

**GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION**



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Sandra Bess
Director Business & Finance

St. Croix Office
1115 Strand Street
Suite 201-B
Christiansted, VI 00820
Telephone No. 340-772-4144

St. Thomas Office
P.O Box 11900
Dronningens Gade
Nos. 60B, 61 & 62
St. Thomas, VI 00801
Telephone No. 340-774-4546

WEBSITE
www.myviboe.com

**Minutes
Regular Meeting – March 24, 2023**

- I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chair Kyza Callwood.
- II. Roll Call
The following were present: Kyza Callwood, Shawna K. Richards, Emmanuella Perez-Cassius, Winona Hendricks, Terrence Joseph, Nandi Sekou and Arah C. Lockhart. Member Judy Gomez was late.
- Staff Present: IED Bess and AED Prentice
Stenographer: Ms. Warner
- III. Approval of Agenda
- MOTION: Member Lockhart moved to approve the agenda.
SECOND: Vice-Chair Perez-Cassius
Objection : Member Sekou, who requested three items on the agenda.
- Atty. Jones said the bylaws do not allow action on the agenda if all members are not present.
- The motion was withdrawn.
- MOTION : Member Joseph moved to amend the agenda
SECOND: Vice-Chair Perez-Cassius
- Voting was as follows :
Yea (8) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, A. Lockhart, J. Gomez, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius and N. Sekou.
- MOTION : Member Lockhart moved to approve the agenda as amended
SECOND: Vice-Chair Perez-Cassius
- Voting was as follows :
Yea (8) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, A. Lockhart, J. Gomez, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius and N. Sekou.

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.

IV. Approval of Minutes

MOTION : Member Gomez moved to approve the February 21, 2023 minutes, as presented.

SECOND: Member Lockhart

Voting was as follows :

Yea (8) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, A. Lockhart, J. Gomez, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius and N. Sekou.

V. Matters Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

VI. Correspondence and Interim Executive Director's Report

Interim Executive Director Bess presented correspondence and the IED's report. Associated Executive Director Prentice reported on her activities since coming on Board on March 13, 2023, which included meeting with all divisions. Her recommendations included collections incentives, contract collector training and phone upgrades. AED Prentice also said that she wanted to meet with Board members and committee chairs individually.

Ms. Parsons presented the financial report. The expenditure report was not included in the management report. There were no budget overruns for the fiscal year, to date.

Chair Callwood congratulated Bess, Prentice and Parson on their presentation and commended Prentice for her work on the bill testimony.

Discussion arising from the IED's report was:

Hendricks – status of building in Hogensborg. IED Bess said the lease was sent for review. Hendricks asked what the Board needs to do to retain Brian Turnbull and is concerned about the loss of Legislature funds.

Sekou- deadline for hiring the ED. Chair Callwood said the position is open until filled.

MOTION: Member Sekou moved for the Board's approval for the IED to obtain three proposals for IT service providers for the VIBE.

SECOND: Chair Callwood

Voting was as follows :

Yea (8) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, A. Lockhart, J. Gomez, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius and N. Sekou.

MOTION: Member Sekou moved that the Board review the job description for the Executive Director be advertised by April 11 and that the position is advertised.

SECOND: Member Joseph

Voting was as follows :

Yea (5) – W. Hendricks, S. Richards, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius and N. Sekou.

Nay – K. Callwood and J. Gomez

Not Voting – A. Lockhart

VII. Legal Counsel's Report

Atty. Jones updated on VI History and PERB cases. Sekou asked that court documents be provided to the Board, referencing the Johnson bill.

VIII. Committee Reports

School, Plants and Facilities

Member Hendricks reported on the committee's activities. She said they want data on freshmen entering skills courses at UVI and asked for Board input on SMAR definitions.

Certification

Member Sekou reported that the Committee has set their priorities and has vetted candidates and met with representatives of REL-NAI.

MOTION: Member Sekou moved to allow for conditional certification for Early Childhood who have not met all requirements and to waive the \$30 fee when they apply for regular certification.

SECOND: Member Hendricks

Voting was as follows :

Yea (8) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, A. Lockhart, J. Gomez, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius and N. Sekou.

Finance

Member Richards reported that there were no pending collection issues. She reported the need to revisit the statute of limitations and fast track the online payment portal. She also said that collections staff is needed to support the records review to ensure that files are accurate before reporting accounts to the credit bureau.

MOTION: Member Richards moved to exempt applicants to Wheatley Center from submitting the EFC (FAFSA).

SECOND: Chair Callwood

Voting was as follows :

Yea (8) – K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, A. Lockhart, J. Gomez, T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius and N. Sekou.

Member Sekou asked about a push to drive scholarships since numbers were low. IED Bess said that digital billboard ads will run through April 21.

Policies, Rules and Regulations

Member Perez-Cassius reported that the committee will be meeting in April.

IX. Discussion

Member Sekou asked how staff travel to NSBA was determined and referenced the travel policy. Member Richards questioned the unilateral decisions being made by the Chair. Atty. Jones said some decisions are the purview of the Executive Director.

X. Public Comment

A member of the public commented on the financial aid application, and said it should not be considered incomplete until after the April deadline.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION: Member Lockhart moved to adjourn
SECOND:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Submitted By:



Shawna K. Richards, PMP, Secretary