



Office of Public Relations

1834 Kongens Gade, Charlotte Amalie * St. Thomas * U.S. Virgin Islands 00802-6746
Telephone: 340.774.0100 Ext. 8136 (STT/STJ) ~ 340.773.1095 Ext. 7064 (STX)

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For More Information Contact:

Robert S. Ferrell II
Assistant Director, Public Relations & Communications
robert.ferrell@vide.vi
www.vide.vi ~ www.facebook.com/usvi.vide

Virgin Islands Department of Education Announces Charlotte Amalie High School Construction and Bertha C. Boschulte PreK-8 Modernization Project Kick-Off

The Virgin Islands Department of Education is pleased to announce a significant milestone in the construction of the new Charlotte Amalie High School and the modernization of Bertha C. Boschulte PreK-8 School. Key partners in this project met on Tuesday, October 22nd at the University of the Virgin Islands Innovation Center to announce the beginning of the project, and to facilitate collaboration across the Architecture, Engineering and Construction contracting community.

“We are finally here. It’s taken a long time, but it was worth the wait. Charlotte Amalie High School will be the first new school built on the island of St. Thomas in decades. We have the resources to improve the educational facilities for our employees and the children of the Virgin Islands, and our children deserve state-of-the-art facilities,” said Commissioner Dionne Wells-Hedrington.

“Students’ needs and aspirations are at the center of every decision we make. We will create flexible learning spaces that can adapt to a variety of teaching methods and prepare our students for the digital age. And we will emphasize sustainability to reduce our overall footprint and teach our students about caring for our environment,” said Craig Benjamin, Executive Director of the Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance.

Throughout the morning, the design-build contractor Consigli-Benton provided an overview of the project and facilitated departmental coordination sessions with the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority, the Water and Power Authority, the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works, the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of Information Technology, Virgin Islands Next Generation Network, and VIYA Telecommunications Company. The Department of Planning and Natural Resources presented extensively on their process, and in the afternoon, a contracting community networking session was held to introduce the Architects and Engineers to the broader community of subcontractors, consultants, and construction industry companies.

“It’s a matter of efficiency and getting the work done on time. This is an opportunity for our local businesses to work together and find the best ways to bring services and materials to the people of the Virgin Islands,” said Governor Albert Bryan Jr.

Commissioner Dionne Wells-Hedrington reiterated that this project goes beyond reconstruction and that it sets a higher standard for learning and instructional environments. “The Virgin Islands Department of Education is investing in 21st century learning spaces to equip and prepare our students for a successful future as leaders in our community,” said Commissioner Dionne Wells-Hedrington.

Charlotte Amalie High School was severely damaged by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, leading to instruction in modular classrooms. The new Charlotte Amalie High School will be a substantial \$334 million project that will provide state-of-the-art learning spaces spanning 240,000 sq. ft. The proposed design consists of 6 buildings: Three Academic Forts, a Center for Culture and the Arts, a Market, and a Sports Arena.

For more information about the new Charlotte Amalie High School, the modernization of Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School and the Department of Education's plans to build new schools in the Virgin Islands, please visit www.newschoolsvid.com.

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