

# **“I’m outraged, feel betrayed by how the New Bedford Public School system is handling our kids!”**

“I’m outraged and I feel betrayed by our school system’s handling of our children.

I know most reading this have had an experience where they have felt betrayed and spent the day worrying about their child’s safety due to a lack of protocol and more attention paid to sweeping things under the rug than handling situations properly.

We’ve all heard about the child in Taunton. I assure you it is happening here to our children. Most parents know if their child is being bullied at school they are coming up helpless as countless officials turn their backs and countless phone calls go unreturned as the officials hide in hopes the problem goes away.

It was decided my autistic nephew be walked to his mother’s car daily even though he is fully capable, due to severe bullying affecting his safety before his mother was even notified about such a thing. Yet they don’t find the problem ‘severe’ enough to take further action.

Since this has been decided the child is being bullied even more, but now he’s not just being humiliated, but physically assaulted. ...verbally and physically harassed for simply telling a student he dropped something. Once he was chased into oncoming traffic during recess. These boys torment him for something as simple as laughing. The mother is having very little success with the school on these matters and police just direct you back to the same unanswered phone number.

This is happening at our schools along with a military-style education. It's not fair and it's not right. This is not how school is supposed to be and parents need to be given their rights back!"

This message is long but it needs to be addressed by the parents of the kids in the New Bedford public school system because it's a huge problem and we are gonna start losing our younger generation. My nephew whom I mentioned, texted his mother from school saying 'I want to commit suicide. No parent wants a text like that. He's only 12-years old.

This is at Rodman Elementary School, Keith Middle School, everywhere. All I hear lately is horrible things happening. The girl in Taunton, it's just getting closer. I am a few parents away from considering a peaceful protest at the NBPS lawn for parents to be heard and problems to be addressed." - Anonymous mom.

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## **"Why are sentimental items tossed in the trash at Sacred Heart Cemetery, New Bedford?"**

"Sacred Heart Cemetery took all our mementos and sentimental tokens from my mom's grave and threw them all away. This is what they do instead of calling family to tell them they are taking it?

Look at all my pictures of what they took. My mom is not coming back. Why can't she enjoy the holidays? I would have taken them down after Halloween, I had only just put them there. I just lost my mom on October 1, 2021. I'm still

grieving for my mom. Like really? I'm so hurt by this.

This is the second time that I decorated for her for Halloween. Halloween hasn't even passed yet. Can't they at least wait? Look at my Facebook pictures. It doesn't look bad, I made it look beautiful, just for her. She loved the holidays so let her enjoy it. I know she sees what I'm doing, then it's gone.

I'm just so upset. They should let you put things there for the holidays then give us some time to take them back, but no they throw everything away like it's garbage. I want my mom out of there now because of this.

I just would like to know why we can't have things put on markers for the holidays."-Kim Cunha.



*Kim Cunha photo.*





*Kim Cunha photo.*



# **“New Bedford dogs owners: Don’t get mad when I pepper spray your dog! Put them on a leash!!!”**

“Just a quick PSA for the people of the south end. These 2 dogs right here are my everything! Whenever I leave the house they are always on a leash! I have never “lost” them or had them run off.

In the past 6 months they have gone from friendly dogs to scared, nervous and aggressive outside. Why? Because we are constantly getting run up on by loose dogs!

So if you walk your dog on Valentine Street, Willard St, Woodlawn St., and all the other streets...put your dogs on a leash!!

Just because you think ‘Fluffy’ is good out in the front the house for 2 mins or ‘Fido’ will sit on the porch because you’re talking to your friend and not paying attention...think again! I am NO longer traumatizing my dogs and forcing their faces away so the loose dogs don’t get bit.

I’m NOT gonna run down the street with my dogs while you try to catch your dog. I AM DONE! So if you wanna trust Fido or let Fluffy out off leash then don’t expect me to pay your vet bills!! Don’t get mad when I pepper spray your dog! Put a leash on them and stop being lazy!” -Katie Martins.

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# **OPINION: Old Rochester Regional School District Parents Speak Out Against Book Banning**

*The following was submitted to use from a group of parents in the Old Rochester Regional School District.*

As members of the Old Rochester Regional School District community, we are speaking out against the efforts to suppress, demonize and ban books from our district's school libraries. These attempts target books by and about LGBTQ+, Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color. These groups are underrepresented in books in our schools, despite recent school district efforts to provide greater access to books which reflect the diverse makeup of our community. These achievements should be celebrated, not impeded.

A parent has a right to decide which books their own children may read, but no single parent or community member has that right over another's child. Access to books and information is integral to a healthy democracy, economic growth and a more compassionate society.

Engaging in reading builds empathy. When kids read books centered on someone different from them, they learn to see others as fully human. Recognizing the humanity of others creates a community of compassion and prevents hatred, cruelty, bullying and bigotry.

When our young scholars, who are minorities in their communities, read books elevating characters like them, they

feel validated and seen. They receive the message: You matter.

Attempts to ban books highlighting underrepresented kids sends them the message: You shouldn't exist; your story doesn't matter and we don't want our kids to empathize with you. This is a dangerous message which can result in grave consequences, like depression, self-harm and suicidal ideation. No child should feel like they are unworthy and undeserving of love and respect.

We hope for a positive future, free from fear and prejudice; where all of us work together and support each other to create and foster a diverse community built on common ground. Sharing our unique stories and identities is the best way to build that common ground.

We stand with our dedicated educators, teachers, librarians and all those who seek to better the lives of our kids. Education should be about expanding minds and broadening perspectives, not narrowing thoughts.

We ask the Old Rochester School District School Committee Members and those in power to reject these divisive, hate-mongering attempts to limit whose stories are worth telling and emphatically remind them of the values of intellectual freedom enumerated in the district's own policy IJJ/IJK/IJKA/IJL/ILM listed below:

The Old Rochester School Committees subscribe in principle to the statements of policy on library philosophy as expressed in the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association. The principles of intellectual freedom expressed in the Library Bill of Rights are inherent in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. In the event library materials are questioned, the principles of intellectual freedom shall be defended.

As a concerned member of our community, We invite you to join me in opposing the proposed banning of reading materials from

our school libraries. Signing the letter provided in the link below will ensure your voice is heard when the letter is shared with School Committee members (inclusive of a list of signatures) at the District Meeting scheduled on October 19, 2022. Please comment “signed” upon completing the form provided. Thank you.

Sign the letter HERE:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQnJnjM4RaB44F3UdsrXsQaelGvCpcuIEHt8eBuenhwRCGLw/viewform?fbclid=IwAR2z2dbqsDa6qGhA9HR2xPJc4PgN0vJdlMWlNsEyUk45c0d5L1PZc4Ru-Dw>

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## **OPINION: “No child at New Bedford Public Schools should be afraid to be in school!!”**

*It is a recurring theme we hear often at New Bedford Guide through emails and messages to our Facebook, as well as comments on our page: school officials are feckless when it comes to bullying. They placate the bullied child and his or her parents by saying they will address it, but rarely ever do since officials don't want to offend anyone.*

Meanwhile, the bullying continues and the child continues to suffer, feeling helpless and hopeless that when they reached out to those who could do something, it fell on deaf ears. As this grandmother states “This is how mass school shootings happen and suicide of children happen.”

It's time for school officials to suspend these bullies and give the parents of the child a stern warning – not a gentle, soft and kind warning – that the child will be kicked out of the school permanently if the behavior persists.



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"I would like this opinion posted as anonymous because it involves my minor granddaughter but I feel that the city should know.

On the first day of school this year my granddaughter was bullied by another child who had bullied her in the 6th grade. Her mother went into the school once again and spoke to her guidance counselor, resource officer and a principal at Normandin.

It was stated that the child who was bullying her had no business on her floor because she was in a different grade. The mother was told that her daughter would be safe, and the officer would be on her floor during passing periods. She was also given permission to exit the school by the bus doors. NONE of these things were done.

When my granddaughter tried to exit the bus doors she was told that she's not a bus student and can't do that. On September 15th my granddaughter was approached by the bullies during passing period she had to go into another class because she feared for her safety.

On September 16, the mother called the school again. I personally called the superintendent office myself and his secretary was not sympathetic to my situation. She gave me ALL WRONG INFORMATION on who to contact because each person she gave me was no longer working in that area.

Supposedly a woman name 'Page' runs a family outreach service to address any and all issues like this but she has not called the mother or myself. I was told to call the family resource person at the school by this secretary and I called 4 times and was disconnected.

I was so upset I went to the school with the mother and my granddaughter and was told that the principal was in a

meeting. I said I'm staying until I speak to someone. She came down after her meeting and immediately apologized to my granddaughter explaining she had to leave early but was informed that mom called the school that morning.

I was very upset because this is the woman who said she could be dismissed by the bus doors but it was never in place for my granddaughter to do! I was given the opportunity to say exactly how I felt but was patronized and felt like they were trying to calm me with statements like she's the same way about her grandkids.

I was not concerned about ANYONE ELSE BUT MY GRANDKIDS. I was reassured that this will not happen again. I feel the school system should have better things in place for parents and children being bullied. This is how mass school shootings happen and suicide of children happen.

Schools are supposed to be a safe place for our children and if they can't provide safety, they should offer the parents home schooling for free.

NO CHILD SHOULD BE AFRAID TO BE IN SCHOOL!! Do better NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS!"

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**Mom upset about noiseless, military-style lunches forced on students at New Bedford**

# **schools**

"I don't know how many parents are aware but at Keith Junior High School and other schools, they have always been heavy on the students not speaking but now they are forcing noiseless lunches.

Recently my child was in trouble in school with some other children. They were forced to write an essay and denied recess due to 'talking.' The story isn't about worked up children forcing conversation. These are brief conversations like the offering of a pencil sharpener as 'breaking the rules.'

How do other parents feel about this? Why are they forcing our children to have a military experience at school? Why are they unable to socialize or even offer a kind gesture of a pencil sharpener? My son was forced to do these things for doing what I teach him to do every day! Do other parents find these schools are becoming a little much when it comes to our children?

Keep me anonymous please! Never know with these schools and retaliation. I have children in the public school system. Just want to see if I can get a few parents to speak out and voice their opinion. Most parents are not even aware of this silent lunch rule. The school claims it's so children don't choke! Seriously?"

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**Sheriff      Hodgson      to      Mr.**

# **Pingeon: “Monday morning quarterbacking this tragedy is shameful, a disgrace”**

“Bristol County Sheriff Thomas Hodgson has clapped back concerning criticism levied against him on how his office handled Adam Howe.

According to SouthCoast Today, James Pingeon, litigation director for Prisoners’ Legal Services of Massachusetts, said that the level of supervision taken by the Bristol County Sheriff’s Office at the Ash Street Jail concerning Howe was inadequate.

“This is a man who clearly was in a very vulnerable position. The main problem with what they did was the 15-minute watch. He should have been on constant observation, which is the standard practice for people on mental health watch. There are different levels of supervision. Constant observation is one that is used routinely. In my opinion, it should have been done in his case.”

Hodgson issued a statement Friday disputing Pingeon’s allegations.

“Mr. Pingeon should be ashamed of himself for these reckless accusations against the law enforcement professionals at the Bristol County Sheriff’s Office. Mr. Howe underwent a psychiatric evaluation at Cape Cod Hospital and was cleared for custody by the hospital’s health care professionals. Had Mr. Howe been brought to our jail without medical clearance by the hospital, he would have been either brought to the Crisis Center at Children and Family Services in New Bedford – a 24-hour facility for emergency mental health services with on-site and on-call psychiatrist and master’s level clinicians – or put on a mental health watch in our jail with constant

observation. Mr. Pingeon should direct his reckless hindsight opinions to Cape Cod Hospital, which performed his psychiatric evaluation and cleared him.

“Monday morning quarterbacking this tragedy is not only shameful, but a disgrace to a family that has been through terrible circumstances. It is grossly unfair to my staff members who followed standard operating procedures that have merited national accreditation from the American Corrections Association and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.”

Cape & Islands District Attorney Michael O’Keefe and Truro Police Chief Jamie Calise announced Saturday that as a result of a request for a well-being check and a separate report of a fire, emergency personnel responded to a location in Truro at approximately 9:30 p.m. Friday night.

Upon arrival, responders encountered a man outside of the house and a fire on the front lawn. As the emergency personnel realized that it was a body that was burning, the man ran into the house and locked the door. The Cape Cod Regional SWAT Team responded and ultimately made entry into the home placing the man into custody.

The suspect, 34-year-old Howe, was subsequently charged with the murder of 70-year-old Susan Howe, Howe’s mother.

Gregg Miliote of the Bristol County District Attorney’s Office stated that correctional officers at the jail found Howe unresponsive to verbal and physical checks at 3:04 p.m. Sunday. New Bedford EMS was immediately contacted, while three correctional officers and two correctional nurses performed CPR on Howe. He was rushed to St. Luke’s Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased at 3:37 p.m. of suicide.

Miliote stated that Howe was alone in his cell in an isolated unit at the time of the incident and was wearing inmate clothing specifically designed for at risk prisoners.



An autopsy is also being conducted.”

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## **New Bedford woman warns residents about incidents with black painting van**

“This is a long shot but here goes: I am a waitress so I usually don’t get home till between 8-11:30pm at night but I always walk my dog when I get home.

My boyfriend usually comes with me as he doesn’t like me out at night walking around by myself. This past week he has been tired so I’ve told him he hasn’t had to come with me. I live on Ashley Street.

4 nights ago I go out and while walking this all-black van – looks like a paint company van – stop and asks me to come over to the passenger side and give him directions. I proceeded to start to tell him that I don’t know the area as I just moved here, but before I could even get that out a police cruiser turned down the road and the black van sped off. I found it odd.

Last night my boyfriend came on my walk with me and I saw the black van again going very slow up and down our road and the surrounding roads. I pointed to the all-black van, even the windows are tinted so you can’t see inside.

Well, tonight while I am waiting for my boyfriend I bring the trash out of the front door and start to walk to the backyard and there is a car coming up the road – well it’s not just a car it’s the black van again. The van proceeds to see me and

comes to a screeching stop as soon as it sees me and just sits there.

I get so nervous that I run to my front door, and I'm shaking trying to get my keys out and I hear a car door open. I get into my house and into my apartment to tell my boyfriend to hurry and go see who is in this van. As my boyfriend walks out the front door the van slams on the gas and flies away.

Has anyone seen this strange black van? If so please stay away! It's super creepy and scared the shit outta me. If anyone see it or can get the license plate number please contact the police.

Again, this is around Ashley Street by the police and fire station." -Leah Barnicoat.

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## **New Bedford mom disgusted with used masks, needles, condoms, open drug use at playground**

"This is today currently at a children's playground on Bonney Street!!

Children come here every day to play!! There are grown individuals who think it's okay to come here, sit on the actual playground and do whatever drugs that they want to do!!

They were putting chairs underneath so they can sit and enjoy!! I called the police last week when three individuals walked up confidently as we were arriving and sat themselves

at the children's playground and were clearly doing some drugs. We had to leave!!

We visited the park again a week later and we had to leave again because of the same thing!! I called the police last week and they said they were aware of it and would check on it. But on another visit a week later we actually found uncovered needles tossed on the ground!!

Today (09/12) two grown men were hanging out on the children's playground again!! This time I mentioned out loud that this was a children's playground!! The one in the photo couldn't even stand straight and was looking through all the woodchips to see if he could find anything for himself (reference the photo of the uncovered hypodermic needle).

They were defending themselves and telling me why they could be there!! Telling me to go to a different park up the street!! I take my daughter to his park every day because we wait for her dad to leave his work which is right next door. This once again was not an option because of these 'grown' individuals who made it very clear to me that they don't care and that if they are there it's for them to enjoy.

I'm so disappointed.

Just shedding light and trying to spread awareness on this in case families bring their children there to play."



*Facebook photo.*



*Facebook photo.*





*Facebook photo.*





*Facebook photo.*



*Facebook photo.*



*Facebook photo.*

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## **OPINION: New Bedford woman uses CPR on OD victim, disappointed in how addict was treated**

"I hate to talk about addiction on this page because people can be so simple-minded but here it goes:

Earlier this week as I was driving to Waterwizz with a girlfriend of mine and we encountered a man that was laying on the ground unconscious. As soon as the light turned green I pulled to the side of the highway and started CPR on this man while my friend went to her grandmother's house just down the



road to grab some Narcan.

I cried trying to keep this man alive. Another female bystander pulled over to assist me. Thank god for you! To the firefighters that arrived on scene: your lack of empathy towards another human being is disgusting! I had to get out of there I was so distraught. You guys are tired of seeing the same people, I get it. It still doesn't change the fact that you should still be a decent human being. Especially the fact that I lost my brother to drugs in 2013 and the thought of someone treating him that way just made me so sick.

Now fast forward to 4:30pm and the same man is back on the corner so I stopped and talked to him and asked him if he wanted help. He said 'yes.' He told me he was in a lot of pain which is why he was back on the corner trying to get his next fix. I knew he would be because I literally felt the crack as I was doing the chest compressions.

When someone who had to be revived with Narcan arrives at St Luke's, does the staff even make an attempt to give them any resources? If not, how do you guys not expect to see the same people over and over again? Where is the mental help ?How do we expect to see change if nothing is being done?!!"