*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeff Wulfson  *Acting Commissioner* |  |

April 4, 2018

School & Main Institute

225 Friend Street

Boston, MA 02114

Re: John Avery Parker Elementary School

Dear School & Main Institute:

I am writing to you regarding my decision to appoint School & Main Institute (SMI) as the receiver for the John Avery Parker School (Parker), pursuant to G.L. c. 69, § 1J(r). As described below, I understand that SMI has hired Dr. Fran Roy to assist with this work.

In October 2013, pursuant to G.L. c. 69, §1J, Commissioner Chester declared the Parker to be chronically underperforming, or a Level 5 school under the state accountability system. Dr. Pia Durkin, superintendent for New Bedford Public Schools, was appointed as the person responsible for the Parker. Commissioner Chester and Dr. Durkin developed a turnaround plan for the school, which was renewed in August 2017. A copy of the renewed turnaround plan is enclosed.

In November 2017, Dr. Durkin announced her resignation from the district effective June 30, 2018. Effective July 1, 2018, SMI, with the assistance of Dr. Fran Roy, will be responsible for the implementation of the turnaround plan. The Parker remains in state receivership and is not under the authority of the New Bedford School Committee. SMI will have authorities of a receiver for a Level 5 school, and will report to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. Prior to July 1, 2018, SMI and Dr. Roy will serve in an advisory capacity to Dr. Durkin and will engage in planning for the 2018-2019 school year.

I look forward to working with you. Using the authorities and opportunities that the Level 5 designation provides, I believe we will continue to substantially improve educational outcomes for students.

Sincerely,



Jeff Wulfson  
Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Cc: Dr. Pia Durkin, Superintendent, New Bedford Public Schools

Russell Johnston, Senior Associate Commissioner, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Mayor John Mitchell, City of New Bedford

Enc.