



PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release

November 2, 2023

**Organization Name:** Hub in the Hills

They're calling it, "Hub in the Hills," and soon, the landscape of the former Vestavia Hills Elementary Central will be buzzing with new and vibrant activity, thanks to the efforts of an energetic and forward-thinking Birmingham professional couple.

Today, the Vestavia City Schools Board of Education authorized Dr. Todd Freeman to enter into a purchase contract with **Wellspring Holdings**, an affiliate entity of Hub in the Hills, to initiate an inspection of the property and begin engaging consultants to repurpose the school into a "hub" for educational non-profits that will support the needs of the community.

"We're really excited to bring our vision to the forefront," said Dr. Ammie Akin, a veteran educator and mother of three. Dr. Akin and her husband, Will, a commercial real estate veteran of more than 20 years, have together, partnered with various non-profits in the Birmingham area for more than two decades.

As an active real estate developer and investor, with a focus on redevelopment of distressed retail properties in Alabama and surrounding states, Will is the past board chair for Sav-A-Life Vestavia and has partnered with numerous local charities. Having attended Central Elementary, he has a vested interest in seeing this once vibrant school become a beacon of light for the community and beyond.

Dr. Akin's passion for education extends beyond her professional endeavors. She has actively contributed to the launch of highly successful non-profit organizations, including her service as the board chair for Unless U, a non-profit that supports adults with developmental disabilities. She is a member of the Board of Advisors for The University of Alabama Adapted Athletics, an organization that sponsors competitive college sports in men's and women's wheelchair basketball and tennis.

With 20 years of experience, including 16 years in school leadership roles, Dr. Akin has developed a keen understanding of the distinctive needs of children and families. Dr. Akin's deep awareness of these unique needs fuels her commitment to creating meaningful and impactful initiatives that cater to the well-being and development of children and families.

Describing Central Elementary as an iconic landmark, Dr. Akin shared “We feel privileged to have the opportunity to revitalize this space, ensuring that generations to come will continue to benefit from the rich legacy that Central Elementary represents.”

The Akins expressed their gratitude for the team that represented Vestavia City Schools.

Dr. Todd Freeman, Superintendent of Vestavia City Schools.  
Vestavia City Schools School Board  
Mr. Patrick Boone attorney for the City of Vestavia and School Board  
Mr. Blake Crowe, Broker representing Vestavia City Schools

For more information contact, Dr. Ammie Akin, Project Chair, at [LaunchHub@hubinthehills.org](mailto:LaunchHub@hubinthehills.org)

*Photos Available By Request*

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