




CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT FY26
PROJECT APPLICATION**

PROJECT INFORMATION			
PROJECT TITLE			WARD
PROJECT LOCATION			
LEGAL PROPERTY OWNER OF RECORD			
CPA PROGRAM CATEGORY (Select relevant categories for your project)	<input type="checkbox"/> OPEN SPACE	<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC RESOURCE	
	<input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION	<input type="checkbox"/> HOUSING	
ESTIMATED START DATE		ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE	

PROJECT APPLICANT			
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION NAME			
APPLICANT IS (Check only one)	<input type="checkbox"/> CITY DEPARTMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> NON-PROFIT	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE GROUP/CITIZEN
CO-APPLICANT ORGANIZATION NAME (If applicable)			
CO-APPLICANT IS (Check only one)	<input type="checkbox"/> CITY DEPARTMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> NON-PROFIT	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE GROUP/CITIZEN
PROJECT CONTACT PERSON			
MAILING ADDRESS (INCLUDE ZIP CODE)			
TELEPHONE NUMBER		EMAIL:	

PROJECT FUNDING	
CPA FUNDING REQUEST (must match CPA request-line 1 of Project Budget on page 8)	\$
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	\$

SIGNATURES		
I/we attest that all information provided in this entire submission is true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and that no information has been excluded which might reasonably affect funding. I/we authorize the Community Preservation Committee and/or the City of New Bedford to obtain verification from any source provided. I/we acknowledge and agree that a permanent restriction may be placed on the property as a condition of funding.		
APPLICANT NAME (printed)	SIGNATURE 	DATE
CO-APPLICANT NAME (printed)	SIGNATURE	DATE

Submission Checklist

The following items must be organized on your submitted flash drive in folders named for each applicable section below (e.g., Application, Financial, etc.). Please check each item on this list if it is included in your submission packet. **Note: not all items will apply to each project.**

APPLICATION – All items in this section are required	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Application Information (page 1)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submission Checklist (this page)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Narrative/Project Management/Category Specific Section/Financial (pages 3-7)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project Schedule – Project Budget – Funding Sources Summary (page 8)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction Budget Summary – to be complete for construction projects ONLY (page 9)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of Vote of Corporation and Tax Compliance Certification (page 10) must be completed by both applicant and co-applicant if non-municipal applicant. The form must be completed by authorized board member. *Certificate of Vote named person must be different person from signer of the certificate.
FINANCIAL	
<input type="checkbox"/>	One cost estimate from an architect OR two written vendor/contractor quotes (Quotes/cost estimates must be submitted with application – late submissions will not be accepted)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of secured funding (commitment letters or bank statements), if applicable. Please redact account numbers and any sensitive information.
OWNERSHIP/OPERATION (NON-CITY)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	If the applicant is not the owner, attach documentation of site control or written consent of owner to undertake the project. <i>Applications will not be reviewed without this documentation.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Directors listing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of Good Standing – available at MA Secretary of State website
<input type="checkbox"/>	501(c) certification (if operating as a non-profit) or corporate certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Purchase & Sale agreement or copy of current recorded deed, if applicable.
COMMUNITY SUPPORT	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Letters of support from residents, community groups, city departments, boards or commissions, etc.
PLANS & REPORTS <i>If applicable to your project, please submit in digital format only.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Renderings, site plans, engineering plans, design/bidding plans, specifications, and any MAAB variance requests.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Applicable reports (21E, Historic Structure Report, appraisals, survey plan, feasibility studies, etc.)
VISUAL <i>If applicable to your project, please submit in digital format only.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Photos of the project site (not more than four views per site) Digital copies <u>only</u> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Catalog cuts (i.e. recreation equipment) if applicable.
FOR HISTORIC RESOURCE PROJECTS ONLY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Documentation stating the project is listed on the State Register of Historic Places or a written determination from the New Bedford Historical Commission that the resource is significant in the history, archeology, architecture, or culture of New Bedford.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Photos documenting the condition of the property/resource. Digital copies <u>only</u> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Report or condition assessment by a qualified professional describing the current condition of the property/resource, if available.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I/We have read the <i>U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> and understand that planning for and execution of this project must meet these standards.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

1 GENERAL NARRATIVE (1000 Character Maximum)

- Describe the proposed scope of work including the project location, property involved, and the proposed use

2 COMMUNITY NEED (1000 Character Maximum)

- What community need(s) listed in the current CPA Plan will this project address? How does the project benefit the public and what populations(s) will it serve? If it serves a population currently underserved, please describe.

3 GOALS & OBJECTIVES (1000 Character Maximum)

- Describe the project's goals and objectives. The objectives must be specific, measurable, achievable and realistic.
- How does the project meet the general and category-specific priorities outlined in the current Community Preservation Plan?

4 MEASURING SUCCESS (1000 Character Maximum)

- *How will the success of this project be measured?*

5 COMMUNITY SUPPORT (1000 Character Maximum)

- *Explain the level of community support this project has received. If possible, please include letters of support from any groups or individuals who have endorsed this project.*

6 CRITICAL NEED (1000 Character Maximum)

- *Is this project of an urgent nature?*
- *Is there a deadline or factors not controlled by the applicant (i.e. opportunity for immediate acquisition, opportunity to leverage available non-CPA grant or other financial opportunity)?*
- *For historic resource applications only, is the property at risk for irreparable loss? If so, please include a condition assessment from a qualified professional if available.*

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

1 APPLICANT INFORMATION (1000 Character Maximum)

- Describe applicant. Is applicant a public entity, private non-profit, private for-profit, an individual, a partnership, or another type of entity? What is the history and background of the applicant?
- Identify and describe the roles of all participants (applicants, architects, contractors, etc.) including the project manager.
- Describe any past projects of similar type and scale, or experience that demonstrates the applicant's ability to carry out this project.

2 PROJECT FEASIBILITY (1000 Character Maximum)

- List and explain further actions or steps required for completion of the project, such as environmental assessments, zoning or other permits and approvals, agreement on terms of any required conservation, affordability or historic preservation agreements, subordination agreements, and any known or potential barriers or impediments to project implementation.

3 PROJECT MAINTENANCE (1000 Character Maximum)

- Please explain the long-term maintenance plan for the completed project.

COMPLETE FOR HISTORIC RESOURCE PROJECTS ONLY

CPA Compliance (1000 Character Maximum)

- Describe how the proposed project complies with the [U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation](#), as required by the CPA legislation under the definition of rehabilitation.
- Describe how the applicant will ensure compliance with these standards as the project is ongoing, i.e., hiring of a consultant.

COMPLETE FOR PROJECTS WITH ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ONLY

CPA Compliance (500 Character Maximum)

- Describe how the proposed project complies with the [ADA/MAAB Regulations](#).

COMPLETE FOR COMMUNITY HOUSING PROJECTS ONLY

CPA Compliance (500 Character Maximum)

- Describe how the proposed project complies with CPA affordability requirements (100% of AMI for New Bedford)
- Describe the number and types of units (e.g.: 1br, 2br).
- Provide a complete Development Budget and an Operating Budget (for rental properties).

PROJECT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1 FINANCIAL INFORMATION (2000 Character Maximum)

- Describe all successful and unsuccessful attempts to secure funding and/or in-kind contributions, donations, or volunteer labor for the project. A bullet point list is acceptable.
- Will the project require CPA funding over multiple years? If so, provide estimated annual funding requirements.
- What is the basis for the total CPA request?
- How will the project be affected if it does not receive CPA funds or receives a reduced amount?

PROJECT SCHEDULE – PROJECT BUDGET – FUNDING SOURCE SUMMARY

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Please provide a project timeline below, noting all project milestones. Please note the City Council must approve all appropriations of CPA funds. Grant funding will not be available for disbursement until after July 1, 202.

	ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED DATE
PROJECT START DATE:		
PROJECT MILESTONE:		
50% COMPLETION STAGE:		
PROJECT MILESTONE:		
PROJECT COMPLETION DATE:		

PROJECT BUDGET

Please include an **itemized budget** of all project expenses. Note: CPA funds cannot be used for maintenance. If the project received CPA funds in another fiscal year, please include this amount on a separate line, not on line 1.

FUNDING SOURCES		EXPENSES				
		STUDY	SOFT COSTS*	ACQUISITION	CONSTRUCTION**	TOTAL
1	NEW BEDFORD CPA FY26***	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
3		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
4		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
5		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
6		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
7		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

* Soft costs include design, professional services, permitting fees, closing costs, legal, etc.

** Construction refers to new construction, rehabilitation, preservation, restoration work, and/or accessibility related expenses.

***New Bedford CPA (Line 1) amount should match the amount requested on the application cover page.

ANTICIPATED FUNDING SOURCE SUMMARY

Please explain the current status of each funding source (i.e., submitting application on X date, applied on X date, received award notification on X date, funds on hand, etc.). For sources where funding has been awarded or funds are on hand, please include documentation from the funding source (e.g., commitment letter, bank statement) in application packet.

FUNDING SOURCE		STATUS OF FUNDING
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET

To be completed for construction projects only

If you have a construction budget, it may be submitted in lieu of this page.

ACTIVITY	CPA FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL
Acquisition Costs			
Land	\$	\$	\$
Existing Structures	\$	\$	\$
Other acquisition costs	\$	\$	\$
Site Work (not in construction contract)			
Demolition/clearance	\$	\$	\$
Other site costs	\$	\$	\$
Construction/Project Improvement Costs			
New Construction	\$	\$	\$
Rehabilitation	\$	\$	\$
Performance bond premium	\$	\$	\$
Construction contingency	\$	\$	\$
Other		\$	\$
Architectural and Engineering (See Designer Fee Schedule for guidance): https://www.mass.gov/files/design_fee_schedule- dsb_2015_2007.pdf			
Architect fees	\$	\$	\$
Engineering fees	\$	\$	\$
Other A & E fees	\$	\$	\$
Other Owner Costs			
Appraisal fees	\$	\$	\$
Survey	\$	\$	\$
Soil boring/environmental/LBP	\$	\$	\$
Tap fees and impact fees	\$	\$	\$
Permitting fees	\$	\$	\$
Legal fees	\$	\$	\$
Other	\$	\$	\$
Miscellaneous Costs			
Developer fees	\$	\$	\$
Project reserves	\$	\$	\$
Relocation costs	\$	\$	\$
Project Administration & Management Costs			
Marketing/management	\$	\$	\$
Operating/Maintenance	\$	\$	\$
Taxes	\$	\$	\$
Insurance	\$	\$	\$
Other	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL	\$	\$	\$

**CERTIFICATE OF VOTE OF CORPORATION AUTHORIZING
EXECUTION OF CORPORATE AGREEMENTS**

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of _____(organization) duly called and held on _____, 20____ at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, the following vote was duly adopted.

VOTED: That _____(person), the _____(title) of the corporation, be and hereby is authorized to affix the Corporate Seal, sign and deliver in the name and on behalf of the corporation, contract documents with the City of New Bedford, the above mentioned documents to include but not be limited to Bids, Proposals, Deeds, Purchase and Sales Agreements, Agreements, Contracts, Leases, Licenses, Releases and Indemnifications; and also to seal and execute, as above, surety company bonds to secure bids and proposals and the performance of said contract and payment for labor and materials, all in such form and on such terms and conditions as he/she, by the execution thereof, shall deem proper.

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:

Name (printed)

Signature (Affix Corporate Seal)

Title

Date

=====

TAX COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Chapter 62C of the Massachusetts General Laws, Section 49A(b), I, the undersigned, authorized signatory for the below named contractor, do hereby certify under the pains and penalties of perjury that said contractor has complied with all laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts relating to taxes, reporting of employees and contractors, and withholding and remitting child support.

Signature

Print Name

Organization name

Federal Tax ID #

Date

William H Taylor School PTO
71 Portland St
New Bedford MA 02744-1216

----- Transaction History Account Number 841975652-----
10-29-2025 to 11-19-2025

Description	Eff Date	Post Date	Due Date	Balance Type	Amount	Running Bal
New Account Deposit	11-12-2025	11-12-2025		Note Balance	30000.00	30000.00

**Southcoast Office**

12 Cross Neck Road
Marion MA. 02738
508-726-0811

Western MA. Office

245 Shea Avenue
Belchertown MA. 01007
413-241-4600

Date: November 10, 2025

Rafaela DeFigueiredo Spence Ed. D., LMHC
Principal
Taylor Elementary School
New Bedford, MA 02740

RE: PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL TAYLOR SCHOOL PLAYGROUND COST

Based on the attached playground conceptual concept layout we are estimating the cost to be \$ 475,000.00

Please note that this cost is purely based on the conceptual concept plan and that the estimate may vary pending final contract documents.

Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Jorge Figueiredo, MCPPO
Principal

To who it may concern:



Hi my name is Alanha Henderson. I am 8 years old and in 3rd grade at Taylor School. I have been a Taylor sailor since I was in preschool.

I really love going to school everyday. One of my favorite parts of school is going to recess with my best friends. If my school had a play ground I would be on the monkey bars all the time. Another reason why my school should have a Play ground is because we are the only school that does not have one. It makes it not fair. Taylor School is the best school in the world and we definitely need a play ground.

♥ Have a good day ♥

Alanha Henderson



NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PAUL RODRIGUES ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
455 County Street, New Bedford, MA 02740
www.newbedfordschools.org (508) 997-4511

ANDREW O'LEARY
SUPERINTENDENT

DARCIE AUNGST
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

November 7, 2025

To whom it may concern,

Re: Letter of Support for CPA Grant Application – Taylor School Playground

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

On behalf of New Bedford Public Schools, I am writing to express our strong support for the CPA grant application submitted by Dr. Rafaela DeFigueiredo Spence, on behalf of the Taylor School, to fund the development of a new playground at Taylor Elementary Schools, located at 71 Portland Street, New Bedford, MA 02744.

This project represents an important investment in our community, providing a safe, inclusive, and engaging outdoor space where children and families can gather, play, and connect. The proposed playground will not only enhance recreational opportunities but also strengthen neighborhood connections, promote health and wellness, and improve the overall quality of life for residents of all ages.

The addition of this playground aligns with the goals of the Community Preservation Act by fostering open space and recreation opportunities that benefit current and future generations. It also supports New Bedford's ongoing commitment to creating accessible and welcoming public spaces.

We fully endorse this initiative and believe it will have a lasting positive impact on our community.

Thank you for your dedication to supporting projects that enhance our shared community spaces.

Sincerely,

Andrew O'Leary
Superintendent of New Bedford Public Schools

Jonathan and Kelly Da Costa
439 Rockdale Avenue
New Bedford, MA 02740

11/7/2025

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing as both parents of a student at Taylor Elementary School and as employees of the New Bedford Public School Department to express our strong support for the development of an inclusive playground at Taylor Elementary.

As educators and parents, we witness firsthand how critical play is to every child's physical, social, and emotional development. However, we also see that not all children currently have equal access to the joy and learning that comes from play. An inclusive playground would ensure that students of all abilities—including those with physical, sensory, and developmental differences—can play, learn, and grow together.

Taylor Elementary serves a wonderfully diverse student body, and it is essential that our facilities reflect the inclusive values we teach in our classrooms. An inclusive playground would not only benefit students with disabilities but would also nurture empathy, cooperation, and understanding among all children. This project would serve as a visible commitment by our district to equity and inclusion in every aspect of a child's school experience.

As district employees, we recognize the importance of investing in spaces that foster belonging for every student. As parents, we want our son and his classmates to have a place where every child feels seen, supported, and invited to play.

We fully support and encourage the district's efforts to make the inclusive playground at Taylor Elementary a reality, and we would be proud to see our community lead by example in creating a truly accessible and welcoming environment for all children.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan + Kelly Da Costa". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed names of the signatories.

Jonathan Da Costa/Attendance Officer at Roosevelt Middle School

Kelly Da Costa/Lead Teacher and Coach at Taylor Elementary

Parents of Oliver Da Costa, Taylor Elementary School

11/12/25

Dear New Bedford Community Preservation Committee,

As a parent to three graduated and two current Taylor Elementary School students, a former Taylor student myself, and a School Adjustment Counselor in a neighboring district, I am writing to express my strong support for the Taylor School Community Playground Project.

Although my family does not reside in the South End, we are property owners in the neighborhood and currently rent to families whose children attend Taylor School. We have consistently chosen to send our children to Taylor because of its strong reputation for striving to meet the diverse academic, social, and emotional needs of all students. Taylor's commitment to inclusivity and continuous improvement is one of the main reasons our family remains deeply connected to this community.

In my professional role, I have witnessed firsthand the tremendous benefits that come from access to a safe, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate playground. Such spaces play a vital role in supporting students' social-emotional regulation, physical health, and sense of belonging, all of which directly impact academic engagement and overall well-being. A playground designed for all abilities fosters positive peer interactions, empathy, and confidence, skills that extend far beyond recess.

Taylor School has long been a model of student-centered practice and community pride. The addition of an inclusive playground will further that mission, enhancing the quality of life for students and neighborhood families alike while reinforcing the school's ongoing commitment to equity and access for all.

Thank you for considering my input and Taylor continued investment in their students through this important project.

Sincerely,



Danielle Neves

Freddy Vinagre
66 Freedom Boulevard
New Bedford, MA 02744

New Bedford Community Preservation Committee,

As a neighbor of Taylor Elementary School, I am writing in full support of the proposed Taylor School Playground Project.

Taylor School has added tremendous value to our neighborhood. The presence of such a caring and engaged school community brings life and energy to our area. Hearing the students play and interact outside each day has been wonderful, it's a reminder of the positive impact that a strong neighborhood school can have.

I have always admired how well Taylor School maintains its property and ensures that the school grounds are safe and welcoming, not only for students, but also for families and neighbors. Because of that, I have full confidence that the addition of a new, safe and inclusive playground will enhance both the school and the surrounding community.

This project will improve the quality of life for children, families, and residents alike, creating a shared space that reflects the pride and spirit of our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Freddy Vinagre', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Neighbor and Community Member
New Bedford, MA



City of New Bedford

Office of City Council

133 William Street • New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

TEL: 508-979-1455 • FAX: 508-979-1451

Ian Abreu

Councillor at Large

November 07, 2025

New Bedford Community Preservation Committee,

Dear Honorable Members of the New Bedford Community Preservation Committee:

I am writing in my capacity as a Councillor at Large for the City of New Bedford to offer my full support for the Taylor School Playground Project at the William H. Taylor Elementary School, 71 Portland Street, New Bedford, MA.

Access to safe, inclusive, and well-designed play spaces is an essential element of a thriving neighborhood and a supportive school environment. The proposed playground at Taylor School is an important step toward ensuring that every child, regardless of ability or background, has the opportunity to engage in healthy, active play, build peer relationships, and develop confidence.

While I serve the City in a legislative role, I am also a resident who has seen firsthand how enhancements to school grounds not only benefit students during the school day, but also contribute positively to the surrounding community. A modern playground at Taylor School will strengthen that connection: reinforcing the school's role as a community hub and enhancing neighborhood assets for children and families alike.

On behalf of the City Council and the entire City of New Bedford, I commend the Taylor School PTO and the broader school community for advancing this initiative. I encourage all relevant stakeholders to support this project and make this inclusive playground a reality for our students, their families, and the community at large.

Sincerely,

Ian Abreu,
Councillor at Large

IA: rrr

cc: File

Hi my name is Kayser Henderson and I go to Roosevelt Middle School in the sixth grade. I went to Taylor elementary school since kindergarten-fifth grade. Taylor school was so fun and enjoying. My favorite part of elementary school was going outside to play football or tag at recess with all my friends. We played on concrete and it was very annoying everytime we fell. We always ended up with a scratch from the concrete. This is because we had no playground. If we had a playground it would be more enjoyable to play outside. We are the only elementary that STILL does NOT have a playground in New Bedford. So, here are 3 reasons why New Bedford should give us money for a playground.

First, Taylor is the ONLY school in New BEDFORD that doesn't have a playground. For example, Gomes, Jacobs, Carney, AND DeValles all have playground. This makes it unfair for the kids at Taylor school. This is one reason why Taylor school should get money from the city.



Next, the city should give Taylor money because it would make kids at Taylor so excited and happy. It would be very fun to go on the monkey bars or go down the slide. Instead of playing on concrete. This was another reason why New Bedford should give Taylor money for a park.

Lastly, the city should give Taylor money for a school is because it would also be good for kids/people who live in the area to play with. For example, me and my friends ride our bike around there a lot so we can stop by and play. This was the last reason why Taylor should get money for a playground.

In conclusion, New Bedford should give Taylor money for a playground because we are the only school in New Bedford without one, it would make kids happy, and people outside of school can still come.

To Whom It May Concern,

As a member of the New Bedford Fire Department, a lifelong South End resident, and a proud Taylor School alumnus, I am writing to express my own personal support for the Taylor School Playground Project.

Taylor Elementary holds a special place for me. Not only did I attend Taylor as a child, but my mother has also been an educator there for many years. Through her work, I've seen firsthand the wide range of student needs that exist in our schools, not only educational needs but also from physical and sensory needs to social and emotional support. The vision of a safe, inclusive, and fully accessible playground will provide all students with the opportunity to play, connect, and grow in an environment designed for everyone.

As both a firefighter and a community member, I strongly believe that projects like this make our neighborhoods stronger. Creating a space where children and families can come together safely benefits the entire community, promoting health, belonging, and pride in the South End.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Logan Debrosse". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Logan Debrosse

11/12/25

Dear New Bedford Community Preservation Committee,

As a parent to three graduated and two current Taylor Elementary School students, a former Taylor student myself, and a School Adjustment Counselor in a neighboring district, I am writing to express my strong support for the Taylor School Community Playground Project.

Although my family does not reside in the South End, we are property owners in the neighborhood and currently rent to families whose children attend Taylor School. We have consistently chosen to send our children to Taylor because of its strong reputation for striving to meet the diverse academic, social, and emotional needs of all students. Taylor's commitment to inclusivity and continuous improvement is one of the main reasons our family remains deeply connected to this community.

In my professional role, I have witnessed firsthand the tremendous benefits that come from access to a safe, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate playground. Such spaces play a vital role in supporting students' social-emotional regulation, physical health, and sense of belonging, all of which directly impact academic engagement and overall well-being. A playground designed for all abilities fosters positive peer interactions, empathy, and confidence, skills that extend far beyond recess.

Taylor School has long been a model of student-centered practice and community pride. The addition of an inclusive playground will further that mission, enhancing the quality of life for students and neighborhood families alike while reinforcing the school's ongoing commitment to equity and access for all.

Thank you for considering my input and Taylor continued investment in their students through this important project.

Sincerely,



Danielle Neves

To Who It May Concern:

My youngest son, Camdyn Henderson attends Taylor school and is in Pre-K. I asked him to name a few reasons on why his school is in need of a play ground. He stated...

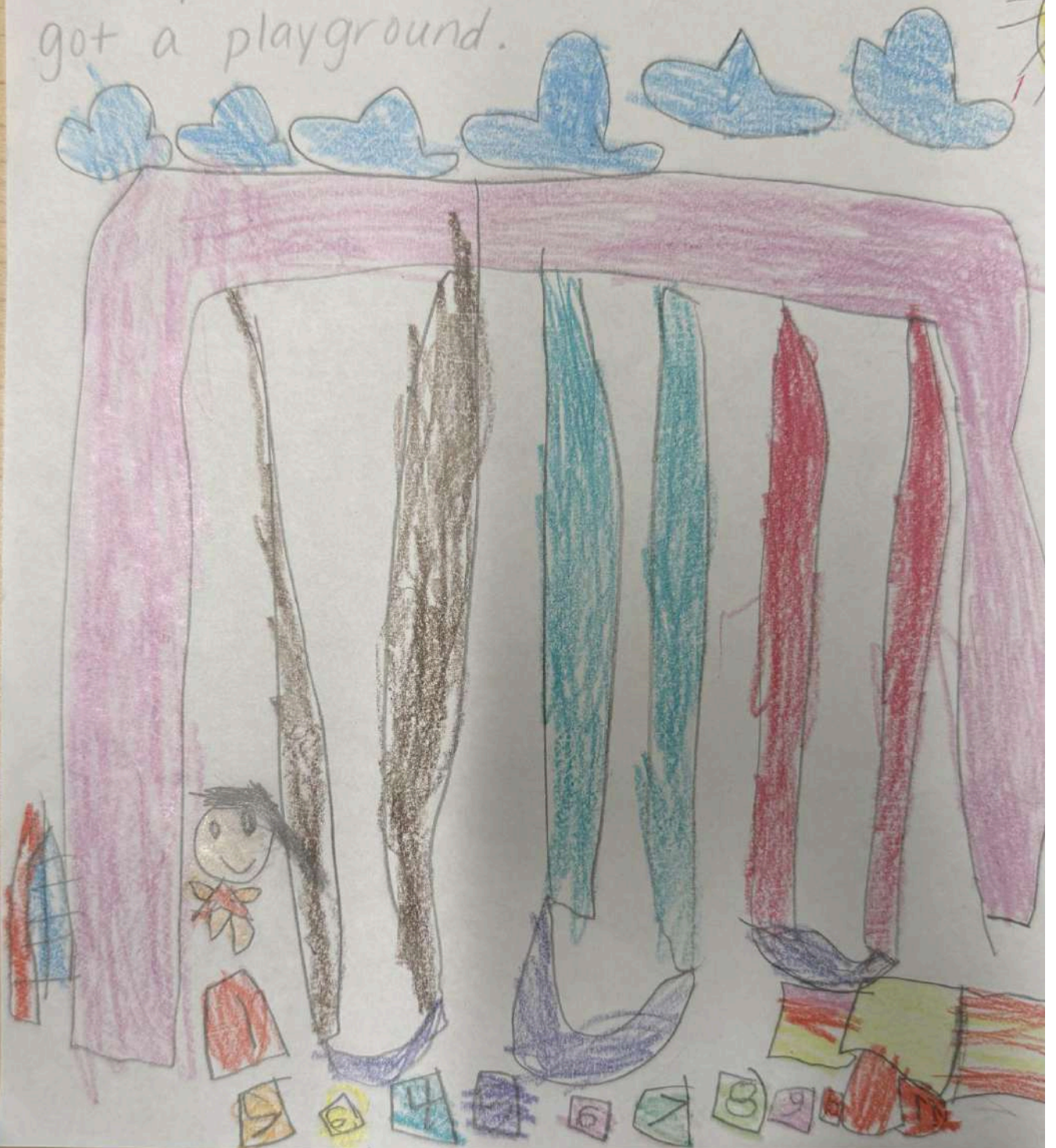
1. Because I love playgrounds they are so much fun!
2. Because I love to play with my friends at the playground!
3. Because I want to go on a slide and make new friends!
4. Because I love Taylor School!

All the Taylor Sailors will be beyond excited to see a playground outside. They all deserve it and work hard all year, this needs to be done for everyone!

Thank you, Mallory Henderson

Hi,

I'm Mia and I am in Kindergarten
at Taylor School. I would love if we
got a playground.



Mr. and Mrs. Oliveira

66 Freedom Boulevard
New Bedford, MA 02744

11/17/2025

Dear New Bedford Community Preservation Committee,

As a neighbor of Taylor Elementary School and grandparents of a former and current student at Taylor School, I am writing to express my full support for the Taylor School Playground Project.

Living near Taylor School has always been a privilege. The school brings such positive energy and pride to our neighborhood. Hearing students laugh and play outside each day reminds me how special it is to live in a community that values education, inclusion, and connection.

From a personal perspective, I've seen how much my granddaughters and their classmates enjoy being outdoors and how important that time is for their learning, friendships, and confidence. A safe, accessible, and inclusive playground would give all students the opportunity to play and interact together, regardless of their abilities. It would also create a welcoming space for families and neighbors to enjoy.

I truly believe this project will benefit not only Taylor students but also the entire South End community. It's an exciting opportunity to enhance the neighborhood and continue the positive impact that Taylor School has already made.

Sincerely,


Mrs. and Mrs. Oliveira



Hi,

My name is Noah Rozario and I am in Second grade at Taylor School. It would be great if our school got a playground like other schools have. It would give us a safe place to play during recess.





PS – That's a Sorting Hat!

November 12, 2025

To the Members of the Taylor School Playground Committee, The New Bedford School Committee, and Concerned Stakeholders

Subject: Enthusiastic Endorsement for the New Taylor School Playground Initiative

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing to wholeheartedly endorse the proposal and funding efforts for the construction of a new playground at Taylor School. We are Mark and Alanna Parsons, and our daughter, Ruby Parsons, is a student in the first grade at Taylor School.

It is a profound concern that a school dedicated to educating our community's youngest learners currently lacks a safe, dedicated outdoor play environment. While Taylor School provides an excellent education, the absence of a playground means a critical component of childhood development—unstructured physical play—is missing from the school day.

For children like Ruby, access to a dedicated playground is essential, not a luxury. Playgrounds are vital laboratories for developing crucial skills. They are where children build gross motor skills, learn to manage risk, and improve coordination. Crucially, they are also where social-emotional learning takes place, fostering cooperation, conflict resolution, and empathy through shared games. Providing this resource is an investment in our children's health, social well-being, and readiness to learn in the classroom after having burned off necessary energy.

We understand that such a project requires significant financial commitment and community support. As parents, we urge everyone involved—from school administrators and city officials to local businesses and fellow parents—to prioritize and fully fund this essential project without delay.

Building a new playground at Taylor School is more than just installing equipment; it is about providing equity and creating a vibrant, complete learning environment for every student. We eagerly look forward to the day Ruby and her classmates can enjoy the boundless benefits of a proper, modern playground.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the children of the Taylor School community.

Sincerely,

Mark and Alanna Parsons – (917) 617-4552

Parents of Ruby Parsons, First Grade - Taylor School

Peter Walker

M.A.N.S.A. Consulting

New Bedford, MA

peter@mansaconsultants.com

November 10, 2025

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

As a local business owner, father, and proud member of the Taylor School community, I am writing to express my strong support for the school's application for Community Preservation Act funding to build a playground for its campus.

Our family is deeply involved in Taylor School and the many family-centered events that bring parents, students, and staff together. These events reflect the school's incredible sense of community, a community that values connection, inclusiveness, and shared responsibility for the well-being of our children. It's inspiring to see how much the families and educators care for one another and work collaboratively to create the best possible environment for our kids.

Despite this strong foundation, Taylor School remains a public elementary school without a playground. The lack of a dedicated outdoor space limits opportunities for safe play, physical activity, and social growth. Our children deserve the same opportunities for recreation and development as their peers across the city. A new playground would not only enhance the school experience but also serve as a welcoming neighborhood gathering place that will be open to all families in the surrounding neighborhood.

As both a parent and a business owner, I understand the value of investing in spaces that strengthen community ties. A school playground does exactly that. It brings people together, promotes healthy living, and creates lasting memories for generations to come. Supporting this project is an investment in the future vitality of our city.

I urge the Committee to fund this important initiative. It will provide immeasurable benefits to our students, families, and the broader community.

Sincerely,

Peter Walker

Founder of M.A.N.S.A Consulting

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Walker" clearly distinguishable.



New Bedford Public Schools
WILLIAM H. TAYLOR SCHOOL
71 Portland Street
New Bedford, MA 02744-2241
(508) 997-4511 Ext. 2245

Dr. Rafaela DeFigueiredo Spence
Principal

Mrs. Alyson Los
Manager of Educator Quality

November 7, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the construction of a playground at Taylor School. As the principal of this high-achieving school, I have the privilege of working with students who are dedicated, hardworking, and committed to academic excellence. While our students strive for success in the classroom, it is equally important that they have access to safe, engaging, and inclusive spaces for physical activity, social interaction, and creative play.

Currently, Taylor School is the only elementary school in New Bedford without a playground, leaving our students without adequate opportunities for outdoor recreation. A playground at Taylor School would provide a vital space for children to develop physical, social, and emotional skills, while promoting wellness, inclusion, and community engagement. It would serve not only our students but also neighborhood families, fostering a sense of connection and shared community.

Our students work hard every day, and they deserve a safe and stimulating environment where they can play, explore, and grow. I wholeheartedly support this project and urge consideration for funding and implementation, as it will have a lasting, positive impact on our students and the broader New Bedford community.

Sincerely,

Rafaela DeFigueiredo Spence, Ed.D., LMHC

Principal

Samia Walker

149 Allen Street

New Bedford, MA

mrssamiawalker@gmail.com

November 10, 2025

To the Committee,

I am writing as a parent and an active member of the Parent Teacher Organization at William H. Taylor Elementary School to express my enthusiastic support for our school's application for Community Preservation Act funding to build a playground for our campus. The PTO has been deeply engaged in advocating for, fundraising and supporting this project, and we are committed to helping make it a success.

Our students do not have access to a safe, dedicated outdoor space where they can play, exercise, and build the social and emotional skills that are vital to healthy development. A playground would make a tremendous difference, not only in promoting physical activity and imaginative play, but also in supporting students' focus and well-being throughout the school day.

Our family chose Taylor, even though it is outside our neighborhood, because of its outstanding leadership, commitment to student safety, family-centered values, high academic expectations, and deep culture of community engagement among both parents and staff. Despite the lack of an outdoor play space, we have full confidence that our collective efforts will help make this long-held goal a reality in the near future.

Importantly, the proposed playground will not only benefit our students but the entire community. The space will be open for neighborhood use outside of school hours, providing families throughout the area with a welcoming and inclusive place to gather and play. This project represents an investment in both our children and the broader community.

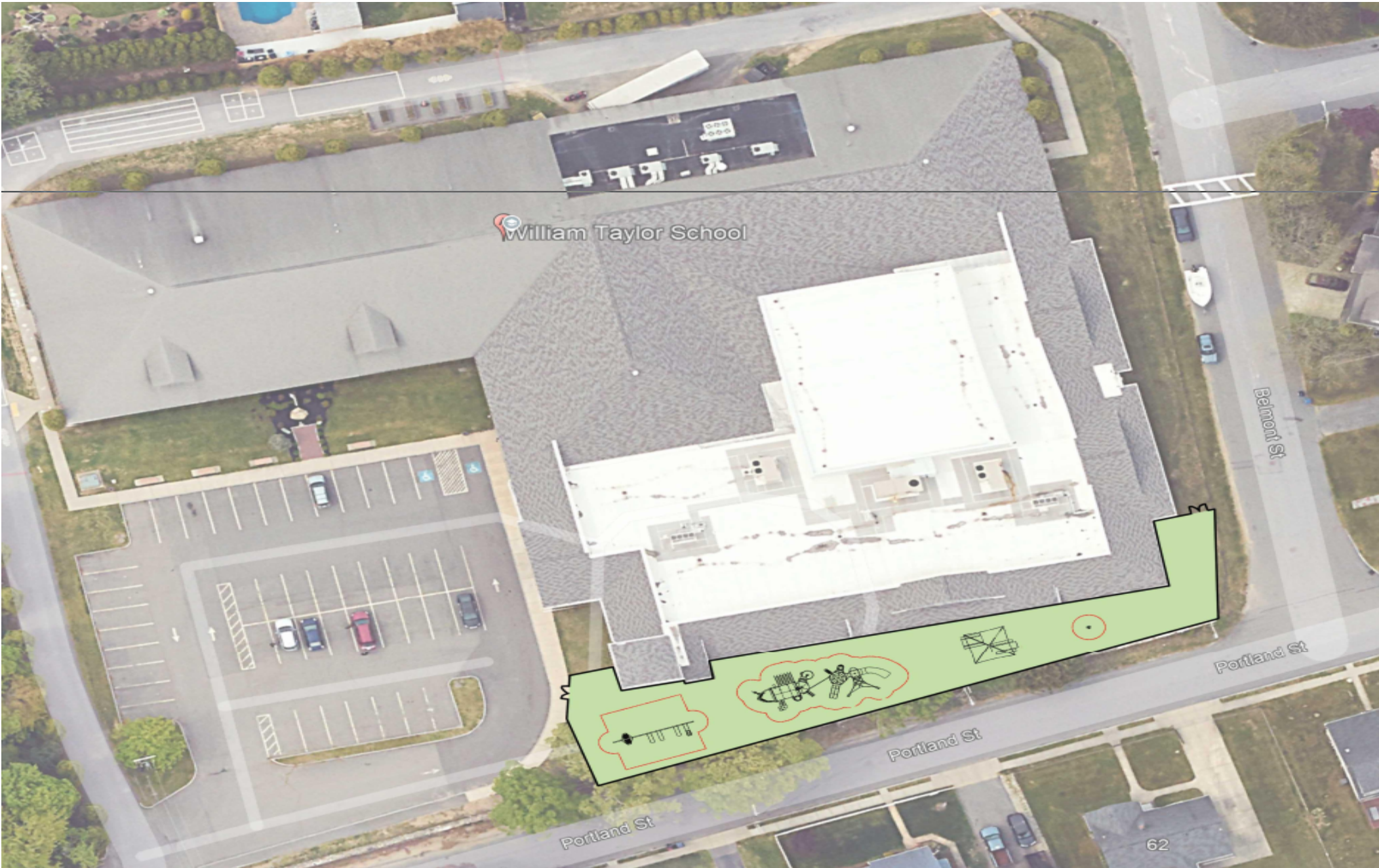
Thank you for considering this important and timely project. And your support with helping us create a lasting, joyful space for our students and neighbors alike.

Sincerely,

Samia Walker

Proud Mom of 2 Taylor Sailors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Samia Walker', written in a cursive, flowing style.



Proposed Taylor School Playground









