February 4, 2021

Honorable Racquel Berry Benjamin
Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Education
44-46 Kongens Gade
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Dear Commissioner Berry-Benjamin,

The Committee on Education and Workforce Development has scheduled a hearing on Friday, February 12, 2021, at 10:00 am at the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix. Senator Genevieve Whitaker, Chairwoman of the committee is requesting that you provide testimony on behalf of the Virgin Islands Department of Education.

Senator Whitaker requests that your testimony includes, the order status of devices/equipment for students and the readiness of schools, the status of the cleaning contracts for both districts, procurement of laptops and MiFi, plans for a cleaning schedule once students have returned, general safety measures for students and staff, the breakdown of the expenditure of the Cares Act funds, support and resources for students who have fallen behind, as well as the exact start date for schools. In addition, we are also requesting a report on the use of the Carl D. Perkins funds and the balance of the account to date.

Please have a written testimony prepared to share during the hearing. You will be allotted 15 minutes to make your presentation to the body. Confirmations are to be sent to Communications Director, Shakeema Romero, via email to sedwardsromero@legvi.org, direct line 340-712-2270. Please have a copy of your testimony emailed by Wednesday, February 10, 2021.

Kindly be advised, due to Covid the legislature is closed to the public. Therefore, the hearing will be held via Microsoft Teams. Meeting details will be emailed.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Senator Genevieve Whitaker, M.C.J., M.P.M., CPM®, J.D.
Secretary
Chair, Committee on Education and Workforce Development
34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands (U.S.)

cc: Committee File
Senator Janelle K. Sarauw, Vice-Chair, Committee Members

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