



36th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands

Committee on Education and Workforce Development

MEMBERS

KURT A. VIALET

Chairman

senatorvialet@legvi.org
(340) 773-2424 ext. 2379

Senator Avery L. Lewis
Vice Chair

senatoraverylewis@legvi.org
(340) 774-0880 ext. 3512

Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff
ddegtraff@legvi.org
(340) 774-0880 ext. 3606

Senator Kenneth L. Gittens
senatorgittens@legvi.org
(340) 773-2424 ext. 2243

Senator Marise C. James
mcjames@legvi.org
(340) 773-2424 ext. 2303

Senator Carla Joseph
senatorcarlajoseph@legvi.org
(340) 774-0880 ext. 3515

Agenda

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

10:00 AM

Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, St. Thomas

The Committee will receive status updates regarding redistricting efforts, special education programs, school readiness initiatives, and school demolition and reconstruction projects.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Opening Remarks

IV. Reading of the agenda

V. Block I - Status update regarding school demolition and reconstruction projects

Invited Testifier(s):

- Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ed.D., Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Chaneel Callwood, New Schools Architect
Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Craig Benjamin, Executive Director
Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance
- Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner
Department of Planning and Natural Resources

VI. Block II – Status update regarding redistricting efforts and school readiness initiatives

Invited Testifier(s):

- Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ed.D., Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Craig Benjamin, Executive Director
Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance

VII. Block III - Status update regarding Special Education Programs

Invited Testifier(s):

- Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ed.D., Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Andrea Shillingford, Deputy Superintendent of Schools – STX
Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Kathleen Merchant, State Director of Special Education
Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Tanya Lockhart, Ph.D., Director of Special Education – St. Croix
Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Ellen Masters Director of Special Education – St. Thomas/St. John
Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Leontyne Jones, President
American Federation of Teachers – St. Thomas/St. John, Local 1825
- Tamioka Phillipus, President
American Federation of Teachers – St. Croix, Local 1826

VIII. Closing Remarks

IX. Adjournment

Thank you for your attendance and valuable contributions to the hearing