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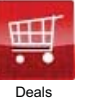
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# Groundbreaking held for new East Bridgewater junior-senior high school

New high school will be built behind current high school

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From left, State Rep. Geoff Diehl, state Sen. Brian Joyce and Executive Director of the Mass. School Building Authority Katherine Craven attend the official groundbreaking of the new East Bridgewater High School.

By Paula Vogler  
**Enterprise Correspondent**

Posted Sep 18, 2011 @ 06:00 AM

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EAST BRIDGEWATER — The town broke ground on its new high school last week, with about 75 people attending the ceremony, including students, town employees, local and state officials and teachers, said School Superintendent Susan Cote.

Executive Director of the MSBA Katherine Craven, state Sen. Brian Joyce and state Rep. Geoffrey Diehl addressed the crowd while state Sen. Thomas Kennedy, who was out of the country, sent an aide to read his remarks.

The \$77 million school for grades 7-12 will be built behind the current high school with occupancy for September 2013.

Cote said the project's completion would take another two years while the existing high school is demolished and new playing fields are built in its place.

"The current high school facility is 54 years old and has outlived its life expectancy," Cote said. "This new building will allow us to provide a 21st century education to our students."

Once the new building is open, grade 7 and 8 students will move to it from the middle school and grade 3 students will move to the middle-school building, creating space at Central Elementary School.

"One reason this is important is that we would like to offer a full-day kindergarten program to all students but do not have the classroom space with the current grade level configuration," Cote said.

The reconfiguration will result in a preschool-grade 2 early childhood center at the existing Central School; a grades 3-6 intermediate school housed at the existing Mitchell Middle School; and a new grade 7-12 middle-high school.

The Massachusetts School Building Authority will cover nearly 65 percent of the cost of the project while a debt exclusion authorized by voters in February will pay for the balance.