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PRESS RELEASE

Ai3 Architects hired for Abington's ongoing School Feasibility Study

The Town of Abington's extensive efforts to address the future school building needs of Abington continues to progress each month, and the Abington School Building Committee is coordinating its efforts with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to ensure that Abington, like other surrounding towns, will reap the benefits of the state's agreement to pay for over 50% of Abington's eventual school construction project.

The Abington School Building Committee (ASBC) is pleased to announce that it has retained the services of **Ai3 Architects, LLC (Ai3)** of Wayland, MA, as the Architect for the MSBA-required school feasibility study. After reviewing all of the resumes and applications submitted by interested Architectural Design Firms, MSBA's 15-member Designer Selection Panel (DSP), with three Abington School Building Committee representatives as voting members of the DSP, interviewed three finalist firms in Boston on January 22, 2013. In compliance with MSBA guidelines, the DSP voted and approved the selection of Ai3 to be retained by the Town of Abington to conduct its school feasibility study. After executing the required contract, Ai3 began its initial investigations and inspections of Abington schools in February 2013.

Ai3 is the only firm in this region that focuses their entire practice on PK-12 educational design, and they have previously completed school projects for the nearby communities of Whitman, Hanson and Brockton. Ai3 has extensive experience in completing comprehensive feasibility studies for middle schools and high schools which identify community concerns, including but not limited to possible grade re-configurations, new busing routes, potential new sites, re-use or expansion of existing school sites, comparison of new construction vs. addition/renovation options, investment in technology, energy-efficient and Green buildings, project cost estimates, and taxpayer impacts. At the conclusion of the feasibility study, Ai3 and the ASBC will be present the residents of Abington with preliminary building designs, suggested grade level configurations, and proposed site layouts for review and comment by the town and the MSBA. Ai3's expertise and past success in completing thorough school feasibility studies and preliminary design plans will give the Town of Abington a significant advantage in moving this important project forward.

The cost of the feasibility study was approved by Abington voters in April 2012, which qualified and entitled the Town to receive MSBA funding to pay for approximately 54% of the study's cost. By conducting the school feasibility study in accordance with the new MSBA guidelines, the Town of Abington will also continue to qualify itself for state school construction grant funding after the conclusion of the study. The feasibility study should be completed in early 2014.

The Abington School Building Committee has also launched a new website at www.ASBC.us in an effort to keep residents and taxpayers updated with the timelines, frequently asked questions, meeting notices and other important information. Residents are urged to log on to the website and add their email address to the ASBC's email distribution list, or to submit their comments as more information about Abington's school feasibility study continues to become available in the coming weeks.