February 10, 2021

Carlos McGregor, Insular Superintendent
Carla A. Bastian, Ed.D, Deputy Superintendent
2133 Hospital Street
Christiansted St. Croix, VI 00820

Good Morning

On February 5, 2021 The Virgin Islands Fire Service Fire Prevention Unit conducted an assessment of eight (8) of your campuses. The intent of the assessment was to certify the campuses for opening. The findings identified that the Hood System in two of district’s kitchens are not functional. VIDE has informed VIFS steps that are currently in place to rectify the issues and have provided justification to support the actions currently being taken. For example, exhaust fans have been placed in the Juanita Gardine K-8 kitchen as a temporary action until the procurement process is completed, and similar actions are being made throughout. The Fire Extinguishers at the eight (8) school sites are either recently certified, currently being serviced, and or awaiting their appointment date from the local vendors. A follow-up visit will be made to ensure the certification of Fire Extinguishers across the district.

During the assessment none of the classrooms presented any significant fire safety hazards. E.g. outlet covers and ceiling tiles which were immediately rectified.

The Virgin Islands Department of Education, St. Croix District is granted the opportunity to rectify the identified issues without interrupting the daily operation of the kitchens, and schools. Based on the inspections conducted, assessments completed on the eight schools visited the St. Croix District is granted clearance by VIFS to open/resume all operations.

Respectfully,

Klebert A. Titus
Fire Chief

CC:  Daryl George, Director
     Antonio O. Stevens, Assistant Director
     Henry Joseph, Fire Marshal, St. Croix District