

**Remarks by Interim Superintendent Kimberly Young Wilkins, Ed.D.
Albany High School pool ribbon-cutting ceremony
May 10, 2017**

Good morning everyone.

Thank you, Dale, and my thanks to all of you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to join us here for this occasion. It is a GREAT DAY to be a Falcon!

Our celebration this morning represents yet another step forward for Albany High School, for our school district and for our entire community.

I'm sure you all remember what this space looked like back in October when construction was just getting underway. What a transformation!

The completion of this project has been a long time coming. If everyone would turn your attention to our new video board, I would like to take a few minutes to show you, rather than tell you, about the process that brought us to this exciting day.

(VIDEO)

We are so excited to see this new space, which our students will put to excellent use beginning in just a few months.

In mid-August, the members of our girls' swimming team will dive into these waters to officially begin a new era in Albany High athletics. We are looking forward to bringing



back our learn-to-swim program for our second-graders in the fall. And when the winter sports season rolls around, our boys' swimming team will get its turn.

Albany High swimming will be back home to stay!

Our school district is committed to following through on the promises we make to our students and our community. And we are pleased to have delivered once again.

Today also is a big day for us because we know the completion of our pool represents not just the end of a long-awaited facilities project, or the beginning of a new era for our student-athletes.

This event also represents our continued progress here at Albany High School and throughout the City School District of Albany. It represents the fulfillment of another important piece of our vision for the future.

In September, we will open a new middle school to serve our growing student population. We also will relocate our alternative-education programs to a building ideally suited to provide our students with the programs and support they need.

We are grateful to our community for supporting those facilities projects last January.

In just a little more than a year from now, we will be back here at Albany High celebrating the start of the major project that will transform this entire campus. We will break ground on the first phase of our rebuilding project – the new academic building that will serve our students and families for generations to come.

That new wing will be ready for our students in the fall of 2019. And a year after that ... our new music and arts wing will open.

The transformation of Albany High School is well underway!

My thanks to all of you once again for taking the time to be here with us today to celebrate this important step in that direction. And for your continued support as we work together toward a better, stronger future for our children, our families and our whole community.