

**Dear Members of the New Bedford School Committee / Selection Committee,**

As a lifelong New Bedford resident and a parent of children currently attending New Bedford Public Schools, I have a deep personal stake in the success of our students and schools. With more than 20 years of experience in public institutions, financial oversight, and community leadership, I am seeking the opportunity to serve on the New Bedford School Committee to strengthen accountability, collaboration, and opportunity for every child.

For over two decades, I worked within public higher education systems where I gained hands-on experience in financial management, contracts, grants, procurement, and operational oversight at UMass Dartmouth. I also served at Bridgewater State University, where I managed aviation and airport operations, roles that required precision, safety, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public resources. In addition, my years in banking reinforced the importance of transparency, professionalism, and fiscal responsibility, all of which directly align with the responsibilities of a School Committee member.

Beyond my professional background, my leadership has always been rooted in culture, service, and people. In my roles at UMass Dartmouth and BSU, I helped bring structure, teamwork, and professionalism into complex environments. I earned trust through consistent results and used that trust to advocate for positive, community-centered outcomes.

That same approach allowed me to mobilize over 600 gallons of water for Puerto Rico during Hurricane Maria and for Michigan during its water crisis, and to help coordinate the donation of over one million meals to families in Africa. I learn quickly, adapt thoughtfully, and consistently look for ways to improve systems, not only for my role, but for the benefit of the entire organization and community.

What matters just as much is what I am doing today, here in New Bedford.

I am a small business owner who has helped introduce services never before offered in this city. I actively work with Whaling City Junior & Senior High School, supporting youth engagement and development. I volunteer with My Brother's Keeper, serve my church as a proud member, and remain deeply committed to community service.

Most importantly, I am a father raising my children in New Bedford. I believe strongly that leadership begins with example. I push myself to be the man I want my boys to become, understanding that the values we model today shape the leaders of tomorrow. I grew up in this city, and I am committed to helping ensure that all children, regardless of background, have access to opportunity, structure, and support through our public schools.

The most meaningful titles I hold are not professional ones. I am a family man. I am a man of faith. I am from New Bedford, and I am for New Bedford.

Early in my journey, I used to ask myself, "*Can I do this?*" Over time, that question evolved into, "*How can I serve better?*" My drive, humility, and determination continue to guide how I show up for this community.

I respectfully ask for the opportunity to serve on the New Bedford School Committee. I am confident that my experience, integrity, and commitment will allow me not only to meet expectations, but to raise the standard of accountability, collaboration, and advocacy for our students, educators, and families.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and to serve our city in this important role.

**Respectfully,**

*José A. Galarza Jr.*

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