



# Hayes: Money, development drive quarterback movement

SPORTS, 1B

# THE CANTON REPOSITORY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025 | CANTONREP.COM MOVING OUR COMMUNITY FORWARD SINCE 1815 | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Michael McCroskey, Canton's traffic sign and paint specialist, explains how street signs are printed at the new Traffic Sign and Paint Division building at 2961 Regent Ave. PHOTOS BY ABREANNA BLOSE/CANTON REPOSITORY

# NEW FACILITY A 'LABOR OF LOVE'

## Canton opens \$3.4M building for Traffic Sign and Paint Division

Abreanna Blose Canton Repository | USA TODAY NETWORK

CANTON – With 19,000 street signs and 120 miles of pavement markings to maintain, the city's sign and paint division has a big job. Now, its operations have a new home — a 12,000-square-foot traffic engineering building designed to keep the city moving.

The new building, located at 2961 Regent Ave. NE, cost roughly \$3.4 million. The building was unveiled at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Dec. 17.

Comparing the old building to the new one, Safety Director Andrea Perry said it was evident the new building was a "labor of love" for the sign and paint division.

The architect of the project was GPD Group of Akron. The contractor was Dunlop and Johnston, Inc. of Valley

See BUILDING, Page 5A



The city of Canton's new paint and sign building at 2961 Regent Ave. NW was built to improve efficiency within the division.

### CANTON CITY SCHOOLS

# District begins talks on cutting millions in spending

Charita M. Goshay  
Canton Repository  
USA TODAY NETWORK

CANTON – City school officials are not waiting to deal with budget deficits which are projected to balloon over the next four years.

After years of budget surpluses, the Canton City School District finds itself fighting to stay solvent due in part to unexpectedly deep cuts in state and federal funding for public schools.

The district received \$7 million less in state and federal funding in 2025, a figure which is forecast to balloon to \$17 million in 2028, and \$38 million 2029 as the Ohio Legislature seeks to reduce property taxes and the U.S. Department of Education shrinks under the Trump administration.

The Board of Education convened a special workshop Dec. 18 at McKinley High School's Timken Career Campus, during which Superintendent Jeff Talbert gave a primer on the current state of public school funding, and which measures the district may take to reduce operating costs over the next few years.

"Just to let everyone know who doesn't routinely deal with school finances, currently, we are in fiscal year 2026," Talbert said. "So that means that we have next school year where we are positive and in the green. And if we do nothing, then in 2028, we will be broke."

Talbert said that although the district has been fiscally responsible, cuts are inevitable.

"Something has to give," he said. "The more you cut sooner, the better off you'll be. We'll give the community an opportunity to come in and tell us what they think, what we should focus on and we'll go from there. Everything that we do in this district has to be based on what we value and what we believe in and so we're looking at making cuts in a manner that allows us to continue to provide the same quality and level of service to our students."

Talbert said the district's original five-year forecast contained deficit numbers, but they were manageable.

See SPENDING, Page 4A

# Steelworkers reject contract with Metallus again

Kelly Byer  
Canton Repository  
USA TODAY NETWORK

CANTON – United Steelworkers Local 1123 has rejected a tentative labor agreement reached by Metallus and union leadership for the second time.

Metallus announced the outcome late Dec. 18. An earlier agreement was rejected by the steelworkers on Oct. 30, and the current union contract for about 1,200 employees was extended to Jan. 29.

Metallus manufactures specialty

metals from recycled scrap metal in Canton and employs about 1,850 people. The company reported sales of \$1.1 billion in 2024.

"We are deeply disappointed by the outcome of this vote," Metallus CEO Mike Williams said in a prepared statement. "Before casting their votes, our bargaining employees had opportunities to attend information sessions to better understand the proposed agreement. This agreement, which was voted down despite support from the union's local bargaining committee and international representatives, was designed

to provide excellent compensation and benefits while ensuring the long-term health of Metallus."

Williams said the company will "continue to negotiate in good faith and remain committed to working toward a resolution that supports both our employees and the company's future."

A company spokeswoman said that an arbitrator was not being used at this time.

"The union looks forward to re-engaging with the company and addressing the concerns of the membership," said Willis McCoy, president of the Lo-

cal 1123. "Discussions are taking place to schedule those meetings as soon as possible."

Neither party released details about the vote or the four-year tentative agreement.

In its announcement, Metallus said the proposed contract included "historic wage increases," comprehensive health care coverage and benefits that included paid parental leave, more personal time and increased retirement contributions.

Reach Kelly at 330-580-8323 or [kelly.byer@cantonrep.com](mailto:kelly.byer@cantonrep.com).

