

# Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands

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SENATOR  
DISTRICT OF ST. CROIX



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## Committee on Education & Workforce Development

Monday, July 31, 2023

10:00 AM

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room  
St. Croix, USVI

### Revised Meeting Agenda

#### BLOCK I:

The Committee will receive a status update from the Virgin Islands Department of the Education and the Virgin Islands Board of Education on the following:

1. Information on summer enrichment programs and after-school programs.
2. Current status of school facilities and assessment of school readiness.
3. Latest data on teacher vacancies; recruitment efforts and unfilled positions on the overall education system. Data on student enrollment, information on assignment and reassignment of principals and any initiatives or programs aimed at enhancing school leadership and administration.
4. A detailed breakdown of federal grants and utilization of funds for their respective purposes or programs they support. Each school proposed plan to utilize the \$250,000 in ARPA funds.
5. A comprehensive report on the availability, accessibility, and quality of Pre-K programs.
6. Major priorities of the Board of Education for the **2023-2024** school year.
7. Concerns or issues that should be brought to the attention of the Legislature.

#### **Invited Testifiers:**

**Honorable Dr. Dionne Wells-Hedrington**, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Education  
**Dr. Kyza A. Callwood**, Chairman, Virgin Islands Board of Education

**CHAIRPERSON**  
Committee on Education  
& Workforce Development

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON**  
Committee on Housing, Transportation  
& Telecommunications

**SECRETARY**  
Intergovernmental Relations  
& Territorial Affairs

**MEMBER**  
Committee on Disaster Recovery  
& Infrastructure/DPNR  
Committee on Health, Hospitals  
& Human Services  
Committee on Rules & Judiciary

*My Island. My People. My Concern.*

**BLOCK II:**

**Bill No. 35-0082**, “An Act amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 9, Subchapter I, section 91 to limit the expulsion and suspension of students in pre-kindergarten through third grade and amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 11, by adding a section to make a course in mitigating behavioral issues and misconduct in the classroom for school-based professionals a requirement.” **Proposed by Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory**

**Invited Testifiers:**

**Honorable Dr. Dionne Wells-Hedrington**, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Education  
**Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion**, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Health