

# 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  
**Interim Executive Director**

Samanta Prentice  
**Associate Executive Director**

## 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](http://www.myviboe.com)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (NO. 20-2024)

August 1, 2024

Contact: Sandra Bess, Interim Executive Director

[sbess@myviboe.com](mailto:sbess@myviboe.com)

340-774-4546, ext. 4625/340-473-7596

[www.myviboe.com](http://www.myviboe.com)

### **Chairman Dr. Kyza A. Callwood Welcomes the Virgin Islands Community to a New School Year**

**St. Thomas, USVI** – As the summer winds down and a new school year approach, Dr. Kyza A. Callwood, Chairman of the Virgin Islands Board of Education, extends a warm and enthusiastic welcome to students, parents, educators, and the entire Virgin Islands community. Dr. Callwood is excited about the upcoming academic year and encourages everyone to embrace the opportunities and challenges. His message underscores the importance of community collaboration in fostering a positive and productive educational environment.

“To our amazing students, this year is your canvas, and you are the artists. Paint it with bold colors of curiosity, passion, and perseverance. Every lesson learned, and every challenge overcome is a step closer to your dreams. Believe in your potential, for you are the architects of a brighter tomorrow,” Dr. Callwood said. He also highlighted the crucial role of parents and guardians, stating, “Your unwavering support and encouragement are the bedrock of our students’ success. Together, we create a nurturing environment where dreams take flight, and futures are forged. Thank you for being our partners in this incredible journey.” Addressing teachers and school staff, Dr. Callwood emphasized their vital contribution: “Your commitment to igniting minds and shaping futures is nothing short of heroic. As you step into your classrooms, remember that you are not just teaching subjects—you are empowering our children to think big, aim high, and reach for the stars. Please remember to practice self-care, nurture your well-being, and take the time to recharge. Your health and happiness are vital to the success of our schools.”

Dr. Callwood also acknowledged the essential role of school administrators and guidance counselors: “Your leadership and support are the pillars that uphold our educational system. You ensure that our schools run smoothly and that our students receive the guidance and support they need to thrive. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we are deeply grateful for your unwavering dedication.” This year, the Virgin Islands Board of Education aims to cultivate a culture of kindness, innovation, and resilience. Dr. Callwood expressed optimism for the school year ahead, encouraging the community to turn challenges into opportunities and to celebrate every achievement, big or small.

“On behalf of the Virgin Islands Board of Education, I wish you all a school year filled with discovery, growth, and joy. Let’s make this year a masterpiece of learning and success!” Dr. Callwood concluded.

###

#### **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.