

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



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**Minutes
Regular Meeting – September 5, 2023**

- I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Chair Kyza Callwood.
- II. Roll Call
The following were present: Kyza Callwood, Emmanuella Perez-Cassius, Shawna K. Richards, Arah C. Lockhart, Winona A. Hendricks, Terrence Joseph, and Nandi Sekou, Esq. Mbr. Judy M. Gomez, Esq. joined after the roll call.
- Staff Present: IED Bess, AED Prentice
Legal Counsel: Atty. J. Jones
Stenographer:
- III. Approval of Agenda
- MOTION: Vice-Chair Perez Cassius moved to approve the agenda
SECOND: Mbr. Lockhart Hendricks
- Yea (5) –K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, A. Lockhart, and E. Perez-Cassius
Not Voting (2) – T. Joseph and N. Sekou
Absent (1) – J. Gomez
- The motion carried.
- IV. Review and Approval of Minutes
- The motion made by Mbr. Lockhart (p.4) incorrectly listed the scholarship cycle. The dates are correctly December 1 and April 1.
- Mbr. Sekou asked about a motion waiving student teaching requirements. The motion was not recorded.
- MOTION: Mbr. Hendricks moved to accept the Sept. 5, 2023 meeting minutes, as corrected.
SECOND: Mbr. Richards

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.

Yea (7) –K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, A. Lockhart, S. Richards. N. Sekou, and T. Joseph
Absent (1) – J. Gomez and E. Perez-Cassius

The motion carried.

V. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

VI. Correspondence

IED Bess reviewed the correspondence. There were no questions arising from the correspondence.

VII. Interim Executive Director's Report

IED Bess report included and update on the following:

- (a) Hogensberg space is expected to be available by December 2023. Construction will be completed at no cost to the Board. The designer says that 1500 square feet is not big enough for all of VIBE's requirements and that 2500 feet would be more adequate.
- (b) Capitol Projects – Guirly House plans are completed. The revised estimate is \$575,000. The State Historic Preservation Office has approved the plans.
- (c) Disaster Recovery – IED Bess plans to request an extension of funds.

AED Prentice gave an update on the plans to execute open houses, radio tour, upcoming workshops and SPF walkthroughs.

Members discussed mold remediation for the STX and STT offices. Chair Callwood directed AED Prentice to request a quote from AdCon.

Ms. Rhymer reported briefly on financial aid. She said that staff are still reaching out on promissory agreements. Chair Callwood asked Ms. Rhymer to submit a list of any recipients who have not responded. Member Gomez asked for staff to do a notice letting people know they are eligible for COVID scholarships. Member Sekou asked that the application be updated to not say "Freshmen Only".

VIII. Legal Counsel Report

Atty. Jones updated on the case. She said the Board will need to review policies and change accordingly with the new law. The Board is also waiting for the VIDE to act on the recommended changes to distance learning.

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Schools, Plans & Facilities - Committee Chair Hendricks reported on the creation of an evaluation form and curriculum booklet.
- b. Certification – Committee Chair Sekou reported that Certification Day was a success in both districts. She said a vote for a later date would be for amnesty for people who did

not complete professional development hours or have lost proof can provide an affidavit/documentation.

MOTION: Mbr. Sekou moved to waive the student teaching requirement for teachers who have taught in the VI public school system with good or higher evaluations for 3 academic years under supervision and for national and international teachers who have taught in their respective state, the District of Columbia or foreign country, when they have good or higher evaluations for 5 academic years under supervision.

SECOND: Mbr. Hendricks

Yea (7) –K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, A. Lockhart, T. Joseph, J. Gomez and N. Sekou

Absent (1) – E. Perez-Cassius

The motion carried.

MOTION: Mbr. Joseph moved to approved STT-STJ and STX certification lists.

SECOND: Mbr. Richards

Yea (7) –K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, A. Lockhart, T. Joseph, J. Gomez and N. Sekou

Absent (1) – E. Perez-Cassius

The motion carried.

- c. Public Private Liaison – Committee Chair Lockhart said PPL wants to meet with each committee and plans to engage with PTSA's and service providers to get their message out.

MOTION: Mbr. Lockhart moved for suicide prevention messages to be aired during the month of September.

SECOND: Mbr. Joseph

Yea (7) –K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, A. Lockhart, T. Joseph, J. Gomez and N. Sekou

Absent (1) – E. Perez-Cassius

The motion carried.

- d. Finance – Committee Chair Richards commended the Financial Aid and Collections Staff for their hard work. She said the recommendations forwarded to the full Board would be discussed in Executive Session.
- e. Internal Controls – Committee Chair Gomez asked members to look at the recommended changes and be prepared to vote on them at a later date.

MOTION: Mbr. Sekou moved that the Board purchase Roberts Rules of Order and Becoming and Effective Board Member for every member.

SECOND: Mbr. Hendricks

Yea (7) –K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, A. Lockhart, T. Joseph, J. Gomez and N. Sekou

Absent (1) – E. Perez-Cassius

f. PPR – Excused

X. Public Comments

Mary Moorhead asked about the Board's position on allowing parents to visit classrooms and said the changes to the scholarship date do not align with the statute.

XI. Executive Session

MOTION: Mbr. Richards moved to go into Executive Session

SECOND: Mbr. Joseph

So ordered.

XII. Adjournment

MOTION: Mbr. Lockhart moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Mbr. Joseph

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Submitted By:



Shawna K. Richards, PMP
Secretary