

Frayser community breaks ground for new Frayser Community High School

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris says this project has been zigging and zagging for many years.

Author: Shaquiena Davis

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Tuesday was a start to a new day for the Frayser community as they welcomed the new Frayser Community High School building with heartfelt messages from leaders of the community.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris said this project has been zigging and zagging for many years.

“For a while there, it looked like it wasn’t going to happen, and it looked like our most vicious foe was going to win out the day. That is the status quo, but we’re here today. This is a milestone of what can be done when people come together,” said Mayor Harris.

Trezevant High School Principal Eric Brent said he’s overly excited for the new building.

“Our scholars will be able to embark on a remarkable journey that could never be imaginable with the newest of technologies. The greatest of facilities as far as athletics and also to be able to go out on a limb where the fruit is. In the wonderless world of education,” said Brent.

The new school is being built on the site of the former MLK Prep High School. It will sit on 270,000 square feet and serve about 1,500 students in Frayser.

“I just think it’s wonderful to see there is some of the kids that look at me as a role model, and they’ll be able to continue having a wonderful place to continue the media scope and making history,” said Trezevant High School senior Jo’Niya Mayes.

Mayor Harris said the students at Trezevant and MLK Prep have been in terrible conditions for too long.

“We know our teachers are not the problem. Our teachers pour into these kids every single day, but our buildings are crumbling. Most of the schools in Memphis and Shelby County are near half a century old, and we’re going to have to do something about it,” said Harris.

Now these students will get the chance to experience new advanced broadcast facilities, cutting edge graphic design classrooms, modern sports facilities, innovative learning spaces, and JROTC facilities.

This all comes after a long process to get funding for this project.

Nearly \$34 million was unanimously approved by the county to go toward the new Frayser High School, adding to the total investment of \$112 million.

“It’s costly, but it’s a project that prioritizes kids, families and neighborhoods,” said Harris.

Students from MLK Prep and Trezevant are expected to attend the new school after its completion in 2027.