Better Together

Summarizing the Transition to One Unified Middle School Experience for Kettering Students and Staff.

Establishing the Foundation

The Why

Driven by a vision for unified excellence and a great experience for all students and staff.

The How

Leveraging the Better Together Committees to create logistical and community building plans.

Committee Focus

Fostering a "New Middle School Mentality" that prioritizes current and future legacies.

History, Legacy, and Tradition

Honoring the past while building a new shared identity for Kettering's future.

The New Middle School Mentality

A Fresh Perspective

Transitioning into one middle school is more than just a logistical move; it's a shift in culture. We are focusing on building a welcoming, unified atmosphere where students from all backgrounds feel like they belong to one team.

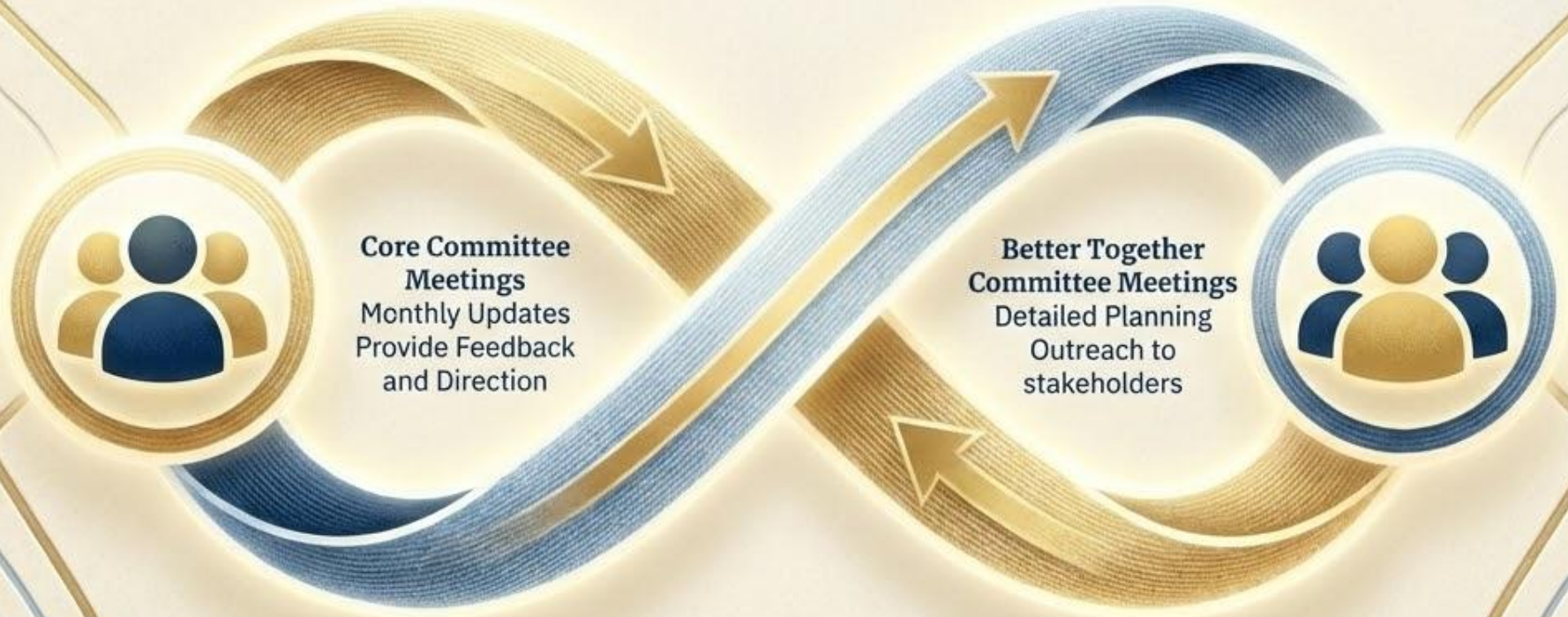
Engaging Our Stakeholders

Creating a feedback loop that includes every voice in our community.

Better Together Committees

- Student Connection
- Renaming and Legacy
- Family Connection
- Staff Connection
- Campus Safety and Traffic
- Student Activities
- Moving and Logistics
- Athletic Schedule and Program
- Music Schedule and Program

The Core Committee Feedback Loop



"Our goal is to help make the transition into one new middle school a great experience for all our students, staff and community."

Better Together Questions?

Master Facilities Plan- Architecture RFQ

Request for Qualifications ended – January 16, 2026

6 FIRMS
SUBMITTED QUALIFICATIONS

4 FIRMS
SELECTED FOR INTERVIEWS

MSA
MSA Architects
February 4 - 4:00

Levin Porter Architects
Levin Porter
February 4 - 6:00PM

Fanning Howey Architects
Fanning Howey
February 5 - 2:30PM

Ruetschle
Ruetschle
February 5 - 6:00PM

Interview time is 1 hour 30 minutes each

Interview Timeline

Introductions

15 Mins

Introductions and setup.

Architect Overview

15 Mins

Vision for Kettering, K-12 portfolio, research-based design philosophies.

Instructional Deep-Dive

15 Mins

Design process supports the Kettering City Schools Portrait of a Firebird.

Fiscal/Budget Review

15 Mins

Review of 'Bid vs. Final Cost', cost-control during inflation, construction manager at risk experience.

Q&A

30 Mins

Question and answer session with the district administrators.

Architect Rankings and Selection

Criteria and Evaluation:

- Firm & Individual Architect Qualifications
- Collaborative Partnership
- Capacity to Coordinate & Perform Work
- Educational Design & Engagement
- Fiscal/Budget Review
- References
- Previous Work for District/Other Similar or Nearby Entities

Interview Committee

Each person will rate and score firms from the evaluation:

- **Mindy McCarty Stewart** - Superintendent
- **Justin Blevins** - Treasurer
- **Dan Von Handorf** - Asst. Superintendent Teaching and Learning
- **Jeff Johnson** - Director of Business Services
- **Mike Hart** - Supervisor Buildings and Grounds