



## A 'long time coming': Officials break ground on new Tech High School

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Community members gathered Monday to break ground for the new Tech High School, just off 33rd Street South. It's set to open in 2019.



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It's "been a long time coming," said Technical High School Principal Charlie Eisenreich.

When the new 324,000-square-foot Tech High School opens in fall of 2019, the school will finally have all its competitive activities on one site. It will have flexible learning spaces, and it will have a lush natural environment that will enhance learning.

Eisenreich spoke about the new school's attributes at the groundbreaking ceremony Monday. Voters approved the \$104.5 million project in November, and the St. Cloud school board approved the first of three bid packages for the project Aug. 24.

"I remember when I received my first teaching position way back almost 30 years ago. It happened to be at Tech, and back then, we were also talking about replacing an old Tech," Eisenreich said. "Certainly it had seen its better days at that point. Then a few years later, I was able to serve on a couple of facilities task forces and in each one of

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those instances ... we said Tech needs replacing."



Technical High School Principal Charlie Eisenreich spoke during the groundbreaking for the new Tech High School Monday, Aug. 28, near 33rd Street South. (Photo: Jason Wachter, [jwachter@stcloudtimes.com](mailto:jwachter@stcloudtimes.com))

Also speaking at the event were Al Dahlgren, school board chair; Brady Pederson, who will be a member of the new school's first graduating class in 2020; St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis; and Superintendent Willie Jett.

Kleis said he wonders what it would have been like to be at the groundbreaking for the first Technical High School a century ago.

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"Little did they know how important it was and how many lives they affected over the last century," Kleis said.

The new school, which will accommodate about 1,600 students in grades 9-12, is being designed by Cuningham Group Architecture and IIW Minnesota.

The school — off 33rd Street South — will be divided into six integrated learning communities on two levels and will feature flexible learning spaces. At the heart of the school is a two-story commons area with glass walls that overlook the landscape. The site includes woodlands, granite outcroppings and a trout stream.



The first shovels of dirt were thrown during the groundbreaking for the new Tech High School Monday, Aug. 28, near 33rd Street South. (Photo: Jason Wachter, [jwachter@stcloudtimes.com](mailto:jwachter@stcloudtimes.com))

The district will issue bids in three packages. The first package — for earthwork, utilities, concrete and asphalt work, and athletic stands — was issued Aug. 3 and received Aug. 22.

The second package — which includes structural steel, load-bearing masonry and precast — will be issued Sept. 25 and received Oct. 17. The third package — which includes interior pieces, outbuildings, landscaping, and site and field lighting — will be issued Nov. 17 and received Dec. 19.



The proposed entrance to Tech High School shows a blend of granite and woodland aesthetics. (Photo: Courtesy of St. Cloud school district)

At the groundbreaking, Jett thanked community members for contributing to the planning process for the new school and voting in favor of the referendum last fall.

"We have a saying in District 742. It's 'We are 742 Proud' and it reflects our pride in all of our students and all of our schools," Jett said. "But today, I think it's more fair to say we are all Tech proud."

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