



City of New Bedford

MASSACHUSETTS

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133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

April 24, 2017

The Honorable City Council
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

The New Bedford City Council's Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods, at a meeting held on April 18, 2017, considered the following matters:

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gomes, Oliveira and Abreu, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with Pulaski School Parents and School Staff in conjunction with the Far North End Neighborhood Association, to discuss the ongoing traffic and public safety issues at Pulaski school and that the Administration look into funding for two (2) traffic guards during drop off and pickup times at said school further requesting, that this Committee Meeting be held at the Pulaski School to get Parents and School staff input. (Ref'd 3/23/17)

COMMUNICATION, Councillor Gomes, submitting an email from Lisa Tavares, concerned parent of a student at Pulaski School, regarding the traffic issues at the school. (Ref'd 3/23/17)

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Martins the Committee VOTED: To forward the list provided by Mrs. Tavares to the School Committee, DPI and the City Council, from the committee explaining that the attached are possible short and long term solutions to the traffic congestion and student safety issues as they relate to Pulaski Schools. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Please send all correspondence to the Clerk of Committee's Office, City Hall, Room 213.

Very truly,

Councillor Debora Coelho, Chairperson
Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods

DC/at

Enclosure

- KPP U
ZNS
PW
1. **NO Parking/BUS ONLY** signs along the right sides of the "U" into the school
 2. **PARENT DROP OFF ONLY** signs along the left side of the "U" into the school
 3. painted ground directional arrows/wording- **BUSES ONLY** (right side of lot)
 4. painted ground directional arrows/wording- **PARENT DROP OFF ONLY** (left side of lot)
 5. Repaint crosswalks and make them more visible to traffic
 6. Add a speed limit traffic signal (like on Acushnet Ave) to North and South sides
 7. **TWO** traffic guards from 8:00-9:00am to direct flow in and out of "U"
 8. **10'** of designated **NO Parking space** with coordinating signs (M-F between 8-9am) on Braley Rd **north AND south** to allow for traffic to move "around" traffic turning left or right into "U".
 9. **3-4 Paraprofessionals** to start at 8:15 instead of 8:30am (15minutes O/T per day or work 8:15am-2:45pm- rotating [?])--they would assist with:
 - a. taking children off of the (1/2 filled) parked buses and begin to form a line in front of front doors- this would move the buses out of the "U" freeing up more room for the buses blocking traffic on Braley Rd to move in
 10. **3-4 Paraprofessionals** assisting in the parent drop off line instead of the current 1-2. Making more paraprofessionals available to assist in opening parent car doors, directing the children to the crossing guard and ultimately to the front of the school, would alleviate the backed-up line of cars waiting on Braley Rd to drop off their children.
 11. Have the **doors open at 8:15am** with paraprofessionals (parent volunteers) monitoring in the cafeteria.
 - a. the children would be lined up outside and would walk to the cafeteria. This way, breakfast could start at promptly 8:45am and the kids would eat in the cafeteria-not on dirty desks in the classroom. Currently the children wait in one huge mob outside the doors once the bell rings and wait for a paraprofessional to open the door. Also, since new doors were installed, it would make sense to open all four doors with greeters (teachers) welcoming the children into school and letting them know how excited they are to see them.
 12. Re-work contract with Transportation department to offer transportation for students who live within 1 mile of school (some buses are currently 1/2 full)
 13. Worst case scenario-- get rid of Parent drop off-- and encourage parking on Braley Road and side streets.
 - a. Buses would enter on both sides of "U".
 - b. add crossing guards to monitor the crosswalks and to enforce employee and bus only entrance in the "U" during peak times!
 - c. during snow storms- plowing near sidewalks would have to be done better or else Braley Rd would be down to one-lane traffic during the winter months.
 14. **Alternate exit to Acushnet Avenue through back park area**

Mr. Joshua Amaral, Member
New Bedford School Committee
257 Rockdale Avenue
New Bedford, MA 02740

Mr. Christopher A. Cotter, Member
New Bedford School Committee
64 Holden Street
New Bedford, MA 02745

Dr. Lawrence Finnerty, Vice Chairperson
New Bedford School Committee
1135 Beverly Street
New Bedford, MA 02745

Mr. Joaquim "Jack" Livramento, Member
New Bedford School Committee
384 Purchase Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Mayor Jonathan F. Mitchell, Chairperson, Ex-officio
New Bedford School Committee
15 Moreland Terrace
New Bedford, MA 02740

Mr. Joaquim "Jack" Nobrega, Member
New Bedford School Committee
18 Tremont Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Mr. Bruce J. Oliveira, Member
New Bedford School Committee
119 Plymouth Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Mr. Zeb Arruda, Commissioner
Department of Public Infrastructure
1105 Shawmut Avenue
New Bedford, MA 02746

Each New Bedford City Council Member:

Councillor Ian Abreu
Councillor Naomi R.A. Carney
Councillor Debora Coelho
Councillor Brian K. Gomes
Councillor Joseph P. Lopes
Councillor Steven Martins
Councillor Linda M. Morad
Councillor James D. Oliveira
Councillor Dana L. Rebeiro
Councillor Kerry M. Winterson