

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.

Canton Names Design Firm for New Middle School Project

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CANTON, Mass. – Canton Superintendent of Schools Derek Folan is pleased to announce that Ai3 Architects has been selected as the design firm for the Galvin Middle School project. Ai3 will work in conjunction with LeftField Project Management and the Canton community.

“Selecting Ai3 marks a milestone in the Feasibility Stage of this process, as prescribed by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA),” said Folan. “Ai3 has extensive experience designing student-centered, technologically advanced, healthy and sustainable educational facilities. They are very innovative and forward-thinking about learning. We look forward to working with them on this important project.”

Ai3, which is based in Framingham, has an extensive portfolio of school building projects, including Natick’s Kennedy Middle School, Norwood’s Coakley Middle School, Somerset Middle School, Norwood High School, Franklin High School and Plymouth South High School.

“This is a major undertaking for the Town of Canton and it provides the opportunity to transform both the middle school and the District. Our goal is to create a fiscally-responsible school that encourages learning, collaboration, and creativity,” said Troy Randall, a partner at Ai3 and the lead architect on the project.

By the end of October, Canton will submit to the MSBA its Preliminary Design Program, which includes an overview of the project, an existing conditions assessment of the Galvin Middle School, enrollment projections, comparative cost estimates and a proposed project schedule. Initial building concepts will be considered as well.

As part of the Feasibility Phase process, the community will be invited to engage in discussions around educational visioning and programming, grade configuration, aspirational ideas and feedback this fall.

After the MSBA review in October, the initial draft will be returned to the community for further input and development in preparation for a January submission.

“We have full confidence in Ai3's ability to leverage their well-established expertise in creating student-centered, cost-effective, and energy-efficient school designs as they embark on their work in Canton. With their partnership – along with the ongoing efforts of our outstanding town leaders, faculty, staff, families, students and community members – this vision to transform the Galvin Middle School will become a reality,” said Kristian Darigan Merenda, a member of the Canton School Committee and the School Building Committee. “We are enthusiastic about advancing into the project's next phase, now that our project manager and design firm are in position. We have every confidence that the new GMS will be an outstanding educational facility and a source of long-lasting community pride.”

The Galvin Middle School was built over half a century ago and is in need of significant educational, capital and maintenance improvements. Folan says the school is undersized and was not configured in a way that lends itself to the District's modern, educational vision.

In its application to the MSBA, the Canton Public Schools identified three priorities in completing the project: eliminating existing severe overcrowding; replacing, renovating or modernizing school facility systems to increase energy conservation and decrease energy costs; and replacing or adding onto an obsolete building in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and local requirements. Canton was accepted into the MSBA program in March 2021, meaning the state will offset a portion of the cost of the building project, as long as MSBA guidelines are followed.

“This is an exciting time for Canton,” said Folan. “The process for building a new school takes several years to complete, but we are moving in the right direction with the right partners to assist us. We also are looking forward to involving the entire community throughout the project.”

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