

Welcome neighbors!

I'm Caleb Clark, School Board Chair this year

Thank you for joining us today as we reflect on the changes and progress in our district. Cascade middle school, our oldest building, built in 1955 has been replaced with this amazing new building, thanks to you. We in Bethel voted overwhelmingly for much-needed improvements throughout the district, for the benefit of our kids, and the community at large. This building is part of the tangible fulfillment of that dedication from all of you. Being elected to the school board, and sitting on the Bond Oversight Committee has been a great joy for me, and I cannot tell you how thankful I have been to be a part of this work, and how excited I am to kick off this open house.

Today we have the opportunity to look back on how the Cascade building served us for nearly 7 decades; to remember fondly when some of you may have gone here, or sent your kids here, maybe both. Further, we have the opportunity to dream; and to welcome current and future middle schoolers to a new building, and new possibilities.

I remember one of the planning meetings, it was near Christmas. I was out in my shop, finishing up some presents, with my laptop open to a zoom meeting, where many of the final finishes and layouts were being presented, and there was a part of the meeting where the focus was on the then current building's location. What was to become of this space? From the board, the community, all input we received, even in door-to-door outreach, we were clear. We want the trees! I'm very pleased with the care that has been taken to design this future space around that desire, and I look forward to seeing the completion in the coming months.

Thank you to Todd Construction and all the subs, for their diligence and attention to detail in completing this project. Thank you to our immediate neighbors for your enduring patience and grace. Thank you to the teachers and students for working through shrinking spaces, and in some cases, early temporary moves. Thank you for your optimism and positivity! Thank you to Bethel's own Pat Bradshaw, for his management and wonderful board updates. And finally, thank you all again for your unwavering support!

Welcome, to the new Cascade Middle School, a 2020 Bethel Bond Project!