

Sept. 8, 2011/MEDIA ADVISORY

New Bedford Education Roundtable to Host Mayoral Debate

NEW BEDFORD - - The Education Roundtable will host a Mayoral Debate focused on education from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 14, at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. All five mayoral candidates have been invited to participate.

The debate will be moderated by former Mayor and Roundtable Chair John K. Bullard.

"It is clear that New Bedford's next mayor will play a leadership role in the schools," Mr. Bullard said. "It is vital for the community to hear from each candidate how he or she assesses the current performance of our schools and his or her vision for how our schools can be transformed for the benefit of our children."

Each candidate will be allowed two minutes to give an opening statement, and another two minutes to close at the end. In between, a panel consisting of Education Roundtable members Lee Blake, Denise Porche, and Dr. Bruce Rose will ask questions, allowing 30 seconds for the questions and 90 seconds for each answer. The order of the opening and closing statements will be determined by lot, while the panelists will vary the order of who answers their questions first. The public and the press are invited to attend.

The New Bedford Education Roundtable is a group of business, non-profit, religious, educational and other community leaders who are deeply concerned about the educational attainment levels in the New Bedford Public Schools. Its members hope that the topic of how to improve education in New Bedford is at the forefront of this election. More information about the Roundtable can be found at <http://www.cfsema.org/about-us/what-we-do/new-bedford-education-roundtable>