



### **Narrative description of proposed development for property:**

For the past three years, Alma del Mar has operated our public elementary school in the formerly vacated Ottiwell School. Our school serves some of the highest needs populations of students and all of our families live in New Bedford. In just three years, we have become the most sought-after elementary school in New Bedford. Likewise, our students have shown that they can achieve academically on par with the surrounding suburbs.

This past year Alma del Mar purchased the former Ottiwell School and its 2.3 acres of land from the City of New Bedford. We have the incredible opportunity to provide our hard-working scholars with a permanent home. Our new two story, 45,000 square foot building will allow us to expand our enrollment to encompass our full K-8 grade span and to serve 450 scholars per year - that's thousands of future New Bedford kids who will go on to serve and succeed in college and beyond.

With the help of world class school architects, we're designing a school that reflects the high standards our scholars and teachers hold for themselves and the sense of pride our families take in Alma del Mar. At the same time, due to our unprecedented agreement with the City of New Bedford to purchase a former district school and the availability of favorable loans and tax credits for projects serving our population, we have the opportunity to build this school at a cost that won't negatively impact our resources for our academic program.

Over one hundred years ago, the City of New Bedford saw fit to invest in the kids of the Near North End—many of whom came from families just arriving to the United States—by building the Ottiwell School. Many Ottiwell graduates went on to become civic and business leaders who serve New Bedford to this day. Our vision is to replace what is now a crumbling building with a new facility that invests in the next generation of New Bedford leaders. Like those who came before them, many of our young scholars come to us as English language learners who are hungry to learn and become successful members of society. Our proposed project will be an investment in these worthy kids that will likewise

provide much-needed green space for the neighborhood and additional land for the annual Feast of the Blessed Sacrament.

Will Gardner  
*Executive Director*