

## Marcus Coward Resume

Dear Readers and Voting Committee Members,

I am Marcus Coward, and I am ready to become the next member of the School Committee for Public Schools in New Bedford. Thank you for your time and this opportunity. I believe I am the best nominee to replace Bruce Oliveira and there are many reasons why I believe so.

I received 3,182 votes in November, and am the only one amongst the nominees who campaigned for this position. I have been to nearly every school committee meeting this year, including the last School Committee meeting, the first one since Bruce's passing. This is something that all my fellow nominees cannot say.

I was the first to show interest in this position. This was not an impulsive decision, and something I have been considering and working toward since 2024. I worked with United Interfaith Action registering people to vote and even met the mayor in the summer of 2024.

Many young people in the community already know me and trust me, for I have worked as a paraprofessional at Nativity Prep in 2023-2024; I have been working as a lead guide at YOU, with Bernadette Souza, for several months now, working with New Bedford elementary, middle, and high school students Monday through Friday. I have even become close with the last and current School Committee Student Representative, Elliot Talley and Mark Dressel.

I have talked with, worked with, and platformed several young people. Wake Up New Bedford is a show and podcast that I created in the summer of 2024, available to watch on YouTube, to create positive news for New Bedford. I will continue to be a voice for the people, protesting in the streets, on my podcast, or the New Bedford Podcast and New Bedford Guide.

I have created relationships with nearly everyone voting today throughout the last 2 years. So much so, that the City Council unanimously voted me into the Human Rights Commission, giving me your confidence to serve New Bedford. I am no stranger to you all; to the City Council; to the School Committee; and most importantly to the people.

I am a US Army Veteran, a Human Rights Commissioner, deacon and Sunday school teacher, and a volunteer with New Bedford Health Initiative as the Director of Operations. I value public service and am committed to volunteering and supporting my community.

I have worked hard to build strong community ties, along with gaining the trust of other community leaders and organizations. I have been endorsed by Coalition for Social Justice, the Greater Southeastern Massachusetts Labor Council, and newly retired School Committee Member Ross Grace.

I will bring a unique young perspective on education in 2025, especially in regards to AI, that I have already seen be adopted by school committee members. The people know me, know what I stand for, trust me, support me, and voted for me. I know I am ready for this position. I believe that I have proven that I am not only here for the position, but because I have New Bedford's family's best interest in mind.

My "why" is because this is my home and I wish to lead my city and generation to a brighter future. I will lead by example and show others what is possible. I aim not only to better schools for students, but to get more people to vote; and more people, especially young people like me, to run for office.