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Groundbreakings at two elementary sites mark new beginning



Principal of the 3100 N. 12th elementary school, Cindy Crow, speaks during the groundbreaking at the site Monday, March 20, 2017. The groundbreaking was one of two elementary school groundbreakings on Monday morning; the other was at the 48th and Columbus Road site. | H-W Photo/Jake Shane

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By Deborah Gertz Husar Herald-Whig

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QUINCY -- Quincy Public Schools officials used the first day of spring to mark a new beginning in the effort to build five new K-5 buildings.

Groundbreaking ceremonies Monday morning highlighted work already underway at schools sites at 48th and Columbus Road, and North 12th Street.

[PHOTO GALLERIES](#)

Superintendent Roy Webb called the events exciting for Quincy and Quincy Public Schools before officials wielded shovels to turn dirt at both sites.

"In a little more than two years from now, we'll place about 3,000 students K-5 in five brand-new elementary schools," Webb said. "There's no other community in the state or in the country, or probably even in the world, that's the size of Quincy that will have all of their K-5 students in brand-new facilities. In today's fiscal environment, in today's political environment, the Quincy School Board, the Quincy community get things done."

But Webb said there's plenty of work still ahead.

"We don't see a wall up. Our school doesn't have a name yet. We don't have any students assigned to the school. We don't have any teachers assigned to the school ... but, without a doubt in my mind, we're going to get all that done and have a world-class facility," Webb said.

Some of that work will be overseen by the building principals -- Melanie Schrand for 48th Street and Cindy Crow for North 12th.

The new building "is a symbol of increased and equal opportunity for kids in Quincy," Crow said. "Kids who may not have had the opportunity to learn and grow together in the past are going to have that opportunity. That's really going to enrich it for everybody."

School Board President Sayeed Ali highlighted work by board members Richard McNay and Mike Troup, by the Building and Grounds Committee, and the design team working on the five new schools.

"This has truly been a team effort," Ali said. "I realize we are far from done, but sometimes, it's important to take a second and say, 'Excellent job. Keep up the great work.' "

Work toward the new buildings began in fall 2013 with a walk-through of the district's aging facilities with local architects, engineers and staff. In a November 2014 referendum, voters approved \$89 million for the new elementary schools and work at Quincy High School.

"With four of the six projects completed, under construction or under contract, we are ahead of schedule and under budget," said Eric Barnes with Klingner and Associates.

Schools at both of the sites visited Monday are scheduled for completion in time for the start of the 2018-19 school year.