

# CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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Derek F. Folan, M.Ed.  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**To develop students who are competent and creative thinkers, curious and confident learners, and compassionate citizens.**

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March 3, 2023

Dear Canton Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

## AN OPEN INVITATION FOR FOCUS SESSION PARTICIPANTS

In September 2023 we will welcome the Canton High School Class of 2036 into kindergarten. What will the world be like when today's students leave school? What do our schools need to do today to prepare our students for that world? How can we continually improve and ensure a high-quality experience for every student? These three questions are the driving force behind Canton Public Schools' comprehensive strategic planning initiative. Through the Strategic Planning process, the District intends to:

- Engage the Public;
- Create a Clear Mission, Core Values, and a Vision for Our Schools;
- Establish Action Plans with strategic objectives and initiatives to realize the Mission and Vision; and
- Focus on Continuous Improvement and Systemic Renewal.

To complete our Strategic Plan, the Canton Public School District has partnered with the Teaching and Learning Alliance, Inc. (TLA) to facilitate our process. The **first phase** of Canton's Strategic Planning will involve a series of *Focus Sessions*, facilitated by TLA Consultants, in which participants will be given the opportunity to identify our strengths, challenges, and opportunities for our community, our schools, and our students.

The quality of our Strategic Plan will be directly related to the quality of feedback and participation in these *Focus Sessions*. At this time, Canton Public Schools is seeking volunteers to participate in one of these Focus Sessions with our TLA Consultants. Please see the opportunity to meet with our consultants below and share your thoughts:

<b>Target Audience:</b>	Canton Parents/Guardians & Community Members
<b>Date:</b>	Either March 20 or 22, 2023
<b>Time:</b>	TBD
<b>Location:</b>	TBD

Over the years Canton Public Schools' success has hinged on the broad-based involvement and support of our community. We have consistently relied on the expertise, interest, and ideas of our faculty, staff and community to create an outstanding school system for our students. Based on those successes, we are once again reaching out to the entire Canton community through the CPS Strategic Planning to ensure future generations of Canton residents benefit from our programs and services for years to come. If you

are unable to attend the focus session, please note that a survey will be forthcoming, which will provide you with another opportunity to share your feedback regarding the Canton Public Schools. Please consider joining us in building a better tomorrow for our students.

## AN OPEN INVITATION FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS

The **second phase** of the Strategic Planning process involves the formation of a *Strategic Planning Team* to be composed of approximately 20 people from various groups within Canton: educators, administrators, school committee members, parents/guardians, students, and community leaders. There are three open slots available for parents/guardians/community members (ideally, one elementary, one middle school, and one high school). While participants will be selected from various constituent groups representing certain values and perspectives, they will not represent their constituents solely. They must be willing to focus on *common interests* and not just special interests. It is important that each *Strategic Planning Team* member be a person of goodwill, articulate, and willing to pursue *consensus*. Strategic Planning is rooted in the proposition that if people of goodwill are given the facts, they will make the right decision every time.

At this time, Canton Public Schools is seeking parent/guardian/community member volunteers to serve on the *Strategic Planning Team*. *Strategic Planning Team* members will be expected to commit to the following meeting schedule:

<b>Planning Meeting 1</b>	March 27, 2023	4:30 pm - 7:30 pm
<b>Planning Meeting 2</b>	April 3, 2023	4:30 pm - 7:30 pm
<b>Planning Meeting 3</b>	April 11, 2023	4:30 pm - 7:30 pm
<b>Planning Meeting 4</b>	May 2, 2023	4:30 pm - 7:30 pm
<b>Planning Meeting 5</b>	May 16, 2023	4:30 pm - 7:30 pm
<b>Planning Meeting 6</b>	May 24, 2023	4:30 pm - 7:30 pm

If you are interested and able to commit the time and energy needed to make the Strategic Planning process a success, please click [HERE](#) to express interest in being a parent/guardian/community member on our team. Please let us know of your interest by Friday, March 17, 2023. Since there is a limited number of places on the *Strategic Planning Team*, it may not be possible to accommodate everyone who volunteers. However, we will work to find ways for those interested to be involved in some way in the process.

For more information about the Canton Public Schools Strategic Planning, please do not hesitate to contact:

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