

# **New Bedford Public Schools recognized for financial leadership**

New Bedford Public Schools Finance and Operations Department is the recipient of the 2022 Donald D. Johnson Operational and Cost Efficiency Award, which “recognizes school districts for their efforts in developing replicable, cost efficient approaches that address operational challenges commonly burdening districts.” The prestigious award was presented by the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) at its FY22 Annual Institute, May 18-20. The award comes with \$2,500 for NBPS scholarships.

Margaret Raymond Driscoll, MASBO Executive Director noted the award identifies exemplars of best practices, which other districts may follow. “The New Bedford Public Schools’ Finance and Operations team, led by Asst. Superintendent of Finance and Operations Andrew O’Leary, as well as the district as a whole, clearly, intentionally, and creatively practices and models the tying of resources to improved student outcomes, working to improve the lives and education of all students. MASBO is privileged to share this work with districts around the Commonwealth who can replicate it within their own school communities for the benefit of students.”

In congratulating the team, Superintendent Thomas Anderson stated, “This distinguished award is a reflection of NBPS’ high expectations across all areas of its activities, from teaching and learning to finance and operations – always with a clear focus on supporting student success.”

Andrew O’Leary accepted the award on behalf of the department, stating, “We have the best teachers in the state. This award shows that those supporting our schools are some of the best

finance and operations staff you will find.”

The award acknowledges NBPS efforts to outreach the city’s immigrant community. From 2021 New Bedford Public School’s Finance & Operations office engaged with a local parents group, the Mujeres Victoriosas (Victorious Women), representing families from New Bedford’s growing Central American community.

Mujeres Victoriosas’ membership is made up of Spanish speaking mothers of New Bedford students across all grade levels – all committed to increasing school/parent engagement and learning more about educational programs within the city and district. The partnership has increased awareness of NBPS’ numerous benefits and brought families and their community closer to maximizing the array of opportunities the district has to offer.

The Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) is a 501(c)3 professional association, enhancing the competence and knowledge of financial and operational professionals in public schools throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Donald D. Johnson Operational and Cost Efficiency Award is made possible through MASBO’s partnership with VOYA Financial.