*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.*Commissioner* |  |

January 6, 2017

Dr. Pia Durkin, Superintendent

New Bedford Public Schools

455 County Street

New Bedford, MA 02740

Re: Turnaround Plan for John Avery Parker Elementary School

Dear Dr. Durkin:

I have reviewed your request to modify the school Turnaround Plan for John Avery Parker Elementary School to increase learning time for all students while maintaining a high level of quality professional development time for teachers. The specific changes will result in seven (7) additional days of instruction for all students while still maintaining a range of targeted supports for struggling students as well as responsive approaches to family engagement. (See attached Proposal for Amendments to Level 5 School Turnaround Plan dated January 4, 2017.)

As you noted in your memo, these proposed changes were suggested by faculty at the Parker School as a result of their analyses of student attendance and outcomes during the summer and Saturday programs, as well as the outcome of student performance during the school year. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in the proposal, and pursuant to G.L. c. 69, § 1J(v), I am modifying the John Avery Parker Elementary School Turnaround Plan to reflect the items outlined in your memo.

Sincerely,

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Encl. Proposal for Amendments to Level 5 School Turnaround Plan – John Avery Parker Elementary School, January 4, 2017