

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



BOARD OFFICERS

Kyza A. Callwood, PhD
Chairman

Emmanuella Perez-Cassius
Vice-Chairman

Shawna K. Richards
Secretary

St. Croix Members
Winona A. Hendricks
Terrence T. Joseph
Emmanuella Perez-Cassius
Shawna K. Richards

St. Thomas/St. John Members
Kyza A. Callwood, PhD
Judy M. Gomez, Esq.
Nandi Sekou, Esq.
Arah C. Lockhart

Vacant
At Large Member

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
Executive Session – November 21, 2023**

The Board entered executive session at 7:59 p.m.

I. Cheray Reid Account

Mbr. Richards that the committee recommended the full discharge of the outstanding balance for Cheray Reid of \$2,951.64 in consideration of mitigating circumstances, specifically the co-signer’s claim that the loan had been paid and the board’s inability to validate the records, and the age of the loan.

MOTION: Mbr. Richards moved to discharge in full the outstanding balance for Cheray Reid.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

MOTION: Mbr. Sekou moved that the standard approach be used for loans where there is a dispute and waive 50% interest.

SECOND: Mbr. Joseph

Objection: Mbr. Richards who said that option had been considered by the committee and rejected since neither side can provide documentation.

Voting was as follows:

Yea (3) –K. Callwood, T. Joseph and N. Sekou

Nay (2) – E. Perez-Cassius and S. Richards

Not Voting (2) – W. Hendricks and J. Gomez

Absent (1) – A. Lockhart

The motion failed.

MOTION: Vice-Chair Cassius moved for the borrower to repay the principal only of \$1,202.52 within 6 months and if payment is not made then the board will proceed with corrective action.

SECOND: Mbr. Hendricks

Objection: Mbr. Gomez (before timeline and corrective action added)

Voting was as follows:

Yea (2) –W. Hendricks and E. Perez-Cassius

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.

Nay (3) – K. Callwood, S. Richards and J. Gomez
Not Voting (2) – T. Joseph and N. Sekou
Excused (1) – A. Lockhart

The motion failed.

II. Denise Russell Account

MOTION: Mbr. Richards moved to discharge the \$25 balance for Denise Russell
SECOND: Mbr. Joseph

Voting was as follows:

Yea (6) –K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards, J. Gomez, T. Joseph and N. Sekou
Not Voting (1) – E. Perez-Cassius
Excused (1) – A. Lockhart

The motion carried.

III. Laurie Ryan Ruznack Account

The committee was asked to verify the bankruptcy notice for Ms. Ruznack before acting on the balance of \$4,335.30.

MOTION: Mbr. Richards moved to charge off the balance as part of the bankruptcy proceedings.
SECOND: Mbr. Joseph
Objection: Mbr. Gomez said the bankruptcy report should make the decision whether to discharge and the board should check with the court.

Voting was as follows:

Yea (2) –T. Joseph and S. Richards
Nay (4) – k. Callwood, J. Gomez, E. Perez-Cassius and N. Sekou
Not Voting (1) – W. Hendricks
Excused (1) – A. Lockhart

The motion failed.

IV. Discussion of COVID Scholarship

Mbr. Sekou referenced the motion made in May and confusion whether the low GPA accommodation also applied to the COVID scholarship. She said the Board shouldn't be returning funds to the federal government and students with low GPA's should be eligible. Mbr. Gomez said the Board would need to go back to OMB if there were changes and get consent.

MOTION: Mbr. Sekou moved that students with low GPA's also receive the COVID scholarship if they filled out the application.
SECOND: Mbr. Joseph

Voting was as follows:

Yea (3) – T. Joseph, E. Perez-Cassius and N. Sekou

Nay (3) – K. Callwood, J. Gomez and S. Richards

Not Voting (1) – W. Hendricks

Excused (1) – A. Lockhart

The motion failed.

Mbr. Sekou said she wanted the record to reflect that the Board decided to let funds be returned to the federal government instead of awarding it to students in need. Chair Callwood objected to the statement.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Mbr. Gomez moved to come out of Executive Session.

SECOND: Chair Callwood.

The motion carried.

Submitted By:



Shawna K. Richards, PMP
Secretary