water.
 - a) Pallets of water are available for students
 - b) More Signage need to be placed (Example: Do not drink water; Water affected by sargassum!)



- *The gymnasium is a huge problem for the Gardine School.* It requires greater attention and assessment. The students need to be able to utilize this space without limitations.
 - a) A gym safety assessment is required before use.
 - b) No lights Mr. Fleming checked panel box (problem could be ballasts, bulbs, or sensors)
 - c) Mr. Charlemagne asked the electric company to assess further and address issues
 - d) The roofing was fixed but still leaking in some areas may be identified as capital project because of the break in wall, lights, and leaks in roof
- The kitchen is operational and in good condition with satellite service to other schools.
- Principal McGregor expressed her concern for the school's high truancy rate. Because attendance directly affects tests scores, this is an issue to be further evaluated during the curricula and instruction walkthrough.

SCHOOL 3 - PEARL B. LARSEN K-8 SCHOOL

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- Painting throughout campus
- Replace broken floor tiles
- Replace ceiling lights
- Broken cabinets

• Non-functioning outlets, sinks, and faucets

Walkthrough Findings

Pearl B. Larsen's enrollment is over 430 students. The school is in good condition for opening with beautifully decorated halls. There is a Samsung screen mounted on the wall in the main foyer which is operated by the librarian in conjunction with the bulletin board to share announcements, notifications, reminders, and student recognition. Other observations include:

- Improvements have been made to the library, plumbing, and roofing
- Ongoing renovations include door replacements and alarm system repairs.
- School lunch Program The chill box, freezer, and food warmer are not functioning
- Meal for the day rice, fish, broccoli & pears
- Music Room Flooring is poor and a major hazard (students and staff could get seriously injured)
- Gymnasium Capital improvement
 - a) The overall facility needs further cleaning and safety assessment
 - b) Lights and scoreboard are operable
 - c) 3 classrooms are non-functional due to water coming from ground
 - d) The tennis pole is a major obstruction
- Land on hill 5 acres
 - a) A railing is needed for walkway leading to the playground and field
 - b) The playground is non-functional
 - c) A plan is needed for the use of land

AUGUST 16, 2023 WALKTHROUGH

The Virgin Islands Board of Education, School Plant & Facilities Committee conducted a School Reopening Walkthrough with the following persons:

Board of Education Members & Staff

- Winona A. Hendricks, SPF Chair
- Terrence T. Joseph, Member
- Barbara Sluss, Administrative Assistant

Office of Senator Marise James – 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands Committee on Education & Workforce Development

• Joel Mercado, Special Projects Coordinator

Department of Education Maintenance Staff

- Alan Fleming, Chief Operations Officer
- Davidson Charlamagne, Territorial Facilities Manager

SCHOOL 1 - ST. CROIX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Principal Andrea Hobson accompanied the team on the walkthrough. The current school is to be condemned and a new facility erected in the area of the former gymnasium. Enrollment is about 752 students. There is a need for science teachers- Chemistry & environmental science. Proximity learning will be used to address the teaching shortage will be highlighted during the curricula and instruction walkthrough. Levi Tuitt is the Coordinator of Plant & Facilities assigned to Central. This school follows the work order process.

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- Interior and exterior painting
- AC unit in gymnasium
- Wash and clean filters
- Hallway leaks

- *No intercom* Hand mobile devices are used. School Safety Director, Irvin Mason has work in progress to address intercom problems.
- The school nurse is shared with John H. Woodson Junior High School
- Termites is still a factor Students and adults are being bitten.
- Air Condition
 - a) The unit in the gym is functional but is often tampered with. This unit needs to be enclosed with access provided to specific personnel.

- **b**) The upper music suite still has AC problems which prevents the school from using the newly built classroom as a library. School accreditation could be in jeopardy due to lack of library.
- Leaks:
 - a) The roof leaks by room 208. The math teacher had to be relocated.
 - b) The hallways on the 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900 and 1000 wings all have leaks which are considered hazardous.
- The pump room is prepared for WAPA water problems. The water should be tested weekly.
- Cafeteria looks good
 - a) Students enjoy the salad/fruit bar
 - b) Meal for the day Chicken breast (veggie burger as alternative), salad, garlic bread, fruit cup
 - c) New kitchen equipment at the back of the school is being comprised by the elements

SCHOOL 2 – ALFREDO ANDREWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal Joanne Brow was on special assignment monitoring and assessing three (3) targeted schools: Alfredo Andrews, Claude O. Markoe, and Eulalie Rivera. Assistant Principal Cheru Ross guided the team on the walkthrough. The school has 4 monitors and a student population of about 480 students.

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- Repair fence line
- Southeast exterior painting
- Paint classrooms and interior of common areas
- AC units in cafeteria and auditorium

Walkthrough Findings

New school monitor, Dexter Crook was being mentored by monitor Rodgers during his first week. Other observations include:

- The school is well decorated and ready for instruction.
- Repair to the fence line was being completed while the team was on site (OMNI Co.)
- Water for student and adult consumption was being delivered
- It is critical to have AC units in the auditorium and cafeteria two (2) workers experienced heat exhaustion in the kitchen.
- The music room is in operation.
- An arborist is needed to assess tree damage to the sidewalk on the primary side.

SCHOOL 3 - JOHN H. WOODSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Principal Vincent Gordon guided the team on the walkthrough. The Maintenance team consists of five (5) staff members. Enrollment is about 456 students.

Summer Maintenance Projects 2023 Description and Update

- Interior and exterior painting
- AC unit in gymnasium
- Wash and clean filters
- Hallway leaks.

Walkthrough Findings

Jaime Roebuck, School Safety Manager was at the entrance sign-in point. A discussion on the use of cell phones ensued. Many school personnel are not familiar with the components of the policy regarding cell phones. This school is in need of two (2) science teachers, 1 English teacher, and 2 custodians which will be further explored during the curricula and instruction walkthrough. Other observations include:

- Sprung gymnasium in need of AC units, bathrooms, and bleachers
- Painting completed
- Termite by the cafeteria was addressed by "Bert &Ernie"
- Auditorium
 - a) Six (6) 30-ton AC units installed
 - b) A new stage is needed. The stage is compromised with areas where persons can be injured by sinking or falling through floor. SIGNAGE of eminent danger needs to be placed.
 - c) Two (2) 30-ton AC units are needed on stage
- The Music class near the stage needs surface mounts. There is a long electrical cord traveling from the class to stage which poses a hazard.
- Cafeteria
 - a) AC unit is needed
 - b) Electrical upgrade is needed in the kitchen (Engineer consultation by HKT Co. is to be considered)
 - a) The kitchen needs to be reconfigured
 - b) Meal of the day stewed fish (snapper), cucumber, rice and pineapple chunks

SCHOOL PLANT & FACILITIES COMMITTEE – RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintenance Services

The Board strongly recommends routine repairs that are preventative, consistent, and reliable. Essential items such as air condition filters, compressors, fans, and other minor maintenance necessities should be on hand and addressed timely. Issues related to multi-functional spaces should be remedied with retractable and non-permanent dividers for convenient and easy separation of space. Plans for capital improvement projects should be shared with stakeholders promptly.

The St. Thomas-St. John District maintenance needs versus available resources are disconcerting. The following require direct attention and rectification:

1. Lack of personnel or human resources to sufficiently work on targeted projects

The St. Thomas-St. John district has (13) thirteen maintenance workers versus 33 personnel on St. Croix to address standard/routine issues proportionality. "80% of work in the St. Thomas-St. John district is contracted out." More maintenance personnel are needed to complete the in-house projects adequately.

Additionally, pay scales are significantly low for today's market. The Department could benefit from additional collaboration with other community entities to increase services. The SPF Committee strongly recommends:

- A. Establish time-sensitive and realistic priorities for each school
- B. Establish realistic maintenance schedules by factoring in the procurement process to ensure the completion of projects before the opening of school.
- C. Host annual collaborative meetings with the Department of Public Works, the Bureau of Corrections, the Department of Labor, My Brothers' Workshop, and other Career & Technical Programs at least once per month before the close of school to organize supportive assistance for school summer maintenance. Partnerships with other government agencies are possible and encouraged.
- D. The option to supplement the St. Thomas − St. John maintenance team by providing income-earning opportunities to incarcerated workers with maintenance skills and excellent behavior that require minimum supervision and are near the end of their prison terms should be explored and seriously considered.

2. Walkthroughs – twofold approach

Ancillary agency maintenance inspections occur at the end of the summer break (late July/early August). However, school begins the second week of August, resulting in many safety issues, legal standards, and regulatory codes unaddressed or met. The current process must allow adequate time for warnings and implementing corrective measures prior to the opening of school. As a result, the School Plant and Facilities Committee strongly recommends conducting school inspections utilizing a twofold approach.

Phase I: Initial School Walkthrough to identify target areas – End of School year (April 22nd – May 4th, 2024). Ancillary agencies will conduct these walkthroughs with VIDE

maintenance personnel to focus on health, safety, security, and facilities' readiness for occupancy. Safety, repair, and maintenance issues such as fire detectors, kitchen hoods, exposed wires, light fixtures, A.C. filters, generators, cisterns, and other violations can be identified. Preliminary findings and recommendations for immediate corrective action should then be expeditiously (within 5-7 days of inspection) issued to the Virgin Islands Department of Education. Therefore, adequate time is provided to purchase materials and equipment, assign maintenance teams, procure vendor services, and commence work to address problems and inspection concerns to ensure that facilities are safe, healthy, and environmentally sound for occupancy upon school opening.

Phase II: Final Walkthrough to review corrective actions and issue final report - Late summer (July 1 - 12, 2024). These walkthroughs will focus on recommended Phase I corrective action for repairs and maintenance, compliance with OSHA, Fire E.M.S., and other code regulations and health and safety guidelines implemented to make schools compliant for students, personnel, and the public. A final report should then be expeditiously (within 5-7 days of inspection) issued to the Virgin Islands Department of Education. Auxiliary agencies should submit recommendations for school opening at least 2 weeks prior to the beginning of school. Schools with areas that are not in compliance should be given conditional approval with a timeline for remediation.

3. Suggestions for legislation

- a) <u>Suicide Prevention</u> Require each school district to provide a comprehensive training program on suicide prevention before school begins annually. Also include language to indicate that personnel must notify school officials if they are aware of plans to commit suicide
- b) <u>School Mapping Data</u> Bill requiring each district to design "blueprints and maps" which are shared with law enforcement and VIBE to include:
 - i. Aerial images of schools.
 - ii. Floor plans, including room and suite numbers
 - iii. Building access points
 - iv. Locations of hazardous materials and utility shutoffs
 - v. Any other relevant information.
- c) <u>Certificate of Occupancy</u> Much like commercial establishments must display business licenses and inspection certificates which indicate to occupants and visitors that a site or structure meets building compliance requirements and is therefore safe, healthy, and suitable for occupancy; the Board strongly recommends amending Act 8717 to require that each ancillary agency inspect and provide each school with proof of compliance. Upon implementing corrective measures and issuing a final report, certificates of occupancy shall be displayed in the main office or other visible public space of facilities. These certificates of occupancy from various agencies shall be valid for one (1) year as public notification of inspection and compliance. The Board also recommends amending Act 8717 further by repealing Section 9 to reinstate VIBE's role in ensuring that schools and education facilities are safe, healthy, and conducive to learning.

4. Suggestions for Legislative Committee on Education and Workforce Development hearing:

BLOCK I – Virgin Islands Department of Education Territorial and District Maintenance Directors and School Lunch Program

- a) Organizational Chart (maintenance hierarchy) Role, responsibility, and accountability for work of Territorial and District Directors and staff
- b) Maintenance of school buildings and grounds
- c) Allocation of funding for infrastructure, buildings, and procurement of materials
- d) Capital projects listing of projects by school to include funding source and scheduled dates for completion per project
- e) Identify top five maintenance projects to be addressed during 2023 Christmas break
- f) Process to address emergency, immediate, and serious health or safety risk to occupants and schools. Identify reasonable steps taken to protect people and property.
- g) School Lunch equipment installation, kitchen readiness, meal preparation, distribution/satelliting of food. *The Committee on Education and Workforce Development should promote the completion, installation and usage of kitchen equipment at Schools* which have laid dormant for 2-3 years. The equipment is <u>needed</u> and stands as an <u>eyesore</u>. It also reduces space at each site. Additionally, food being transported into the school is cold for serving

BLOCK II – Department of Health, Department of Planning & Natural Resources, Department of Labor-OSHA, Fire Services, Office of Disaster Recovery, and Virgin Islands Department of Education

- a) Role, timeline and process to review schools to determine fitness for occupancy
- **b)** Notification of actions to be taken to remediate problems
- c) Process to address deficiencies
- **d**) Health and Safety Divisions to address and create plans to remedy mold, mosquito, termite, roach and rodent problem at schools
- e) Review life and longitudinal use of modular units; evaluate quality, frequency and aspects of deep cleaning and remediation process

CONCLUSION

The VIBE thanks the Virgin Islands Department of Education Leadership, Maintenance Division, and School Administrations for their cooperation and participation in the Fall 2023 Board led school walkthroughs. They were helpful in the Team's understanding of maintenance processes, processes, and challenges that impact the delivery of services at each school as well as thoroughly understanding how public schools are maintained, upgraded, and considered for modernization and new construction.

The Board is requesting that more education is provided to principals to inform them that VIBE and other Department officials are not required to schedule visits or provide advance notification of inspection. Likewise, teachers should be reminded to leave the glass, square window in the door uncovered for observation as well as keep all doors and windows closed to preserve energy and reduce strain on AC units. Education on mold remediation should also be provided to school administrators and staff annually.

Board Members were impressed with the maintenance uniforms (Polo shirts and slacks) at some schools and recommend that all schools adopt such a uniform policy. This will make the staff more identifiable to students and personnel as well as encourage pride, professionalism, and morale within the division and schools. The Department's maintenance policy should also be uniformed for requesting and/or completing maintenance work. A *maintenance work order form should be created and implemented for efficiency and accountability.* Before the closing of school at the end of year, critical meetings should occur with principals and district maintenance directors so that information, processes, and procedures are clearly defined and understood. No principal should be unaware of work projects at the beginning of school. Caution should be taken by making sure the following areas are checked and safe for school occupancy: modular classrooms, playground equipment, kitchen equipment installation to eliminate the satelliting of food, fire detectors, extinguishers, safety signage, exterior night lights, athletic areas, bleachers, and scoreboards, fence repairs, roof repairs, HVAC, air quality and water testing, capital improvement, and scope of work contracted out for service.

Modular classrooms often start out as temporary fixtures on school grounds before becoming a permanent part of campus. Because they are designed to for temporary use, modular classrooms are more likely to:

- Develop structural problems such as water leaks or cracks faster than permanent school buildings
- Be outfitted with pressed-wood furniture and vinyl walls which release unhealthy fumes (mold inhalation is extremely dangerous for children and personnel)

Many studies repeatedly indicate that prolonged mold exposure can cause concerning levels of respiratory distress in children, especially those with asthma or sensitive lungs. Most recently, research from the World Health Organization (WHO) found a direct link between indoor mold exposure in children and the development of asthma. For children with asthma, mold spores can trigger frequent attacks as well as cause chronic lung disease and neurological issues.

According to the EPA, keeping indoor humidity levels <u>below 60%</u> is crucial to mold control. Staff should try to maintain an indoor humidity level between 25% and 50%. This can be achieved

through proper ventilation and the use of air conditioners and dehumidifiers. Dehumidifiers drastically reduce indoor humidity, making environments less inviting to mold. For example, if there is a water stain on the ceiling, chances are it is due to an ongoing leak. Addressing the problem can prevent a mold problem from growing unimpeded.

The Board also finds that some schools are not utilizing available spaces to their maximum potential. Additional space can be maximized by incorporating agriculture programs and recreational facilities. School playgrounds provide a unique opportunity to meet kids where they are, helping them become smarter, healthier, and stronger through play. Studies show that outdoor physical activity not only benefits a child's health but improves classroom performance, increases cognitive development, and hones social skills. Schools play a critical role in helping ensure that children are getting adequate outdoor physical activity through recess and outdoor classroom time where kids can play and learn on *age and developmentally appropriate playgrounds*. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that children get 60 minutes of physical activity per day.

Agricultural education teaches students about food and natural resources. Through these subjects, agricultural educators teach students a wide variety of skills, including science, math, communications, leadership, management, and technology. Agricultural education is delivered through three interconnected components:

- Classroom or laboratory instruction.
- Experiential learning Learning experiences that usually take place outside of the classroom, supervised by an agriculture instructor.
- Leadership education delivered through student organizations such as the National FFA Organization, the National Young Farmer Education Association, National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization, and others.

Lastly, the travel route for high school students should be considered. St. John's older learners begin their day around 4:00 AM daily in preparation for the ferry ride to St. Thomas. Students that miss the early boat arrive at school late and miss classes as a result. Stormy weather and choppy waters alter the availability of comfortable travel. St. John students are severely disenfranchised due to lack of reliable educational opportunities.

A new school year has begun. In addition to actions taken by the maintenance division to make schools safe and healthy, the Committee observed and noted minimal or lack of involvement of other support agencies, scarcity of products and resources, potentially dangerous issues that could lead to litigious action, and a lengthy procurement process. Of the conditions observed, those that fall into the dangerous and hazardous category are of acute concern. These areas require renewed and serious attention as some situations border on peril. Maintenance services must be timely and ongoing to reduce the myriad of current problems. Additionally, service options and remediation plans should be identified and shared to prepare for new and ever-evolving issues. The committee strongly recommends expediting the more pressing issues at specific schools to ensure safe environments and prevent disruption of programs as well as addressing common concerns which affect all students and personnel. The SPF Committee looks forward to continued dialogue and progress toward safe, healthy schools.

APPENDICES

St. Croix Educational Complex August 2, 2023

















Eulalie Rivera Elementary School August 2, 2023















Claude O. Markoe

Laborer To-Do List for Starters

Blast entrance and all walkways (bird poop)
Paint Exterior Walls on Each Wing
Paint hopscotch stencils 200, 300, 400 wings
Blast-Paint Windows on All Wings
Paint Exterior Walls at Front of School
Stencil Room Numbers on Doors/Walls of Each Classroom
Clean all A/Cs (start with 300 wing)
Install fire extinguishers in all rooms
Change locks – 2 emergency rooms, 1 back gate, 901 back door, 902 door (Phillipus), 1 storage room near Greene's room.
Cafeteria (road side) – Install missing louvers, straighten bent ones.

blast/paint windows

decorative block wall – fix (cut tree or build around it)
Exterior Gate – bend to straighten
Main entrance gate – weld

Main entrance gate – weld Rolling gate – install wheels/paint

Clean bin area
Stage door – clear (declutter)
Paint wall
Block wall – paint
Exterior wall by rolling gate – paint
Wall above mural – blast/paint
window – blast/paint
Inside cafeteria – declutter
Paint all walls
Fix missing louvers.

Assess toilet paper, paper towel dispensers in all student restrooms-install where needed

100wing Blast/Paint Windows

Paint wall near girl's restroom and by emergency room (rust stains)

Paint bench near north gate Walkway – rust stain

107 2 missing floor tiles

Install white boards

Install cubby door and paint

106 grout border tiles (under short windows)

Termites, Tiles need to be re-done/replace missing tiles

Fix cracks by door near computer drop





Date and Misonehead

Andread Francisco

104 Borer tiles

Secure chalkboard holder Emergency Rooms – declutter PE Rooms, Rest Room - Assess

200wing

Blast/paint windows

Paint wall - water rust stains on exterior

Paint bench by tree

Teacher Lounge1 - paint lockers

Paint window frame Dump 5-draw cabinet Paint newly installed door

Toilet - base - (re)paint same or different color

Teacher Lounge 2, mount mirror

Fix bent louver (screws missing)

206 mount exterior door Paint adjoining door

208 mount exterior door

209 ceiling patch/paint

Cover and paint hole by projector

300wing

Trim Hedges 307 secure screen

07 secure screen
Paint spot near board

305 secure screen

304 secure screen

Replace all 6 window winders

Fix bent louver

300 (library area) paint fascia board

Paint exterior overhang

Springer's room (A/c status?)

Clean top of light fixture

Donawa - A/c not work - blades are dry rotted

Clean top of light fixture

Scrub walkway Paint bench

Blast/paint windows

400wing

Clean A/Cs

Clean Fans

Remove Broken Sidewalk Paint wall – rust stains Blast/paint windows

405 Replace screen door

8/2/2023, 11:51 AM



Check A/C paint cubby (book shelf Secure chalk holder

403 screen

404

Fix cement by wall/computer drop

Check a/c running water

402 install all screens Paint restroom Termites

500wing

Computer Lab - ceiling tiles

Exterior ceiling walkway along SPED and ESL (scrape and paint)

Wall - paint (exterior - 500 wing)

Blast/paint windows

SPED - clean Sky window

Paint ceiling near storage room Replace 2 floor tiles near sink Storage area (tiles needed) Termite treatment needed

Remove paint on floor outside door Remove chalkboard -- install whiteboard

Block tiles along walkway - paint

Gym

paint front and sides (scaffold needed)- Ask contractor for match color

600

700 remove water fountain/paint

900 Garden - replace lattice,

901 remove books to classrooms. Declutter

902 missing tile s- replace 7

Pick up Trash/leaves from front
Hedges – 300 wing trim
North fence – clean/clear, cut overgrown tree back.
Trees behind kitchen – clean area.
Garden trim trees, prune plants

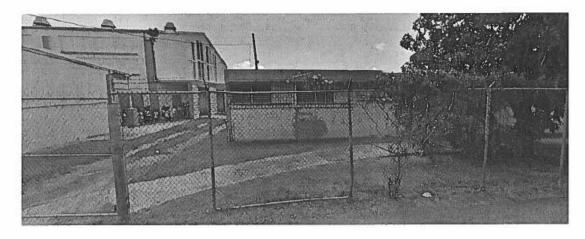
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AC Units In classrooms

Room 501 A (SPED)	AC not working
Room 602	AC's are Dirty (2)
Room 309	No AC unit in room
Room 904	AC Is tripping

Air conditioned needs for Claude O. Markoe School

Room	Quantity
401	1
402	2
403	2
308	1
309	1
903	2
Main Office	1
601	2
505 (Server Room)	1
TOTAL	13



Site View

1 of 1 8/2/2023, 12:02 PM



BID

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Attachment A: Itemized Bid Sheet / Engineering Estimate

Design-Build Septic Installation at Claudo Markoe Elementary School St. Croix School District

The work to these facilities will be required to be 100% complete by the firm deadline of November 1, 2023.

BASE BID ITEMS

No.	Description	Specifics	Qty.	Units	Unit Price	Total Price	
1.	MOBILIZATION	10% of the Base Bld	1	Each	\$9,552.50	\$9,552.50	
	SITEWORK					1102	
2.	Excavation for digging trench, and cleaning work area.		450	LF	\$25.00	\$11,250.00	
3.	Installation of erosion control measures (Silt Fence) on each side of open trench.		900	LF	\$3.00	\$2,700.00	
4.	No. 67 stone for bedding material and pipe support up to the crown of new 8" SDR PVC sanitary pipe line, +/- 12 inch of stone.		63	CY	\$75.00	\$4,725.00	
5.	Installation of 8" SDR sewer line. Backfill fill open trench and compact soil to 95% density.		450	LF	\$120.00	\$54,000.00	
6.	Install new (2) Two complete transition manhole to include bench. PVC insert, bench epoxy.		10	VTF	\$1,500.00	\$15,000.00	
7.	Connection on new 8" line to (2) Two transition manhole.		2	EA	\$800.00	\$1,600.00	
8.	Cutting and replacing 40ft x 3ft concrete sidewalks throughout the project location. To Include: Forming of area. 4 mil plastic sheeting 4 x 8 wire mesh 3000 PSI Concrete		50	LF	\$95.00	\$4,750.00	
	SITE RESTORATION						
9.	General clean-up of all debris and legally dispose to landfill.		1	LS	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
	LUMP SUM COST of Construction for completing entire project WITHOUT ALTERNATES:						

1

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0.	Description	Specifics	Qty.	Units	Unit Price	Total Price
Certified	Correct:					-
(License	d Contractor's Signature)	(Date)				
(Compar	ny)	Wh. 19				
)		-	-		

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2 of 4

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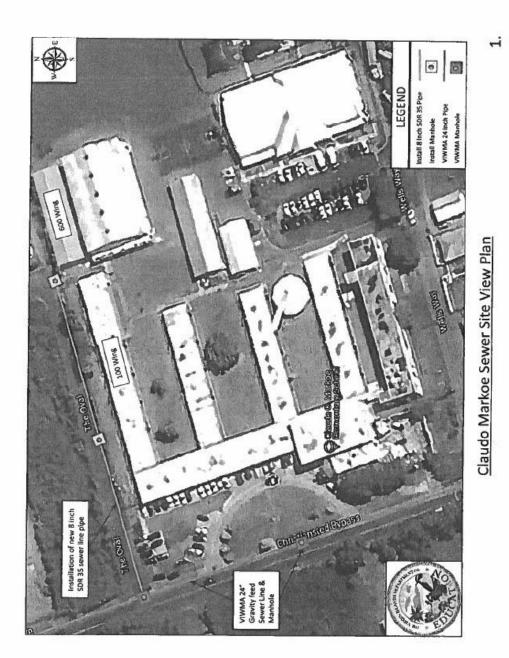
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NOTES

CONTRACTOR SHALL ADHERE TO ALL DEPARTMENT AND PROCUREMENT'S STANDARD BID FORM
REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT'S STANDARD GENERAL
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS.

- CONTRACTOR'S BID SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED IF ITEMIZED BID SHEET IS NOT FULLY COMPLETED WITH BOTH UNIT PRICE AND TOTAL PRICE.
- 3. THE QUANTITIES NOTED ABOVE ARE NOT NECESSARILY EXACT, AND THE ITEMS NOTED DO NOT NECESSARILY MAKE UP ALL THE WORK REQUIRED, OR NOTED IN THE SPECIFICATIONS AND DRAWINGS, FOR THE COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION AND PROPER OPERATION OF THE PROJECT. THE ITEMS NOTED, WILL BE USED IN ESTABLISHING IF THE COST, WHICH ARE BEING SUBMITTED BY THE BIDDER, ARE WITHIN THE CURRENT ACCEPTABLE PRICES BEING USED IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS CONSTRUCTION MARKET. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBMITTING A TOTAL LUMP SUM COST FOR THE COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT.
- 4. IT IS THE CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ESTABLISH EXACT QUANTITIES BASED ON DOCUMENTS ISSUED AND SITE VISITS CARRIED OUT, FOR A TOTAL LUMP SUM COST TO CONSTRUCT THE PROJECT.
- 5. ADD ALTERNATES SHALL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL LUMP SUM COST OF CONSTRUCTION. THE ADD ALTERNATE ITEMS ARE FOR UTILIZATION IN THE EVENT THAT ADDITIONAL WORK OR ADJUSTMENT OF THE CONTRACTED WORK IS REQUIRED, DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT.
- 6. ALL PRICES BEING SUBMITTED FOR WORK TO BE DONE SHALL INCLUDE THE CONTRACTOR'S OVERHEAD TAXES AND PROFIT ALONG WITH ALL COSTS FOR MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER NECESSARY TO FACILITATE PROPER, SAFE, AND TIMELY COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT.
- 7. UNIT PRICES SUBMITTED ON THE ITEMIZED BID SHEET SHALL BE UTILIZED FOR ANY CREDITS OR DEBITS TO THE PROJECT; WHICH, IF NECESSARY, SHALL BE ADDRESSED AS A CHANGE ORDER TO THE PROJECT.

4



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BID

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Attachment A: Itemized Bid Sheet

Design-Build

Septic Installation at Claudo Markoe Elementary School St. Croix School District

The work to these facilities will be required to be 100% complete by the firm deadline of November 1, 2023

BASE BID ITEMS

No.	Description	Specifics	Qty.	Units	Unit Price	Total Price
1.	MOBILIZATION	10% of the Base Bid	1	Each		
	SITEWORK					
2.	Excavation for digging trench, and cleaning work area.	150000 TO	450	LF		
3.	Installation of erosion control measures (Silt Fence) on each side of open trench.		900	LF		
4.	No. 67 stone for bedding material and pipe support up to the crown of new 8" SDR PVC sanitary pipe line, +/- 12 inch of stone.		63	CY		13
S.	Installation of 8" SDR sewer line. Backfill fill open trench and compact soil to 95% density.		450	LF		
6.	Install new (2) Two complete transition manhole to include bench. PVC insert, bench epoxy.		10	VTF		
7.	Connection on new 8" line to (2) Two transition manhole.		2	EA		
8.	Cutting and replacing 40ft x 3ft concrete sidewalks throughout the project location. To Include: Forming of area. 4 mil plastic sheeting 4 x 8 wire mesh 3000 PSI Concrete		50	LF		
	SITE RESTORATION		NIX.			
9.	General clean-up of all debris and legally dispose to landfill.		1	LS		
	LUMP SUM COST of Construction for compl	leting entire p	roject W	ITHOUT A	ALTERNATES:	\$

1

э.	Description	Spec	fics	Qty.	Units	Unit Price	Total Price
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(License	d Contractor's Signature)	(Date)					
(Compar			_			-	
1							
(Address)						

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VIWMA GIS Sewer Line Site Map

Claude O. Markoe Elementary School August 2, 2023















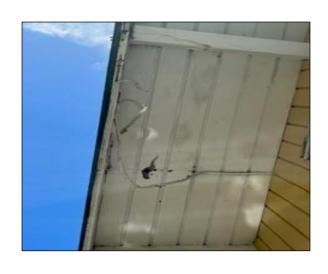
Jane E Tuitt Elementary School August 8, 2023













Ulla F. Muller Elementary School August 8, 2023























Joseph Sibilly Elementary School August 8, 2023























Yvonne E. Milliner- Bowsky Elementary School August 8, 2023















Joseph Gomez Elementary School August 9, 2023













Charlotte Amalie High School August 9, 2023























Lockhart Elementary School August 9, 2023













Edith L. Williams Alternative Academy August 9, 2023











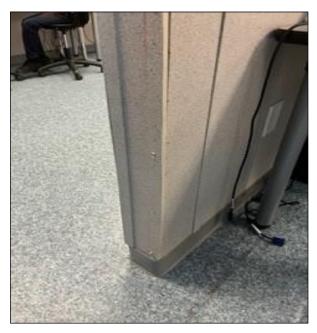


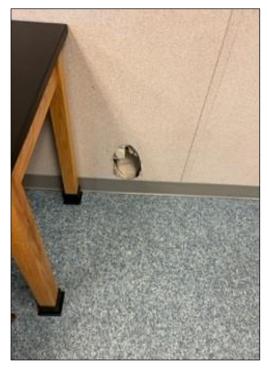




Julius Sprauve School August 10, 2023









Ivanna Eudora Kean High School August 10, 2023



















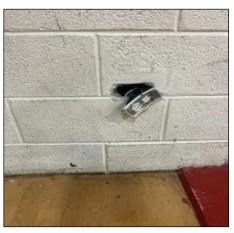


Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School August 10, 2023

















St Croix Career & Technical Center August 14, 2023





























Ricardo Richards Elementary School August 14, 2023

























Alternative Education August 14, 2023









Youth Rehabilitation Center 8/14/23 ** no pictures are allowed**

Lew Muckle Elementary School

August 15, 2023





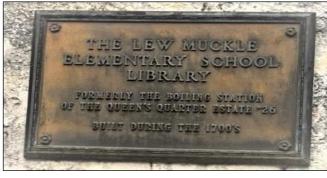




















Juanita Gardine Elementary School August 15, 2023



























Pearl B. Larsen Elementary School

August 15, 2023









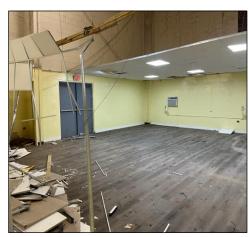




















St Croix Central High School

August 16, 2023































Alfredo Andrews Elementary School August 16, 2023































John H. Woodson Junior High School August 16, 2023































2023 SCHOOL MAINTENANCE SUMMARY

St. Croix

- **P.B. Larsen** repair 3 classes in gymnasium, water running on floor, playground, kitchen equipment installation, music room flooding
- **J. Gardine** Gymnasium lighting, isolated water leaks, kitchen equipment installation
- **L. Muckle** use for historical areas (former library, former office)
- **R. Richards** removal of trailers, auditorium, kitchen equipment installation, flooring for play areas
- **A. Andrews** removal of tree (destruction to walkway), air conditioning in auditorium, and kitchen equipment installation
- E. R. Rivera mold, kitchen equipment installation, remove building from field
- C. O. Markoe play areas (primary and intermediate), AC, gate in rear of school,
- **J. H. Woodson** need for rest rooms in or near gymnasium, (trailers at Central) electrical hazards on back wing, stage construction (dangerous cracks) need for surface mounts in music room, kitchen equipment installation

Central – construction of new school, termites, music building repairs, NO school library, NO intercom kitchen equipment installation

Complex – air conditioning in music band area, spouting entire school, lights in gym courtyard, score board repair, rodents

C Tech – roofing in multiple areas, tiling, removal of debris, repair of outside stage, renovation of school trade areas

Alternative – renovation kitchen and cafeteria area, renovation of former office, renovation of historic building, recreation area, parking area,

YRC – removal of trailer

St. Thomas – St. John

- **J. E. Tuitt** roofing entrance building, sinking building, install screens,
- **J. Sibilly** remove rusty generator, roofing /concerning about collapsing, need for play area, lower buildings roofing & building compromise
- J. A. Gomez security gut, play areas, remove building, mold remediation, generator
- Y. M. Bowsky completion of home economics room,
- **J. E. Sprauve** rebuilding of new school, kitchen repair
- **CAHS** renovation of electrical classrooms, renovation of gymnasium, NO bleachers, renovation and security system for Male bathroom which is constantly destroyed, repairing walkway surface,
- **I. E. Kean** repair of trade areas classrooms near JROTC area, air conditioning, tiling
- **BCB** electrical work needed, office area in kitchen
- **E. L. Williams** electrical areas, standing debris, play equipment fit for elementary school, play area needed for high school students

CAPTIAL PROJECTS & NEW SCHOOLS LISTING

STTJ Schools	Major Issues
--------------	--------------

J. E. Tuitt Roof leaking - 1st building near entrance

Main office building sinking

U. F. Muller Behind kitchen – gate needed to isolate /restrict entrance by

students

J. Sibilly Building near main office ROOF damaged and falling hazard

Y.M. Bowsky Complete home economics room

J. A. Gomez New play equipment;

Fencing for playground near gut Demolish old home economics bldg.

CAHS Bleachers,

Repair electrical classroom Surveillance boys bathroom

Lockhart PE corridor need division into 5 classroom:

Two (2) compromised trailers demolish

E. Williams Needs developmentally appropriate play area

Julius E. Sprauve Demolish old school

I. E. Kean Roofing to Facilitate trade classes

BCB Land usage

STX Schools Major Issues

Complex Music Suite - Air Condition

Intercom system;

Courtyard by gymnasium lighting Gym score board not operable

E. R. Rivera Demolish building near field

Install Kitchen equipment

C. O. Markoe Install Kitchen equipment.

Create primary playground

Create intermediate playground

C-Tech Major roofing repair

Extensive tiling

Remove damaged stage

Remove debris from grounds

R. Ricardo Playground flooring near office, flooring for play equipment

Remove abandon trailers

YRC Remove trailer

Alternative Address Great house and Office building;

Recreational area

Renovate cafeteria area

L. Muckle Repair Old Library – new purpose

Repair old office building new purpose

P. B. Larsen Gymnasium – 3 classrooms

Refurbish Playground

Central Intercom system

Repair old library for music suite & Teacher's Lounge

A. Alfredo Remove tree from uprooting sidewalk

J. H. Woodson Corridor (back wing) major leaks by sewing class

Corridor by old gymnasium water leaks

Old gymnasium refurbishment, hurricane shelter

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