



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors of the Corporation

FROM: Larry Hanover, Public Information Officer

DATE: June 15, 2007

SUBJECT: New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation (SCC)  
May Progress Report

### Mission Statement

*Create a brighter future for our children by renovating, building and funding cost-effective and efficient state-of-the-art community schools that support high quality learning environments to better prepare students for successful careers and leadership in the 21st Century in New Jersey and beyond.*

*Partner with communities and leaders in business, education and government to support our programs, policies and projects to create greater opportunities for our children, businesses and workforce.*

### Introduction

The SCC program was highlighted by several accomplishments during May, including:

- The unveiling of the agency's new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Design Manual, which establishes design-performance standards for architects and engineers for the delivery of healthy, safe, cost-effective schools to enhance the educational environment for New Jersey students.
- The grand opening of the Wilbur Watts Intermediate School – the first new stand-alone school built in Burlington City in 43 years. The new facility will accommodate approximately 500 students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades
- Earning a 2007 Smart Growth Award for Catto Community School – a project helping to revitalize an East Camden neighborhood – from New Jersey Future, the state's leading smart-growth advocacy group.



### **SCC Releases 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Design Manual**

The SCC released its new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Design Manual, establishing design-performance standards for architects and engineers that will result in the delivery of cost-effective schools which are healthy and contribute to a productive educational environment for New Jersey students.

The new manual was unveiled May 15<sup>th</sup> at Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy in New Brunswick. The event, attended by more than 100 design professionals and Abbott district leaders from across the state, marked the culmination of 10 months of work to produce a manual that gives clear standards for the design of high-performance school facilities.

"The new manual provides the explicit expectations that design professionals need to build sustainable, cost-effective schools," said Beth Sztuk, SCC Senior Director for Management and Planning. "It gives what architects, engineers and school districts have asked for – a transparent process with clear standards but room for creativity to achieve the required results. It also puts controls in place to ensure those results are achieved."

The SCC engaged the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) to facilitate the development of a manual based on performance standards after members of the design community and district officials said the prior version was too prescriptive and cumbersome. A 19-member task force, including members of the design community, the N.J. Department of Education and the N.J. Department of Community Affairs, collaborated to provide guidance.



The manual represents a holistic approach to school facilities, said Deane Evans, Executive Director of NJIT's Center for Architecture and Building, with aims ranging from reducing fossil-fuel usage to optimizing use of daylight to enhance students' learning environment.

"The manual has two key goals," Evans said. "First, to create healthy, educationally effective learning environments for New Jersey teachers and students; and, second, to optimize the public's investment in school construction by providing facilities that are durable, energy-efficient and cost-effective to own and operate."

At the event, Sztuk and other SCC officials provided an overview of how the new manual was created and an introduction to the goals of the 306-page document. NJIT's Evans and Paul Romano, senior research architect, gave a presentation, and brief training tips, on how to use the manual. Follow-up training will be provided in regional sessions. They are scheduled for June 28 at NJIT's campus in Newark and July 12 at Camden County College's campus in Camden City. Both will be 9 to 12:30.

The Design Manual is part of the SCC's effort to focus on a school project's life cycle costs, translating into decreased utility bills for school districts as a result of higher standards of design.

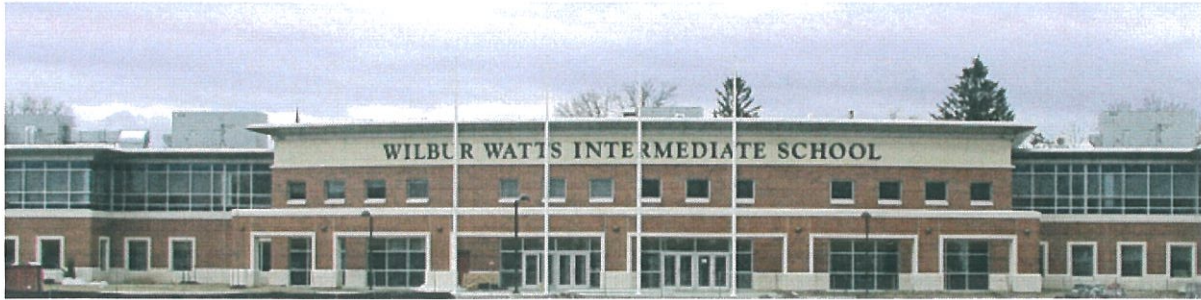
"The cost effectiveness of a building and its equipment must be considered not just at the time of construction but during the entire life cycle of the system," said Scott Weiner, Chief Executive Officer of the SCC. "A wrong choice of inefficient equipment can add unnecessary costs for a school district to own and operate a building during the decades it will be utilized."

The manual pulls together best practices from across the nation and establishes a new norm for pre-K through 12 schools in New Jersey.

The new standards apply to all SCC projects entering design as of today's release.

The manual is a living document that will be updated as SCC project teams learn more efficient and effective ways to design and build school facilities projects.

The manual is available online at <http://www.njscc.com/Business/PDFsForms/DM.pdf>



### **SCC, Burlington City Educators Celebrate Grand Opening Of 500-Student Wilbur Watts Intermediate School**

Representatives of the Burlington City School District and SCC held a ceremonial ribbon-cutting May 29<sup>th</sup> for the Wilbur Watts Intermediate School – the first new standalone school to be built in this Burlington County community since 1964.

Students, parents, teachers and area officials were on hand for the grand opening of the school, which will ease overcrowding and enhance academic achievement for approximately 500 students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. After the ceremony, officials conducted a tour of the new school, which opened to students May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent Dr. Edward F. Gola Jr. stated, “The design of the building is well suited for the teaching and learning of the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. There are unlimited opportunities for science education, technology, visual and performing arts, physical education, research, projects, math and literacy education. There are no excuses for attainment of teaching excellence and academic achievement. We look forward to great things from students and staff in the coming years.”

Scott Weiner, CEO of SCC, stated, “The mission of the SCC is to work with communities like Burlington City to develop and deliver sorely needed modern school facilities. I am proud that our collaboration with the school board, the school district and the community has led to this day. This new intermediate school will benefit students of today and those for generations to come.”

The 104,452-square-foot facility on High Street replaces an 87-year-old school. The new Wilbur Watts Intermediate School includes 23 classrooms, four special education classrooms, three science classrooms, three computer labs, a state-of-the-art media center/library, an art room, a music room, gymnasium, group and distant learning rooms and a cafeteria. A new 500-seat auditorium, funded through a local referendum, will be available to community groups after school hours. The new building includes school board offices, a separate maintenance facility, the district’s main football field and track, basketball courts and playgrounds. The old Wilbur Watts Intermediate School, built in 1920, is



scheduled to be demolished this summer to make way for a parking lot and recreational areas.

The new school was designed by Massa Montalto Architects and built by general contractor Ernest Bock & Sons, Inc. The project was managed for the SCC by Hill International, Inc.



### **SCC Earns NJ Future 2007 Smart Growth Award For New Catto Community School in Camden**

The SCC has earned a New Jersey Future 2007 Smart Growth Award for Octavius V. Catto Community School – a project helping to revitalize an East Camden neighborhood.

Scott Weiner, CEO of SCC, accepted the School-Based Community Revitalization Award at a dinner at the Newark Club in Newark hosted by New Jersey Future, the state's leading smart-growth advocacy group. The awards honor local officials, developers and corporations for work in promoting the group's mission to secure economic opportunity, community vitality and quality of life for all residents of New Jersey. Aside from the SCC, others honored by New Jersey Future for their involvement in the Catto School project include Boys & Girls Club of Camden County, the Camden Board of Education, the Camden Redevelopment Agency, Universal/Keating Ventures LLC and Hillier Architecture. The awards dinner was June 7<sup>th</sup>.

"We are honored to be recognized by New Jersey Future, which is in the forefront of promoting smart growth initiatives to benefit residents throughout the state." Weiner said.

"Catto School is an example of how, through collaboration with the public and private sectors, we can make real progress in infusing smart-growth strategies into the process of revitalizing urban neighborhoods for the benefit of students and the community at large."

Demonstration Projects are public/private community development initiatives that require new schools to incorporate a community component into their design. SCC is responsible for the school component of Demonstration Projects, which have been designated for Camden, East Orange, New Brunswick, Trenton, Union City and Vineland.

The Catto project incorporates the Boys & Girls Club of Camden County and serves as a revitalization anchor encompassing mixed-use development and sustainable economic and social growth. Currently under construction, the 122,000-square-foot school at Westfield Avenue and Dudley Street will ease overcrowding and provide quality education for 540 pre-kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. The school also will include areas accessible to the community, including a media center and auditorium.

This marks the third time the project has received accolades. Last fall, the SCC and Hillier Architecture received a 2006 Smart Growth Architecture Award for Catto's community-oriented design. The award was presented by the NJ Department of Community Affairs' Office of Smart Growth and New Jersey Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. More recently, the project was selected for exhibition at the National School Boards Association's 2007 Exhibition of School Architecture.



### **SCC Awards Contract for New H.B. Wilson School in Camden**

The SCC Board of Directors awarded a \$21.9 million contract to Ernest Bock & Sons, Inc., of Philadelphia, to construct a new H.B. Wilson Elementary School in Camden at a special meeting May 21<sup>st</sup>.



This contract was originally awarded for \$21.4 million to SGRA Contractors, LLC, of Vineland, at the Board's April 25, 2007 meeting. The award was protested by Bock, the second-lowest bidder. The SCC, acting on the advice of the Attorney General's Office, found SGRA's bid to be defective and upheld the protest. As a result, the SCC rejected the award to SGRA and made the new award.

The new H.B. Wilson Elementary School will accommodate up to 598 students in pre-kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. It will help to ease overcrowding, enhance academic achievement and provide early childhood education for 3- and 4-year-olds.

The new H.B. Wilson Elementary at 8<sup>th</sup> and Woodland streets will be an 89,332-square-foot, two-story community-based facility with such features as a gym, library/media center and playground accessible to students and neighborhood residents alike. One wing of the school will be designated as an emergency shelter. During construction, students will continue to attend the existing H.B. Wilson School at nearby 9<sup>th</sup> and Florence streets. It will be razed after the new school is ready for occupancy, scheduled for early 2009.

Gensler Associates of Morristown is the design firm. The SCC will select a Construction Management Firm to oversee the day-to-day construction and building-related aspects that impact the cost, schedule and successful completion of the project. Those duties include contractor and design invoices, change-order submissions and payments.

## **Construction Update**

### **Construction Status**

From its inception in 2002 through May 31, 2007, SCC has completed 32 new schools and 25 major additions/renovations. There are currently 29 projects under construction.

### **Contractor Procurement**

Construction bids were advertised in May for school projects in Camden, East Orange, Harrison, Newark, Paterson, Trenton and West New York. (Exhibit A)

### **Construction Contracts**

As of May 31, 2007, SCC has entered into construction contracts totaling \$3,038,117,471 since its inception in 2002.

### **School District Grants**

From its inception in 2002 through May 31, 2007, the SCC has executed 2,565 Section 15 grant agreements in all 21 counties with districts that receive less than 55% of their budget in state aid. To date, 1,430 schools in 473 districts have been impacted by the Section 15 grant program. Total project costs amount to \$7,109,568,823, for which the state share totals \$2,205,245,119.

## **Office of Contractor And Workforce Compliance**

The SCC Office of Contractor and Workforce Compliance is dedicated to increasing the availability and accessibility of construction opportunities for small, women, and minority-owned businesses, and to individuals and their families in New Jersey.

In some instances this means working with other State agencies and departments to serve the SCC's target population. In others, it is working with SCC project management firms (PMF) and other internal SCC divisions to encourage business opportunities and equal employment opportunities in the school construction program. The Office encourages firms that do business with the SCC to support diversity within their ranks and in their hiring. At every opportunity, the Office endeavors to promote the use of New Jersey's diverse business and workforce communities on SCC projects. Further programmatic information is available on the SCC website at [www.njscc.com](http://www.njscc.com)



### **Conferences/Presentations**

New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, 5/10/07, Atlantic City

Launch of New SCC Design Manual, 5/15/07, New Brunswick

NJ Alliance for Action, 5/16/07, Edison

Opening of Wilbur Watts Intermediate School, 5/29/07, Burlington City

  
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Larry Hanover



**Construction Bid Advertising and Bid Due Dates as of June 27, 2007**

Package #	District	Description of Work	# of School s	Advertised Web Date	Advertised Newspaper Date	Bid Due Date
HU-0001-P01	Harrison	Harrison HS Expanded Site work	1	5/2/07	5/8/07	5/22/07
PA-0008-C03	Paterson	International HS swing space repairs	1	5/9/07	5/14/07	6/7/07
CA-0005-P03	Camden	Demolition of Acquired properties Asbestos & Abatement Env. Remediation	1	5/15/07	N/A	6/7/07
HU-0015-C01	W New York	Addition and Renovations to PS # 2	1	5/15/07	5/18/07	7/10/07
ES-0020-C05	E. Orange	Repairs to Glenwood Ave School/Mildred Barry Garvin Swing Space	1	5/22/07	5/25/07	6/14/07
NE-0063-C01	Newark	Emergent Repairs at Branch Brook E.S.	1	5/25/07	5/31/07	6/21/07
WT-0011-P01	Trenton	Abatement & Demolition/ Jefferson School	1	5/30/07	N/A	6/13/07

Exhibit A