



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

May 16, 2019

City Council President Linda M. Morad
Honorable Members of the City Council
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Council President Morad and Honorable Members of the City Council:

I am submitting for your consideration two orders that collectively would authorize the transfer of the former H.A. Kempton School from the City of New Bedford to the Alma del Mar Charter School ("Alma"), consistent with the home rule petition titled "An Act Relative to the Operation of Charter Schools in the City of New Bedford," which was adopted by the City Council on April 25, 2019, approved by me on April 29, 2019, and is currently pending before the State Legislature.

On May 13, 2019, the New Bedford School Committee voted, consistent with G.L. c. 40, section 15A, to notify the City Council that the former Kempton School is no longer needed by the New Bedford Public Schools. Under the first order, the City Council would vote, also pursuant to G.L. c. 40, section 15A, to declare the former Kempton School surplus property and to transfer it from the School Committee to the Property Committee.

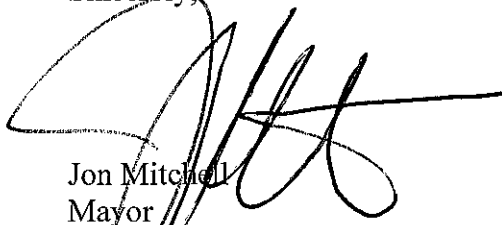
Under the second proposed order, the City Council would vote to authorize me to execute a deed transferring the Kempton School to the Alma del Mar Charter School, contingent upon the State Legislature passing the home rule petition. The former Kempton School would remain city property if the home rule petition was not passed by the state legislature.

As I have previously mentioned, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has decreed that if Alma cannot open a 450 student neighborhood-based charter school at the Kempton School site, Alma would be authorized to enroll 594 students in a lottery-based school. The cost to the City of this second alternative would be approximately \$4 million annually at full build-out, would severely drain resources from the School Department and other City departments, and could necessitate tax increases and layoffs of municipal employees.

Alma del Mar is scheduled to open its school at the Kempton School site this coming September 2019. Given this tight timeframe and the financial implications for the City, I would be grateful if you could take up the matter of the transfer of the Kempton School at your earliest convenience. The home rule petition exempts the potential transfer of the Kempton School to Alma from G.L. c. 30B and from any provisions in the city code that might require an appraisal or a solicitation of proposals, thereby facilitating a more streamlined and faster disposition process.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford. The signature is written over the printed name and title.

Jon Mitchell
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: New Bedford School Committee



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

May 23, 2019

Ordered, that pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 40, Sec. 15A, the real property located in New Bedford, Massachusetts at 135 Shawmut Avenue and shown as Lot 6 on City of New Bedford Assessor's Map 70 and known as the Horatio A. Kempton School be and hereby is declared as surplus property and no longer needed by the New Bedford Public Schools or for any other municipal purpose, and instead shall be held under the custody and control of the city property committee for purpose of transfer.



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

May 23, 2019

Ordered, that, contingent upon the Massachusetts state legislature passing "An Act Relative to the Operation of Charter Schools in the City of New Bedford," the Mayor is authorized on behalf of the City of New Bedford to execute a deed for the property located in New Bedford, Massachusetts at 135 Shawmut Avenue and shown as Lot 6 on City of New Bedford Assessor's Map 70 and known as the Horatio A. Kempton School to the Alma del Mar Charter School in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor and consistent with the March 12, 2019 Memorandum of Understanding between the City of New Bedford, the New Bedford Public Schools, and Alma del Mar Charter School.