



Two independent schools in city make strides

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NEW BEDFORD — Two independent city schools have succeeded in their efforts to secure long-term locations.

Our Sisters' School, a new private, tuition-free middle school for girls, has agreed to a five-year lease with the Tifereth Israel Congregation for a building across from Buttonwood Park. The school plans to open in September.

Separately, MassDevelopment and Citizens Bank announced a \$1.5 million financing package so the Global Learning Charter Public School can make improvements to the building it has occupied since last summer. The deal is supported by \$1 million in loan guarantees.

Our Sisters' founders will launch the new school at 145 Brownell Ave., in a wing of the synagogue long used for educational purposes, most recently for evening Hebrew classes, said Lisa Yates, executive director of Our Sisters.

"This is huge for our organization in terms of moving forward in our evolution," Ms. Yates said.

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A lease-signing ceremony is scheduled for Monday at 1 p.m. at the Brownell Avenue location. In its first year, the school will serve 30 students

in Grades 5 and 6. Over the following two years, 30 more students, in Grades 7 and 8, will be added.

Meanwhile, Global Learning Charter Public School will be able to make necessary improvements, providing handicap accessibility and a new fire detection system. It leases the former St. Anthony's School building from St. Anthony of Padua Church.

The school, which was founded in 2002, moved out of a previous location on

County Street. The design of the former building was not conducive to a community atmosphere, said Warren E. Berube, the charter school's executive director.

"St. Anthony's smaller space is designed differently," Mr. Berube said. "It really helps develop the sense of community you want to get at school."

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