

Voters will choose up to three School Committee candidates in the New Bedford Oct. 8 preliminary election. The preliminary field of seven will be narrowed down to six for the final election on Nov. 5. Voters will then choose three members of the committee.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Joshua Amaral
AGE: 20
ADDRESS: 257 Rockdale Ave.
OCCUPATION: Program Coordinator, People Inc.
EDUCATION: NBHS graduate, UMass Dartmouth senior
PERSONAL: Lifelong New Bedford resident and graduate seeking to give back to the community after careful study of local schools.



MISSION:
“To provide schools that serve the best interests of the students by engaging the community, and encouraging thoughtful policy and careful fiscal management.”

MISSION:
“To foster communication between the families of students and their schools, prepare and supply schools with what they need through good budgeting.”

Christopher Cotter
AGE: 46
ADDRESS: 64 Holden St.
OCCUPATION: Police Officer/Det.
EDUCATION: B.A., sociology, UMD; A.A. Criminal Justice, Cape Cod Community College
PERSONAL: Area board member of NB Department of Children and Families (DCF), Planning Comm. of the state Children’s Alliance, professional advisory comm. for Children’s Advocacy Center of Bristol County (CAC).



Lawrence J. Finnerty
AGE: 65
ADDRESS: 1135 Beverly St.
OCCUPATION: Educational consultant
EDUCATION: B.S. history UMD, M.A., guidance and counseling, C.A.G.S. educational leadership, Bridgewater State, Ed.D. educational leadership, UMass Boston
PERSONAL: Lifelong resident, Married to former Sarah Walsh, two children, two grandsons. Vice chairman, School Comm.



MISSION:
“To provide all students with a strong educational foundation that best prepares them for their futures.”

Michael Janson
AGE: 64
ADDRESS: 895 Rockdale Ave.
OCCUPATION: Retired
EDUCATION: Attended Shimer College and Southeastern Massachusetts University, (now UMass Dartmouth)
PERSONAL: Veteran of many political wars



MISSION:
“A watchdog. You’re fighting for the quality of education of the schools keeping in mind that you represent taxpayers, too.”

MISSION:
“Improving performance, goals and careful oversight of budget. Foster a learning community committed to provide each student with engaging, quality instruction, learning opportunities.”

Maria Mojica-Mosquea
AGE: 41
ADDRESS: 38 Liberty St.
OCCUPATION: Human services
EDUCATION: B.A., political science and history, UMass Dartmouth
PERSONAL: Two children. Greater New Bedford Allies Steering Committee and Workforce Investment Board Youth Council.



Editor’s note: The School Committee and City Council voted in 2012 to appoint Bruce Oliveira to the School Committee, after former member Tom Clark resigned. Oliveira is running unopposed to complete the final two years of the term.

Joaquim Nobrega
AGE: 83
ADDRESS: 18 Tremont St.
OCCUPATION: Part-time administrator in the Fall River Secretary of State’s office.
EDUCATION: NBHS, 1949
PERSONAL: Three grandchildren. New Bedford Elks 1960-present. Prince Henry Society 1980-present. Feast of Blessed Sacrament 1958-present



MISSION:
“Our job is to pick a new superintendent, set policy and put the budget together.”

MISSION:
“To set the vision and policies of the district, oversee the superintendent, bring community concerns to administration and monitor the budget.”

Brian Pastori
AGE: 30
ADDRESS: 71 Chancery St.
OCCUPATION: Program Coordinator at the Community Economic Development Center
EDUCATION: Medford High School; B.A., sociology, UMD
PERSONAL: member of the Coalition for Social Justice, a steering committee for UMD Labor Education Center, a member of the United Way Mini-Grants Family



Bruce J. Oliveira
AGE: 60
ADDRESS: 119 Plymouth St.
OCCUPATION: Semi-retired
EDUCATION: NBHS 1971; B.S., business management, UMD.
PERSONAL: Married to Pamela (Areia), two children, one grandchild, chair, Housing Authority; treasurer, Friendly Sons of St Patrick; dist. treas., GNB Voc-Tech High School; assistant treasurer, New Bedford Port Society; Youth baseball/softball coach 30 years,



MISSION:
“To make necessary resources available and provide safe learning environment in order to provide the highest level of education and appropriate services for all levels of students.”

WHERE DO SCHOOL COMMITTEE CANDIDATES STAND? YES OR NO ANSWERS ON KEY ISSUES IN THE CITY

SCHOOL COMMITTEE QUESTIONS (YES OR NO)

- 1: Do you support lengthening the school day in New Bedford?
- 2: Do you support more charter schools in the city?
- 3: Do you support more innovation schools in the city?
- 4: Would you support the city contributing more money than the minimum state requirement to the school department even if it means a tax increase?
- 5: Do you agree with New Bedford teachers’ union president Lou St. John that morale among teachers is at a low point?
- 6: Do you think the New Bedford teachers union is a positive force for city school-children?
- 7: Should the city have a quota for Spanish-speaking teachers and administrators in the school system?
- 8: Should New Bedford be allowed to teach students in their native languages?
- 9: Should parents be held legally responsible for students’ truancy?
- 10: Do you favor requiring public school students to wear uniforms?

? A question mark denotes those questions for which candidates did not supply a yes or no answer.

Joshua Amaral	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO
Christopher Cotter	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES
Lawrence J. Finnerty	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO
Michael Janson	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Maria Mojica-Mosquea	YES	NO	YES	YES	?	?	YES	YES	?	NO
Joaquim Nobrega	NO	NO	?	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	?
Bruce J. Oliveira	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	?	NO	NO	YES	?
Brian Pastori	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES