



36th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands

Committee on Education and Workforce Development

MEMBERS

KURT A. VIALET

Chairman

senatorviolet@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
ddegraff@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

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

10:00 AM

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, St. Croix

The Committee will receive status updates regarding the 2026-2027 school redistricting efforts, school readiness initiatives, and school maintenance plans.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Opening Remarks

IV. Reading of the agenda

V. Block I – Status update regarding territory-wide school redistricting efforts, the opening of new schools, and school readiness for the 2026-2027 academic year

Invited Testifier(s):

- Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ed.D., Commissioner
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

VI. Block II – Status update regarding summer maintenance and preventative maintenance plans for the 2026-2027 academic year

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

- Leontyne Jones, President
American Federation of Teachers – St. Thomas/St. John, Local 1825
- Tamioka Phillipus, President
American Federation of Teachers – St. Croix, Local 1826

VII. Closing Remarks

VIII. Adjournment

Thank you for your attendance and valuable contributions to the hearing.