

Copy all Cons
Via email
10/17/19



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Jon Mitchell
Mayor of New Bedford
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Thomas Anderson, Superintendent
New Bedford Public Schools
455 County Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Will Gardner, Executive Director
Alma del Mar Charter School
515 Belleville Ave.
New Bedford, MA 02746

Re: Alma del Mar Charter School

Dear Mayor Mitchell, Superintendent Anderson, and Mr. Gardner:

I send this letter in an effort to eliminate any possible confusion regarding the status of the Memorandum of Understanding among the City of New Bedford, New Bedford Public Schools, and Alma del Mar Charter School, approved by me as the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education effective March 12, 2019 (the "MOU"). I previously determined that the necessary legislation had not been enacted in sufficient time for the planning and implementation of the charter school contemplated by the MOU. Therefore, I terminated the MOU, consistent with Section 26, on May 31, 2019. Attached is the letter that I sent to this effect.

Sincerely,

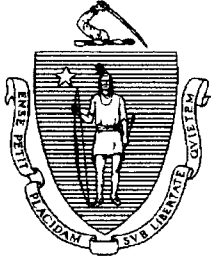
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey C. Riley".

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

Enclosure

C: New Bedford School Committee
New Bedford City Council

CITY CLERKS OFFICE
NEW BEDFORD, MA
2019 OCT 17 A 11:25
CITY CLERK



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75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

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Commissioner

By email

May 31, 2019

The Honorable Jon Mitchell
Mayor of New Bedford
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Thomas Anderson, Superintendent
New Bedford Public Schools
455 County Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Will Gardner, Executive Director
Alma del Mar Charter School
515 Belleville Ave.
New Bedford, MA 02746

Re: Alma del Mar Charter School

Dear Mayor Mitchell, Superintendent Anderson, and Mr. Gardner:

First, I would like to thank you for working together in a spirit of collaboration and genuine partnership that focused on the best interest of all students in New Bedford. I commend your efforts to develop an innovative model that would have done precisely what charter school critics have challenged charter schools to do: admit and serve all students in a neighborhood rather than admitting students who submit their names for a citywide lottery.

Unfortunately, however, I have determined that the necessary legislation that is required for this compromise to go into effect has not been enacted in sufficient time for New Bedford families to plan for September, nor will it move forward on a timeline that would allow sufficient time for the planning and implementation of this innovative school model. Thus, the January 22, 2019 vote of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education granting Alma del Mar Charter School an enrollment increase of 594 will now take effect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.C. Riley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

C: New Bedford School Committee
New Bedford City Council