

Hartford community members who fought for Weaver High School take in its transformation



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From left, former Hartford City Council President Shawn Wooden, Rep. Joshua Hall, Weaver High School Principal Glynis Jordan-Richardson and Mayor Luke Bronin share a laugh on a tour of the new Weaver High School Monday afternoon. Hall is a former history teacher at the school. (Brad Horrigan/The Hartford Courant)

More than 15 years after he began fighting for the future of Weaver High School, state Sen. Douglas McCrory got to see it.

It looks like butcher-block tables in a set-design workshop, like wide windows pouring light into classrooms and a media center where students will want to learn, McCrory found as he and a small group of community members toured the new Weaver campus Monday, just before Hartford's first day of school.

Most importantly, it looks nothing like the Weaver where McCrory served as vice principal in 2003 and 2004, a Brutalist, institutional-style building that was deprived for years of resources despite the pleas of a steadfast contingent of Weaver-loyal community members, alumni, parents and neighborhood groups.

It was because of that group that Weaver closed its doors five years ago for renovations and reopens, unrecognizable, on Tuesday following a \$133 million renovation



State Rep. Joshua Hall, left, and state Sen. Douglas McCrory take a tour of the new Weaver High School Monday afternoon. Hall is a former history teacher at the school, while McCrory is a former vice principal. (Brad Horrigan / Hartford Courant)

“Everybody would have been impacted by it closing,” McCrory said Monday as he walked the halls of the new campus. “You can’t mention Hartford without mentioning Weaver High School. To close a high school like that, it wasn’t going to happen. It didn’t make sense.”