



**Remarks by Board of Education President Sue Adler
Albany High School pool ribbon-cutting ceremony
May 10, 2017**

Thank you, Dr. Wilkins.

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to this wonderful event. It is so inspiring to see our Albany High pool transformed into this bright, amazing new space for our students.

We have many people to thank for the success of this project. All of you here today, of course. Our students and their families for hanging in there with us. And our community for supporting our vision for the future of this facility.

I also would like to say a special thanks to our partners on this project – CS Arch and Turner Construction. This facility was not only beautifully designed, but expertly constructed ... on time and within budget.

Rich (Peckham, from CS Arch), Tina (Mesiti-Ceas, also of CS Arch), Carl (Steward, of Turner Construction), Scott (DePhillips, also with Turner). Thank you for your excellent work, and the efforts of your entire teams. Thank you for your dedication to our students.

I can still remember the thud my heart made back in March 2015 when I learned that a large section of the pool wall had collapsed here at Albany High. It was hard in that moment to envision a space like this ... or to imagine a day like this.

But here we are ... with so much to be thankful for and to celebrate ... and with so much to look forward to.

We have an amazing new athletic field just on the other side of this wall. We have this exceptional new facility to support future generations of students, and swimmers young and old.

We have our community's strong support to move forward with the much-needed facilities projects at 50 North Lark Street and 395 Elk Street – which Dr. Wilkins also mentioned.

And now we have a glimpse not just of what Albany High can be, but of what it will be.

We are joyful today for the completion of our pool renovation ... and also to be one step closer to beginning the major reconstruction of the Albany High campus.

When you look around at this facility this morning, think back to what this space was like just last fall. Or even three years ago when the old pool was coming to the end of its four decades of service.

It wasn't easy then to imagine this.

But now, as you look around imagine what the rest of Albany High is about to become. For me, at least, that's much, much easier this morning than it was just a year or two ago. And much, much more exciting!

My thanks once again to all of you for joining us here this morning. It is truly a great day to be a Falcon!