



Message from the Mayor: New BVSD School Groundbreaking Ceremony

Below are the remarks that Mayor Tina Harris gave at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new BVSD K-8 School in Flatiron Meadows.

When we teach our students about the Pythagorean Theorem they learn that on a flat surface, the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. For the students here today who haven't learned this yet – don't worry – you will. This is an important mathematical equation which I know all of your parents and all of the adults here today remember distinctly.

And to prove this - I am confident that if any of you kids turned to an adult standing next to you right now they will tell you that the line drawn between two points is the hypotenuse of a right triangle - and the legs of the triangle are parallel to the axis which mean that we can measure the distance between the two points easily.

Am I right? You remember it as clear as the day you first saw it drawn on a chalkboard in Algebra class – don't you. Or was it Geometry class? I forget.

And while Pythagoras has had it right for over 2,500 years, it has been my experiences inside and outside of the classroom that have taught me that there is not necessarily a correlation between choosing the shortest most direct route and successfully reaching our goals.

Or put another way – when in life do we travel in a straight line? I'll answer my own question by saying "Seldom". Seldom do we travel in a straight line. Along each step of the way there are obstacles to be challenged and opportunities worthy enough to be seized.

The Flatiron Meadows school site was envisioned and planned for many years ago. And I think now – on this happy occasion – we can all - with a smile agree - the journey towards building Boulder Valley School District's first school in Erie is a perfect example of just how long and winding the road can actually be.

All of us set out on the path that brings us here today – we just started at different times and from different points. For some it's been a longer journey and for others not so long. And for those of you mountain bikers out there – just like when we ride our bikes on a challenging trail – some of us like the bumpier sections more than others do. And though a short cut may seem tempting – that just isn't our style – that's not who we are. Rather, each of us in our own way – stayed on the trail – no matter how circuitous at times – and we remained focused on our goal. The goal of building the best Erie Campus at the best possible site. This is what we are celebrating today. Our journey is not over – but it is entirely appropriate for us all to celebrate how far we've come. So congratulations to us!

I am proud to be here today on behalf of the Town of Erie Board of Trustees. We strongly value the partnership we've built with BVSD over the years and consider you a true community partner. We supported the bond that is the funding mechanism for this school's construction. We supported your efforts - even when right at the very end the trail got a little bumpy. And please know that we are always here for you and that you can count on us in the future. Especially if it means building another school site in Erie.

To the Boulder Valley School District Board of Education and Administrators – thank you for delivering on your promise to our community. Thank You!

So one last note for our students before I conclude my remarks. I want to be clear: I am not discounting Pythagoras. And I am not undervaluing the importance of planning accordingly before setting out on a journey. And carrying a compass never hurts either. But as I've tried to share today, creating a thoughtful, insightful and diverse community isn't a mathematical equation for you to solve on your own. It takes the commitment of your parents, your teachers your neighbors and a whole bunch of people you've never met. So to you I say – know that you have just that: A loving and caring community that is growing and eager to support you and your classmates – because you deserve no less.

Today's celebration is one of the greatest reminders of why it is an honor to serve as Mayor.

Thank you and once again – congratulations!

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