

Massachusetts State Police recover submerged vehicle at Boston pier with two victims inside including woman from New Bedford

Massachusetts State Police divers, assisted by a Boston Fire Department diver, located and recovered a vehicle with two occupants from the Reserved Channel leading to the harbor in the Boston Seaport.

The recovery of the vehicle and the victims, one of whom is 21-year old Tatiana Morales from New Bedford, both deceased.

At approximately 12:30 as part of an ongoing investigation, members of Massachusetts State Police Troop F responded to Black Falcon Avenue, between the Black Falcon Terminal and 88 Black Falcon Ave., after developing information that a sport utility vehicle went into the water at that location earlier this week. The Massachusetts State Police Underwater Recovery Unit, the State Police Detective Unit for Suffolk County, Boston Police, Boston Fire, and Massport Police also responded.

A Boston Fire Department diver was the first to dive the area and located the vehicle in about 40 feet of water, approximately 15 feet out from the pier. The BFD diver marked the location, surfaced and notified MSP divers who were arriving on scene. Three MSP divers then dove on the vehicle site and determined there were two deceased victims inside.

MSP divers were able to extricate the female victim and bring her body to shore. The male victim could not be extricated from the vehicle while underwater, so divers hooked tow cables

to the entire vehicle and a truck winched it out. The male victim was recovered from the vehicle once it was on land.

The cause and manner of the deaths is subject to the ongoing investigation.

Two Fairhaven Firefighters graduate from Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

Congratulations to our graduates Jordan Cabral and Scott Rittenhouse! They were among 17 graduates from 11 departments and were part of the second class to graduate from the new Bridgewater campus of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

They have been members of the Fairhaven Fire Department since November 2019 and we cannot be prouder of their accomplishment.

Nice job boys!

LaFrance Hospitality to pay \$20,000 for Americans with

Disabilities Act violation at New Bedford Marriott Fairfield hotel

LaFrance Hospitality, operator of 14 hotels in New England, has entered an agreement under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to resolve allegations that the showers in the accessible rooms of their New Bedford Marriott Fairfield hotel were inaccessible to persons with disabilities.

LaFrance Hospitality failed to install permanent shower seats on the wall in their roll-in showers at the New Bedford Marriott Fairfield as is required by the ADA. Instead, non-fixed seats were placed in each roll-in shower. When a woman with a mobility impairment used the non-fixed shower seat it collapsed, and the woman fell. The fall resulted in the woman requiring emergency services and an overnight stay at a local hospital for her injuries.

Under the agreement, LaFrance Hospitality will ensure all showers in accessible rooms in all 14 of its hotels meet ADA standards, including installation and positioning of shower seats, grab bars, and shower spray units. LaFrance Hospitality also will pay the woman \$20,000 in compensation.

“Meeting the requirements of the ADA means individuals with mobility impairments should never have to question whether the hotel they are staying in will provide safe and accessible rooms,” said United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling. “We commend LaFrance Hospitality for working cooperatively with us to meet the standards of the ADA moving forward.”

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Justice Department plays a central role in advancing the nation’s goal of equal opportunity, full

participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities. The Justice Department will continue to use its enforcement and technical assistance tools to eliminate unlawful discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

This case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory Dorchak of Lelling's Civil Rights Unit.

The Civil Rights Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office was established in 2015 with the mission of enhancing federal civil rights enforcement. For more information on the Office's civil rights efforts, please visit www.justice.gov/usao-ma/civil-rights.

James Karam Scholarship Fund awards \$50,000 in UMass scholarships to 10 SouthCoast students

James Karam Scholarship Fund awards \$50,000 in UMass scholarships to 10 SouthCoast students. Awards honor students' academic achievement and community engagement.

The James J. Karam Scholarship Fund has awarded 10 current and incoming University of Massachusetts students more than \$50,000 in scholarships. The scholarships are awarded annually to SouthCoast students who distinguish themselves through their campus and community engagement activities and strong academic performance.

Business leader and former Board of Trustees Chairman James Karam and his wife, Janis Karam, established the James J. Karam Scholarship Fund in 2013.

“During these trying times, it is especially important to support our hardworking SouthCoast UMass students in any way we can,” Jim Karam said. “I am confident that these exceptional students will continue to distinguish themselves in their academic careers at UMass and in their professional careers beyond.”

UMass President Marty Meehan praised the Karam family’s unwavering support for UMass and offered praise for the student honorees.

“By giving their time, talents and resources to create pathways of opportunity for deserving students, Jim and Janis Karam represent the very best of the UMass community,” said UMass President Marty Meehan. “Our Karam Scholarship recipients are some of our brightest students and I am happy to congratulate them on this well-deserved honor.”

This year’s scholarship recipients are:

- Emanuele Abi-Younes, New Bedford – Emanuele is a junior at UMass Amherst studying chemical engineering and is a graduate of New Bedford High School.
- Samuele Abi-Younes, New Bedford – Along with her sister, Samuele is a sophomore at UMass Amherst studying economics and is a graduate of New Bedford High School.
- Peter DaCosta, New Bedford – A medical student at UMass Medical School in Worcester, Peter is a graduate of Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School and the medical laboratory science program at UMass Dartmouth.
- Savanha Laroche, Fall River – Savanha is a first-year student at UMass Dartmouth who plans to study nursing and is a

graduate of BMC Durfee High School.

- Chloe Morgado, New Bedford – Chloe is a first-year student at UMass Amherst who plans to study political science/pre-law and is a graduate of New Bedford High School.

- Kyle Neves, Fall River – Kyle is a sophomore at UMass Amherst studying political science and is a graduate of BMC Durfee High School.

- Jaely Pereira, Swansea – Jaely is a senior at UMass Boston with a biology pre-med major and a minor in Asian American studies. She is a graduate of Westport High School.

- Carly Sherman, Westport – Carly is a junior at UMass Amherst studying natural resources conservation and is a graduate of Bishop Stang High School.

- Lannie Wrightington, Fall River – Lannie is a junior at UMass Lowell studying English and is a graduate of Somerset Berkley Regional High School.

- Athena Xifaras, Fairhaven – Athena is a first-year student at UMass Amherst who plans to study psychology and is a graduate of Fairhaven High School.

Originally from Fall River, James Karam graduated from UMass Dartmouth in 1971 before becoming the President and founder of First Bristol Corporation in 1975. First Bristol Corporation has developed retail shopping centers, hotels and office buildings throughout southern New England. In addition, Mr. Karam co-owns the WSAR and WHTB radio stations.

For 10 years, Mr. Karam served on the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees, including four years as Chairman. During his time on the Board, Mr. Karam played a leading role in initiating a multi-billion-dollar capital plan across all five UMass campuses and the creation of UMass Dartmouth Law School.

Dunn and Coelho miss all six New Bedford 2021 budget meetings

New Bedford City Councilors Debora Coelho and Hugh Dunn have now missed all six New Bedford 2021 budget meetings.

Here are the final attendance records for the final two meetings:

Monday, August 10th

Present:

Abreu

Baptiste

Carney

Giesta

Gomes

Lima

Lopes

Markey

Wednesday, August 12th

Present:

Abreu

Baptiste

Carney

Giesta

Gomes

Lopes

Markey

Morad

The attendance logs for the first four meetings can be found

here.

The final budget meeting and vote is on Aug 24.

Due to COVID-19, New Bedford City Council meetings are held on Zoom which makes attendance very easy. Councilor Dunn has stated, **“My absence has no impact on my ability to effectively represent my constituents as we navigate the budget process.”** Councilor Coelho hasn’t responded to an email request but **announced her retirement shortly after getting elected.**

The FY2021 budget review comes during a COVID-19 pandemic, shrinking revenues, and **mayor requested cuts to the police and fire departments.** The budget will determine the need for future property tax increases and fees, so the City Council’s role in the budget process is considered the single most important job city councilors have.

One of the New Bedford Black Lives Matter leaders arrested in connection to double shooting

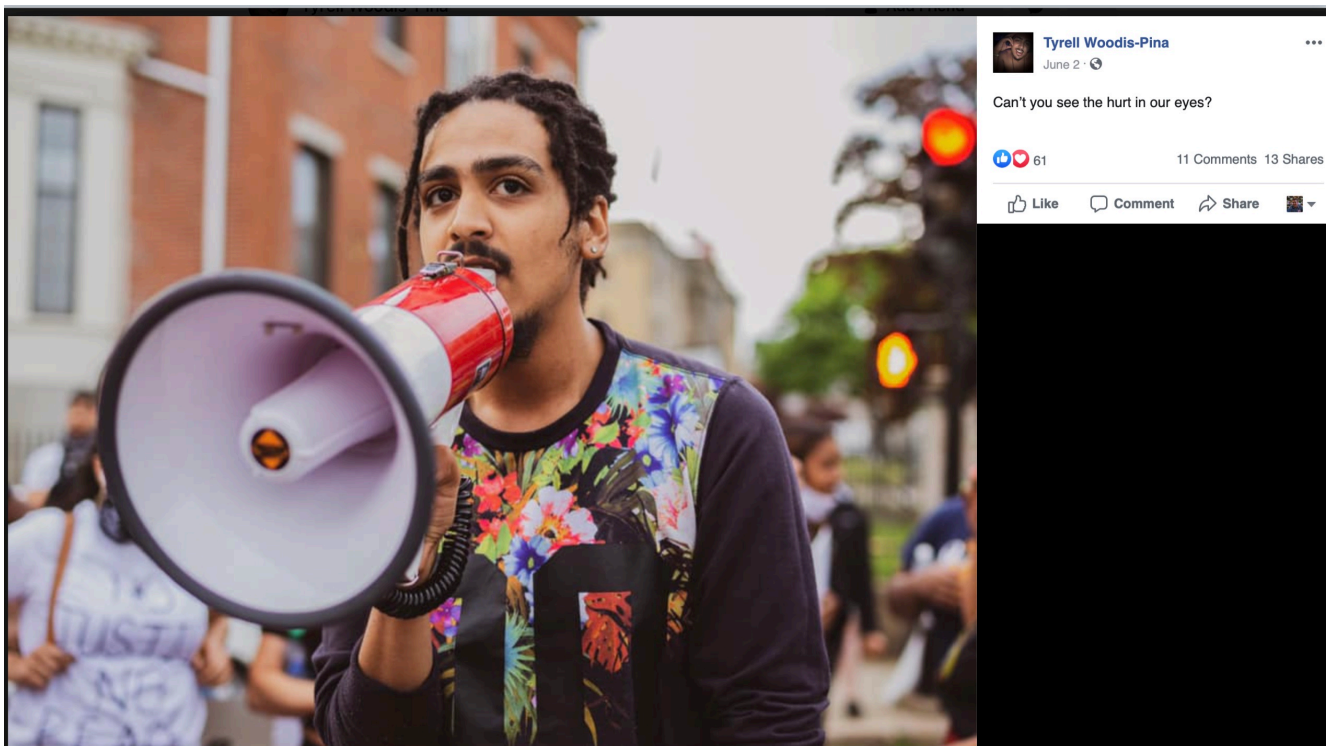
Two men were arrested for the July 26 shooting of two men at Petro Mart on Coggeshall Street in New Bedford to include a leader in the New Bedford Black Lives Matter movement.

According to New Bedford police, 24-year old Tyrell Woodis-Pina of Fairhaven and Giovanni Vale-Valentin of New Bedford have both been charged with discharging a firearm along with numerous weapons-related offenses. Another suspect, 23-year

old Brian Ortiz of 2110 Phillips Rd. Apt. #19 in New Bedford, remains at large. A warrant is out for his arrest on numerous firearms-related charges.

Tyrell Woodis-Pina, a resident of Fairhaven, is one of the two people that manage the New Bedford Black Lives Matter Facebook page with over 1,600 followers and has been at many of the Black Lives Matter protests in New Bedford earlier this year. Here's Tyrell Woodis-Pina live on the Black Lives Matter Facebook page on July 23rd complaining that the police arrested his pregnant girlfriend.

Woodis-Pina's Facebook page shows him at a Black Lives Matter rally in New Bedford during the day of June 2nd:



According to New Bedford records, Woodis-Pina was one of two people arrested for disorderly conduct the night of June 2nd after protesters illegally marched down Route 18.

Earlier in the day on June 2nd, after Black Lives Matters protestors shut down the New Bedford/Fairhaven bridge for a

short time, Woodis-Pina threatened physical violence on a New Bedford Guide reporter (me) while simply covering the protest.

Woodis-Pina messaged New Bedford Guide to remove some protest photos that were sent to us and posted. He sent us a private message on May 30:



These are the photos, sent to use by someone at the protest, Woodis-Pina was concerned about:

Woodis-Pina states that he was shot last year and posted about going to court in March:



Woodis-Pina messaged us in October, telling us that his uncle shot him.



Since the death of George Floyd the vast majority of Black Lives Matters protesters in New Bedford and throughout the south coast, Massachusetts area have been peaceful. Black Lives Matter groups in places like New Bedford are unofficially organized and anyone can step up to be a leader. According to the Black Lives Matters New Bedford's page transparency, two people run the page and since Tyrell Woodis-Pina went live from the page, he is one of them. While Tyrell Woodis-Pina is not the leader of the New Bedford Black Lives Matter movement, he is a leader in the movement with over 1,600 Facebook followers and active in the protests.

New Bedford's Community Foundation awards over \$4.7 million to 82 nonprofits to the region's most vulnerable communities

NEW BEDFORD – The SouthCoast Community Foundation launched the SouthCoast Emergency Response Fund in March 2020 to support nonprofit organizations on the front lines of the COVID-19 outbreak. To date, the fund has raised over \$5.5 million and granted over \$4.7 million to 82 nonprofits providing emergency support for vulnerable populations, including the homeless, immigrant families, and those facing food insecurity in our region.

The Community Foundation selected 34 local nonprofit organizations to receive a total of \$1.26 million for the final round of grants made possible through the Community Foundation's partnership with the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund. The Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund supports those across the state most impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis, focusing on essential frontline workers and vulnerable populations including the homeless, immigrant populations, people with disabilities and those facing food insecurity. The Fund works in concert with regional community foundations and non-profit leaders who partner with local leaders to understand the response and relief landscape, strategically filling in where gaps are pronounced. For more information, visit MACovid19ReliefFund.org.

"The challenges to the health and well-being of our community during this time has been ever shifting. Thanks to the generosity of so many in our community, we have been able to

put food on people's tables, keep people in their homes, protect our frontline workers, support those struggling with mental health issues, get kids into safe and engaging summer programs, and help our most vulnerable neighbors during this uncertain time." said John Vasconcellos, President of the SouthCoast Community Foundation.

To date, the Fund has raised over \$5.5 million from a wide range of corporate donors, foundations, and individuals, in response to the Community Foundation's call to come together on behalf of our community. The SouthCoast Emergency Response Fund will continue to make grants to support the region's nonprofits on the frontlines of the pandemic. Please consider making a donation on our website www.southcoastcf.org.

Details of each grantee's work can be found listed below. Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$79,000 were distributed to the following organizations:

Grantees:

Early July: (\$600,000)

- Angels Anonymous Inc.
- Attleboro Interfaith Area Collaborative
- Catholic Social Services Diocese of Fall River, Inc.
- Citizens for Citizens, Inc.
- Coastal Foodshed, Inc.
- Community Economic Development Center of Southeastern Mass
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, Inc.
- Hockomock Area YMCA, Inc.
- M.O.L.I.F.E., Inc.
- People Acting In Community Endeavors (PACE) Community Housing Corporation
- Round the Bend Farm, Inc.
- Seven Hills Behavioral Health, Inc.
- South Shore Community Action Council, Inc.
- The Marion Institute Inc.

- The Women's Center
- United Neighbors of Fall River
- United Way of Greater Fall River, Inc.

Late July: (\$660,000)

- Amego, Inc.
- Bristol Community College Foundation, Inc.
- Cambodian American Rescue Organization, Inc.
- Centro Comunitario De Trabajadores
- Citizens for Citizens, Inc.
- Community Action for Better Housing, Inc.
- Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry, Inc.
- Health Imperatives, Inc.
- Hebron Food Pantry, Inc.
- Hockomock Area YMCA, Inc.
- Immigrants' Assistance Center
- Kennedy-Donovan Center, Inc.
- Massachusetts Military Support Foundation, Inc.
- My Brother's Keeper, Inc.
- Plymouth Task Force to End Homelessness
- Saint Anne's Food Pantry
- SouthCoast LGBTQ Network, Inc.
- Southeastern Massachusetts SER-Jobs for Progress, Inc.
- The Salvation Army
- United Neighbors of Fall River
- United Way of Greater Fall River, Inc.

How to give

You can help those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting our region's nonprofits on the front lines. Donations to the SouthCoast Emergency Response Fund may be made online at on our website www.southcoastcf.org.

For general questions and inquiries about the Fund, please direct your inquiry to emergencyfund@southcoastcf.org. For any questions regarding making a donation, please contact the Community Foundation's Development Manager, Tricia Grime at

pgrime@southcoastcf.org. Lastly, for media inquiries and interview requests, please contact Jasmyrn Baird at jbbaird@southcoastcf.org.

Faces Of New Bedford #239: Joaquin Santos



Meet Joaquin Santos, a musician, professional drummer, and music educator.

Joaquin, born into a musical family, was destined to be a drummer picking up the sticks as early as three years old. He spent his childhood learning how to play drums from his father, extended family, and several other musicians he spent time around while growing up. He took a break from playing the drums and focused on playing baseball, football, and basketball.

He got back behind a drum set when he was 23 and got a big break with Devin Lima of LF0. He performed on tour traveling

the East Coast, was covered in magazines, and even did a TV performance. Devin started a new project and brought Joaquin in as a member of Devin Lima & The Cadbury Diesel, making one album together.

With his career kicked off, Joaquin continued to new ventures that have brought him all over the world, such as playing with Tavares in Santiago, Chile, at the Movie Star Arena in front of 12,000 people. He's taught a class at Berklee College of Music and is endorsed by Zildjian, the largest cymbal manufacturer in the world. They used him as the face of their last major campaign, promoting him worldwide in music stores and all over social media.

His achievements haven't gone unnoticed. In 2019 he received the Cape Verdean Recognition Award in New Bedford. Joaquin's new band, The Dope Lotus, recently released a new album that can be found on all the major platforms like iTunes and Spotify. With most of the big plans for 2020 on hold because of the pandemic, he's had time to focus on teaching his students, practicing music, strengthening his character as a human being, and trying to stay positive by knowing God is in control so to be ready for next year.

Faces of New Bedford is a New Bedford Guide project being undertaken by Josh Souza. If you'd like to nominate someone or ask a question you can inquire with him through email at josh@newbedfordguide.com.

Faces of New Bedford began as a project by Colton Simmons. You can find Colton on Instagram: <https://instagram.com/simmonscolton>.

New Bedford roadwork sites for the upcoming week of August 17, 2020 –August 21, 2020

The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of August 17, 2020 –August 21, 2020 and they are as follows:

Eversource:

Eversource will replace the gas mains and service at the following locations:

- Kings Hwy. – Tarkiln Hill Rd. to Mt. Pleasant St. (Main)
- Cottage St. From Parker St. – Sycamore St. (Main)
- Davis St. from Riverside Ave. to 389 Davis St. (Services)
- Hatch St. from Acushnet Ave. to Belleville Ave. (Services)
- Clifford St. from Ashley Blvd to Acushnet Ave. (Services)
- Summer St. from Studley St. to Locust St. (Main)
- Pleasant St. from 889 Pleasant St. to Hillman St. to Purchase St. (Main)

Eversource will be doing final street and sidewalk restoration at various locations city-wide.

Other:

- Contractor (PA Landers) to continue drainage work at Mass DOT Project #606709, New Bedford – Roadway Reconstruction and Related Work (including signals) along a section of Kings Highway and Tarkiln Hill Road. Construction to take place during regular working hours (Monday – Friday), police details

and traffic controls will be in place.

- Contractor (PA Landers) to continue drainage work at Valentine St. from Brock Ave. to West Rodney French Blvd. to prepare for final paving in the upcoming weeks.
- The contractor (Private Contractor: Southcoast Development) will be conducting some roadway work at the intersection of Acushnet Ave. and Ashley Blvd. for the new Cumberland Farms project.
- Mass DOT will be making repairs on the bridge at I-195 eastbound over Route 18 ramp. Work will be from August 18th to November 30th.
- Department of Public Infrastructure will be filling potholes on a continuous basis throughout the city.
- Department of Public Infrastructure conducting its annual street sweeping program city-wide.
- The contractor (WES Construction) is scheduled to continue construction of the new pumping station and demolishing the old station at the Front St./ Elm St. site. Elm St., between JFK Memorial Highway (RTE 18) and MacArthur Dr. will be closed to westbound traffic. Westbound traffic will be detoured via MacArthur Drive. There will be detour signage and traffic controls in place.
- The contractor (Bay State Wind Water) is scheduled to replace water meters at various NBHA locations.
- Due to ongoing construction at the High Hill Reservoir residents may experience discolored water. The water is safe, and the discoloration will be temporary. We recommend allowing the water to settle for a few hours and then flushing your service line by letting the bathtub run for a few minutes until the water clears.

*** Please note: Contractors will continue to follow guidelines and protocol regarding COVID-19 social distancing while conducting work in construction zone.*

Due to the current COVID-19 situation the Department of Public Infrastructure will be closed to the public entry. Office

staff is available to assist by email and telephone.

New Bedford School Committee unanimously approves hybrid plan

The New Bedford School Committee approved a fall reopening plan with a phased-in approach prioritizing the district's high needs students and those in transition grades. Recommended by Superintendent Thomas Anderson, the 3-phase hybrid plan will go into effect August 31, 2020. "We will use a hybrid plan, which incorporates distance learning and cohorts of students who will be in classrooms 2 days per week and participating in a strict distance learning platform 3 days per week for a full 5 days of learning each week," he said.

Of the hybrid plan, ex officio chair of the committee, Mayor Jon Mitchell said, "It is important for families, students, and educators to know that as we move ahead, we must and will continue to monitor the state of the virus and any potential impacts on the operation of the school district. Any adjustments or changes will be based on science, data, and the best public health guidance available. This plan for the school year is a roadmap that will allow families and teachers to plan. I appreciate the work of the superintendent and the team comprised of educators from across the district who provided valuable feedback to the reopening planning process, and the families of New Bedford students who shared their thoughts and ideas with the district."

New Bedford Public Schools will reopen in three phases with

all students divided into three cohorts.

Phase I begins on August 31 when all NBPS staff report to work for staff training and professional development.

Phase II begins on September 16 when Cohort A, which will consist of students based on their learning needs (i.e., spend less than 40% in general education, level 1 English Language Learners, McKinney-Vento/homeless or extenuating circumstances) returning to school for in-person instruction 5 days a week. Cohorts B and C, which will consist of all other students, will be all accessing the distance learning platform.

Phase III begins on October 5 when Cohort B, which will consist of Transition Grades Pre-K, K, 6 and 9 returning for a hybrid schedule of classroom and distance learning. Split into two subgroups, Cohort B1 will be in the classroom for in-person instruction on Mondays and Tuesdays, with distance learning on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Cohort B2 will be in the classroom for in-person instruction on Thursdays and Fridays, with distance learning on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Phase III continues on October 19 with Cohort C, which consists of all remaining students returning for a similar schedule: Cohort C1, In-person on Mondays and Tuesdays, with Distance Learning on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Cohort B2 will be in the classroom for in-person instruction on Thursdays and Fridays, with distance learning on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Students' schools will be contacting families directly with schedule details and information related to specific health precautions. Additional information regarding bus transportation changes will be forthcoming. As a reminder, parents have the right to choose between the hybrid and distance learning options. The district is developing a

commitment form for parents who elect to enroll their child in 100% distance learning.

Implementation of the three phases of the reopening plan will be determined by the transmission rate of COVID19 (currently 2.2% in New Bedford and less than 2.0% state average) and facility readiness, including corrective actions for identified rooms.

The reopening plan presentation is available at www.newbedfordschools.org.

New Bedford Public Schools Reopening Plan - Option 1: Hybrid A	
Summary: Phases begin 9/16: in-person instruction for Cohort A (targeted students). Cohort B begins Oct. 5. Cohort C begins Oct. 19	
Phase I	August 31: All Staff report to work for training and professional development* <i>*Hayden-McFadden and Parker School staff report to work Aug. 24. Gomes School staff report Aug. 25</i>
Phase II	September 16: Cohort A: Selected Students (in person 5 days)* September 16: Cohort B and C: will be all distance learning <i>*For Gomes, Hayden-McFadden and Parker Schools (Extended Year schools), Cohort A begins Sept. 10</i>
Phase III	Students Cohort A in person 5 days a week October 5: Cohort B – Transition Grades (PreK, K, 6 and 9) B1 – In person Mon/Tues; Distance Wed/Thurs/Fri B2 – In person Thurs/Fri; Distance Mon/Tues/Wed October 19: Cohort C – Remaining Students C1 – In person Mon/Tues; Distance Wed/Thurs/Fri C2 – In person Thurs/Fri; Distance Mon/Tues/Wed
Next phase of instruction will be determined by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virus transmission rate (currently 2.2% in New Bedford and 2.0% state avg.)• Facility Readiness (corrective actions in identified rooms)	