

**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
Regular Meeting – November 21, 2023**

- I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Chair Kyza Callwood.
- II. Roll Call
The following were present: Kyza Callwood, Emmanuella Perez-Cassius, Shawna K. Richards, Winona A. Hendricks and Terrence Joseph, and Nandi Sekou, Esq. Judy Gomez and Nandi Sekou joined after roll call.
Absent/Excused: Arah C. Lockhart

Staff Present: IED Bess, AED Prentice
Legal Counsel: Atty. J. Jones
Stenographer: Ms. Porter
- III. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Member Joseph moved to accept the agenda as presented
SECOND: Vice-Chair Perez-Cassius

Yea (4) –K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, . Joseph and E. Perez-Cassius
Nay (1) – T. Joseph
Absent (3) – A. Lockhart, J. Gomez and N. Sekou

The motion carried.
- IV. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mbr. Joseph moved to accept the Sept. 5, 2023 regular meeting minutes
SECOND: Mbr. Hendricks

Yea (5) –K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards. T. Joseph and E. Perez-Cassius
Absent (2) – J. Gomez and N. Sekou
Excused (1) – A. Lockhart

The motion carried.

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.

MOTION: Mbr. Joseph moved to accept the October 31, 2023 minutes
SECOND: Mbr. Richards

Yea (5) –K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, S. Richards. T. Joseph and E. Perez-Cassius
Absent (2) – J. Gomez and N. Sekou
Excused (1) – A. Lockhart

The motion carried.

V. Matters Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

VI. Correspondence

Chair Callwood asked members to hold any questions on correspondence until the end of the meeting, to allow for the presentations scheduled during the Chair's report to proceed.

VII. Chair's Report

a. Presentation – UVI School of Education

Dean Brown presented a proposal for special certification for UVI teacher candidates. She noted that 80 percent of VIDE teachers are not certified. The proposal is intended to increase the numbers of teachers, as well as the number of teachers who are certified. Dean Brown noted that similar measures are being implemented across the mainland to recruit teachers and address a nationwide shortage.

Members asked questions and discussed targeting students who express an interest in teaching on their graduation exit plan, incentivizing the program through compensation and program cost. Mbr. Sekou was asked to discuss the proposal further in her committee.

b. Update – St. Croix Superintendent

Dr. Monique Faulkner, State Director of Career and Technical Education discussed the VIDE's initiative to standardize CTE across the two school districts and presented a proposal for the alignment of CTE courses with core academic courses. Vice-Chair Perez Cassius will discuss the proposal further in her committee.

VIII. IED Report

IED Bess reported on activities between August and October, which included an update on VIBE's office space in both districts, IT providers and capital projects. IED Bess also gave a financial report. Ms. Rhymer updated on the territorial scholarship program, retro val-sal payments and COVID payments.

Mbr. Richards asked about compliance with the motion to publicize scholarship recipients. Atty. Jones reminded members about federal laws against identifying students. Chair Callwood asked

Atty. Jones to work with the IED to make sure there are nothing is being violated in publishing the scholarship recipients.

Mbr. Sekou asked for a reconciliation of the FirstBank account and the status of the COVID scholarship funds. IED Bess reported that 395 of 466 applications were completed, and staff was following up with the students with incomplete applications. Mbr. Sekou asked about the students with G.P.A.'s below 2.0. IED Bess said that letters were sent to those students. Mbr. Sekou said she would leave her other questions to executive session.

Mbr. Hendricks asked for a floor plan for the Hogensberg building and ADA compliance with the lift.

IX. Legal Counsel's Report

Atty. Jones gave a status report on Moorehead v. Board of Education and the promulgation of the Disciplinary Policy. She reminded members that they would need to incorporate recent changes to the VI History and curriculum into the promotion and graduation requirements.

X. Standing and AD-Hoc Committee Reports

a. Schools, Plants and Facilities

Mbr. Hendricks reported on the committee's approach to the Act 8717 requirements and intention to create a survey to assess if parents and students are aware, informed or engaged.

MOTION: Mbr. Hendricks moved to use the academic walkthrough checklist as part of the school evaluation process for the VIBE.

SECOND: Chair Callwood

Yea (5) –K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, J. Gomez, T. Joseph and N. Sekou

No (1) – S. Richards

Not Voting (1) – E. Perez-Cassius

Excused (1) – A. Lockhart

The motion carried.

MOTION: Mbr. Hendricks moved to use the parent and student survey as part of the school evaluation process.

SECOND: Vice-Chair Perez-Cassius

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

Excused (1) – A. Lockhart

The motion carried.

MOTION: Member Hendricks moved to request quotes for technical assistance for Survey Monkey and related programs and technical support to assist with collating parent information.

SECOND: Vice-Chair Perez-Cassius

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

Excused (1) – A. Lockhart

The motion carried.

b. Professional Staff Certification and Higher Education

Mbr. Sekou reported on committee review of the St. Croix and St. Thomas-St. John district candidates for certification.

MOTION: Mbr. Sekou moved to accept the certification candidates

SECOND: Chair Callwood

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

Excused (1) – A. Lockhart

The motion carried.

Mbr. Sekou thanked Ms. Francis for organizing the VIBE's participation in the TEACH workshops and said there was strong interest from the attendees in being fully certified and alternatives to certification.

c. Public/Private Liaison

AED Prentice presented for Mbr. Lockhart and reported that the committee worked on press releases, partnered with banks on financial literacy and engaged with PTA's.

d. Finance and Collections

Mbr. Richards reported that the committee met on November 1 and November 17 to discuss collections and language to clarify a motion passed in the May meeting regarding low G.P.A. applicants. The collection items will be discussed in executive session.

MOTION: Mbr. Richards moved that for the upcoming scholarship cycle, accommodations can be considered for scholarship recipients who are reapplying for funding whose G.P.A. is no lower than 1.5 and have submitted a written statement indicating their circumstances. This does not apply to new applicants.

SECOND: Chair Callwood

Yea (5) –K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, J. Gomez, E. Perez-Cassius, and S. Richards

No (1) – T. Joseph

Not Voting (1) – N. Sekou

Excused (1) – A. Lockhart

The motion carried.

e. Internal Controls

Internal Controls did not meet since the last meeting and had no report.

f. Policies, Rules and Regulations

Vice-Chair Perez-Cassius reported on the committee's work to update the 6-8 policy.

MOTION: Vice-Chair Perez-Cassius moved to accept the 6th-8th policy and forward to community and legal counsel for review for 45 days.

SECOND: Chair Callwood

Voting was as follows:

Yea (6) –K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, J. Gomez, E. Perez-Cassius, S. Richards and N. Sekou

No (1) – T. Joseph

Excused (1) – A. Lockhart

The motion carried.

Vice-Chair Perez-Cassius asked the Chair for urgency on the policies awaiting promulgation in the Lt. Governor's Office.

XI. Public Comment

Comments were made by Genevieve Whitaker, in her capacity as a member of the CTE Board. She said the Board has been working collaboratively with the VIDE on a CT state plan. Mary Moorehead asked if the Board has a policy for addressing public comments and if PRR is open to reviewing the cell phone policy, which the Commissioner has mentioned. AED Prentice said an invitation has been sent to the school monitors for a meeting on cell phones and other policy related items.

Ms. Noorhassan, President of the Ricardo Richards PTA thanked the Board for the invite and valuable information and said she would be following up on the walkthrough.

XII. Executive Session

MOTION: Chair Callwood moved to go into Executive Session.

SECOND: Mbr. Joseph

Voting was as follows:

Yea (6) –K. Callwood, W. Hendricks, J. Gomez, T. Joseph, S. Richards and N. Sekou

Absent (1) – E. Perez-Cassius

Excused (1) – A. Lockhart

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:59 p.m.

The Board returned to regular session. Mbr. Richards reported that the Board addressed collection matters.

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION: Mbr. Joseph moved to adjourn.
SECOND: Mbr. Sekou

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted By:



Shawna K. Richards, PMP
Secretary