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Jonathan Levi Architects Awarded Design Contract for the Fuller Middle School

Framingham, MA – At its meeting on September 25, 2017, the Framingham School Building Committee voted to engage the architectural design firm of Jonathan Levi Architects (JLA) of Cambridge, Massachusetts as the designer for the Fuller Middle School building project. As a result of the Building Committee's vote, the Town of Framingham and JLA have executed a contract for design services in the amount of *five hundred and forty five thousand dollars* (\$545,000). The contract between the Town of Framingham and JLA requires a feasibility study, and the development of concept designs for the best three (3) options that emerge from the feasibility study. Once the final, preferred schematic design is chosen, the Town of Framingham will submit the design to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for approval.

Now that the school designer is on board, the building committee's next steps are to conduct several collaborative workshops with the community during the month of November to discuss the educational vision and design options for the revitalized Fuller Middle School with parents, residents and stakeholders. Please follow the schedule of those sessions at <https://www.framingham.k12.ma.us/Page/2997> for additional information.

JLA was one of three finalists selected from a field of eight (8) design firms which had submitted proposals for the work to the School Building Committee. JLA is a leader in designing award winning, inspirational and forward thinking school projects throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Lead Designer/Principal in Charge, Jonathan Levi FAIA stated, *"We are honored by the confidence which has been expressed in our work and look forward eagerly to committing our very best efforts towards the present and future needs of Framingham and its educational mission. Together with our hard-working Town Committee participants, we believe deeply that this project represents a rare and powerful opportunity to improve the lives of Framingham families by offering new pathways for the success of its children."*

"JLA was our first choice designer for the new Fuller Middle School and we are thrilled to begin the educational visioning process with this cutting edge team. A frontrunner in the conceptualization of the future of education, JLA will inspire the Framingham community with their understanding of how science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics come together in a space that will foster creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking among students," said Dr. Robert A. Tremblay, Superintendent of Schools.

Cheryl Tully Stoll, Chair of the Framingham Board of Selectmen said, *"The Town is very pleased with the selection of JLA as the design architect for the replacement for the Fuller Middle School. With their reputation, there is little doubt that they will collaborate well with the Town and City to develop a design that will inspire our children to learn. We will be holding two community meetings this fall which will allow the public to have input into the design goals for this important facility. This is a community-wide project and it will only be the best it can be if everyone participates in the process."*

The Building Committee is committed to continue to work on developing the best options for the school's future. Since the Town's approval of the Feasibility Study funding in October 2016, the Building Committee has been collaborating closely with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), the state agency that oversees all school construction. In February 2017, the MSBA executed a Feasibility Study Agreement with the Town to develop a cost effective, sustainable and educationally appropriate solution to the aging Fuller Middle School. The MSBA will provide Framingham with a grant of up to 57.05% of the Feasibility Study costs.

The Building Committee has no preconceived solutions and is investigating all options available to achieve Framingham's educational goals; including the renovation of the existing building, renovation and construction of a new addition, and construction of a new school.

In June 2017, the Building Committee hired Symmes Maini & McKee Associates (SMMA) as the Owner's Project Manager. SMMA will play a central role in managing the Feasibility Study process.

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