*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley*Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Chantel Devaughn, President and Executive Director, School & Main Institute Dr. Fran Roy, School & Main InstituteAmy Tavares, Principal, John Avery Parker Elementary School |
| **Cc:** | Andrew O’Leary, Interim Superintendent, New Bedford Public Schools Honorable Mayor Jon Mitchell, Chair, New Bedford School Committee |
| **From:**  | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **Date:**  | July 10, 2023 |
| **Subject:** | Renewal of Turnaround Plan for Parker Elementary School |

Dear Ms. Devaughn, Dr. Roy, and Principal Tavares,

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 69, § 1J (w) and 603 CMR 2.00, I have determined that Parker Elementary School will remain in chronically underperforming status and its turnaround plan will be renewed for a three-year period.[[1]](#footnote-2) The renewed turnaround plan is attached.

The renewed turnaround plan describes how Parker will build upon the gains it has made and continue developing systems for sustained improvement. The renewal of the plan will provide additional time for School & Main Institute to implement its turnaround strategies with consistency to benefit all Parker students.

The authority of the New Bedford School Committee to establish policies for the school; to make employment decisions; to approve budget transfers, encumbrances, and expenditures; to enter into any contracts; and to take any other action remains suspended for the duration of the receivership. Under state law, the receiver exercises all the powers of the superintendent and the school committee.

Under 603 CMR 2.06, I hold the authority to remove Parker from chronically underperforming status when, at any time, I am able to determine that:

1. the school has achieved the academic and other progress defined by the commissioner under 603 CMR 2.06(10)(a) and (b) as necessary to allow it to be removed from chronically underperforming status; and
2. the district has the capacity to continue making progress in improving school performance without the accountability and assistance provided due to the school's chronically underperforming designation.

Please feel free to contact Deputy Commissioner Russell Johnston (781-338-3564 or Russell.Johnston@mass.gov) if you need any additional information.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

1. The July 20, 2020 and August 2, 2021 letters extending the renewed turnaround plan may be found here: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/level5/schools/john-avery-parker.html>.   [↑](#footnote-ref-2)