

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & NEIGHBORHOODS - June 26, 2019
MEETING AT 7:00 PM, CASMIR PULASKI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ~ 1097 BRALEY
ROAD
AGENDA

1. 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. (To be Referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods.) (Ref'd 3/23/17) (4/18/17-tabled; 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 the Pulaski School.) (4/26/17-letter and list forwarded to all contacts outlined above) (4/23/19-tabled 45 days)

1a. COMMUNICATION, Councillor Gomes, submitting an email from Lisa Tavares, concerned parent of a student at Pulaski School, regarding the traffic issues at the school. (To be Referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods.) (Ref'd 3/23/17) (4/18/17-tabled; 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 the Pulaski School.) (4/26/17-letter and list forwarded to all contacts outlined above) (4/23/19-tabled 45 days)

INVITEES: Thomas Anderson, Superintendent, New Bedford Public Schools; Captain Paul Dacosta, Station Three, New Bedford Police Department; Jamie Ponte, Commissioner, Department of Public Infrastructure; Melissa Rego, Principal, Casimir Pulaski Elementary School; Carol Strupczewski, Braley Road Area Resident; Members, Far North End Neighborhood Association; Members, New Bedford School Committee; Pulaski School Parents & Guardians; Representative, Mayor's Office

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if any accommodations are needed, please contact the Clerk of Committees Office at 508-979-1482. Requests should be made as soon as possible but at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.



Item Title:

WRITTEN MOTION re Pulaski School / Traffic and Public Safety Issues

Item Detail:

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Additional Information:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
1. WM re Traffic Issues at Pulaski School	Cover Memo
1a. COMM re Traffic Issues at Pulaski School	Cover Memo



City of New Bedford

MASSACHUSETTS

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DENNIS W. FARIAS
City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council

DENIS LAWRENCE, JR.
Clerk of Committees

DONNA M. BRITTO
Assistant Clerk of Committees

Office of
Clerk of Committees
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

Good morning,

I was very pleased to have so many responses over the weekend and happy that I was able to meet with Ian, Andrew and Larry this morning at Pulaski school. I hope they were able to see the traffic pileup again this morning and can pass along any ideas of their own.

I was asked to write down my own improvement ideas that I truly believe will assist in the morning chaos:

- NO Parking/BUS ONLY signs along the right sides of the "U" into the school
- PARENT DROP OFF ONLY signs along the left side of the "U" into the school
- painted ground directional arrows/wording- BUSES ONLY (right side of lot)
- painted ground directional arrows/wording- PARENT DROP OFF ONLY (left side of lot)
- TWO traffic guards from 8:00-9:00am to direct flow in and out of "U"
- 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".
- 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 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
 - 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.
 - Or...having the doors open at 8:15am with paraprofessionals (parent volunteers) monitoring in the cafeteria
 - 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.
- Worst case scenario-- gets rid of Parent drop off-- and encourages parking on Braley Road and side streets. Buses would enter on both sides of "U". You would have to provide bus service for all Pulaski students no matter how close they live---add crossing guards to monitor the crosswalks and to enforce the no parking in the "U" during peak times! -- repaint the crosswalks and make them more visible to traffic- Also, 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.

These are my ideas that I hope you can take into consideration during city budget, planning and school committee meetings.

Thank you,
Lisa Tavares

On Monday, March 20, 2017, 7:29 AM, thegomes@aol.com wrote:

Lisa I will talk to you later on today if you could give me a phone number to reach you we will set something up. Ty BKG

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 17, 2017, at 10:12 AM, Lisa Tavares <anisagrace@yahoo.com> wrote:

Good morning,

I am sending yet another email because I feel like I am the only one wishing for this issue to go away! I would love to meet with one, or as many of you as possible, any weekday morning at Pulaski School on Braley Road in New Bedford to SHOW you (not tell you- because that doesn't seem to be working) the horrific morning traffic suffered every school day morning and a few ways that the City can implement safety revisions to help ease this daily burden without spending millions of dollars. I have sent several emails and received responses filled with promises of some form of action taking place; I have made several calls to the NB Police department and have had conversations with the prior administration at Pulaski and yet nothing has happened! No one is listening! It's not just a traffic inconvenience, it's a safety liability and an unnecessary blemish for the school.

I must reiterate that we don't need to spend millions of dollars that the City doesn't have to build an alternate entry point. I have some genuine, inexpensive ideas that I want to share that can then be discussed among you all...but someone has to set up a meeting.

I will gather parents and a meeting date and time ... or I can meet any one of you any school day morning between the hours of 8:15am- 8:55am.

To beat the traffic gridlock, please plan to arrive around 8:10am!

Thank you,
Lisa Tavares

On Wednesday, November 9, 2016 10:45 AM, Lisa Tavares <anisagrace@yahoo.com> wrote:

Good afternoon all,

I am writing, yet again, to inquire as to when Pulaski School is going to "qualify" for an SRO or some plan of improvement for the morning commute on Braley Road. I have been bringing my children to Pulaski school for the past 9 years and very little has been done to curb these destructive issues even though I have spoken to Josh Amaral, sent emails and letters to Mayor Mitchell and Dr. Durkin's office, spoken to the previous Pulaski principal several times, and even called the NB Police on a few occasions when I nearly avoided a few head-on collisions with people behind cars waiting in a never-ending traffic pile-up everyday!

Crossing guard, Tim Silvia, started at the end of last school year and can actually be credited with helping ease the flow of buses and the traffic jam in the parent drop-off because of it. He was asked to stop directing traffic because of a complaint by a parent who couldn't be bothered to follow some road etiquette! Today, I found out that he's not qualified to direct traffic and there is no program in place to get him qualified or find a suitably qualified person. He does a terrific job and the flow of traffic runs smoothly because of him! It would be beneficial to also add a crossing guard (a reliable one who wears a high visibility jacket and gloves) near the entrance of the school which would deter those who don't stop for students and parents using the crosswalk!

Dartmouth has several crossing guards who direct and stop traffic...why can't we as well? I'm pretty sure we pay more tax dollars than those in Dartmouth! Where is the \$40/year Community Preservation Act money going and has it ever been spent on ways to improve this traffic nightmare? The City received \$1.2 million to put new curbing and sidewalks on Union Street, a grant to plant 500 trees and millions of dollars spent to put a sidewalk on top of the hurricane barrier in the South End and will be adding another one on the Cove side. Will this enhance safety at our school? Where are the priorities? Are there grants that Pulaski can apply for?

We don't need a Police Officer who comes by ever so randomly with a radar gun...speed is NOT the problem! The flashing lights of a cruiser won't ease this daily nightmare! God forbid, there is an accident or death...emergency vehicles will find it extremely difficult to answer the call!

Pulaski needs a second street in which to enter and exit the property or we just need to employ 1 traffic guard and 1 cross guard for 1.5 hours/day and offer an incentive to 3-5 paraprofessionals (come in 15 minutes earlier and leave 15 minutes earlier) to assist with getting children out of parent vehicles and buses. This would speed up the parent drop off as well as to get children off the buses quicker which will then allow for the traffic guard to free up the Braley Road traffic. We need more ideas and assistance from you....

I know I'm not the first one to have started this Pulaski traffic conversation but I need this conversation to go somewhere and to not keep falling on deaf ears! Please let me know what I can do as a community member, parent and tax-payer to help.

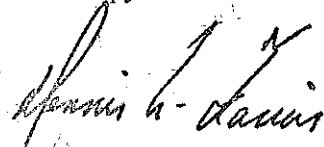
Thank you,
Lisa Tavares

IN CITY COUNCIL, March 23, 2017

Referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods.

Dennis W. Farias, City Clerk

a true copy attest:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis W. Farias", written over a horizontal line.

City Clerk



Item Title:
Accessibility Statement

Item Detail:

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