



NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors of the Authority

FROM: Larry Hanover, Senior Public Information Manager

DATE: September 20, 2007

SUBJECT: New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA)
Summer Progress Report

Introduction:

The first week of September was highlighted by the opening of 22 new and renovated schools statewide managed by the Authority. The openings benefit 13,500 students. It is the largest slate of major school projects to be opened in a single fall since the school construction program's inception. (A complete list accompanies this report.)

It also marked the first set of school openings for the new SDA, established on August 6, 2007, when Governor Jon S. Corzine signed legislation establishing it as a replacement for the Schools Construction Corporation.

The law provides enhanced governance and accountability for the organization, which manages and fully funds projects in the 31 Abbott districts. The law included several reforms and enhancements. The number of public members of the Board was increased from seven to 11, with a requirement of directly relevant backgrounds in fields including construction, education and finance. Public members will now be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, and the Legislature will receive a report every six months on the SDA's progress.

Barry Zubrow, who served as chairman of the SCC Board of Directors, was appointed to continue as the Chairman of the Authority. He and four other public members of the SCC board immediately began serving in an interim capacity on the new SDA board. Their nominations for a full term will be submitted to the State Senate when it reconvenes in

the fall. The four other public members are: Joseph McNamara, Laurence M. Downes, Gabriella Morris and Carmen Twillie Ambar.

Scott Weiner heads the SDA, continuing in his capacity as CEO. Weiner was appointed in February 2006 as the Governor's Special Counsel on School Construction and was appointed permanent CEO in September 2006.

The law also made significant enhancements to the program's land acquisition process. School districts' goals and objectives for facilities will be incorporated into the municipal master plan process. Also, Abbott districts will be required to submit an inventory of municipally and district-owned land if they seek to purchase land for a school. The district and municipality will have to explain why their own parcels are unsuitable. Lastly, sites identified for schools will be preserved for 180 days; the authority will have the chance to acquire properties before approvals or variances are granted.

The law significantly affects the SDA's relationship with Abbott districts. The districts are no longer barred from managing projects of more than \$500,000 and can be permitted by the SDA to address their own capital maintenance projects. Also, a process will be created allowing Abbott districts to take on the responsibility to manage and construct their own projects if they demonstrate the capacity. Within one year of enactment, the Department of Education is required to develop regulations regarding districts' eligibility to manage projects. The SDA will develop regulations to determine whether they have the capacity to proceed during that time frame. The SDA also will assist Abbott districts to develop that capacity. Ultimate responsibility for projects remains with the SDA.

Overall, the SDA has completed 41 schools and 28 major renovations and additions, along with nearly 400 health, safety and other projects in Abbott districts. An additional 21 are under construction. SDA-managed projects, in Regular Operating (non-Abbott) Districts receiving more than 55 percent of their budgets from state aid, account for six new schools and 13 major renovations and additions.

The program also has distributed \$2.2 billion in grants, impacting more than 1,400 suburban schools statewide.

Additional program highlights during the summer of 2007 included:

- Governor Jon S. Corzine joined SDA officials and local educators in August for the grand opening of the **Octavius V. Catto Community School and Boys & Girls Club of Camden County** – a project that is helping to revitalize an East Camden neighborhood. Agencies that played key roles in the project – the Boys & Girls Club of Camden County, the Camden Redevelopment Agency, Universal Keating Ventures L.L.C. and RMJM Hillier – also were on hand for the ribbon-cutting for Camden's first new school in 15 years. It marked the completion of the

first of six state-designated demonstration projects – public/private community development initiatives that require new schools to incorporate a community component into their design.

Other SDA news:

- September (as of 9/20/07)
 - A dedication ceremony was held at **Long Branch High School**. The new facility will ease overcrowding and enhance the quality of education for 1,200 students in grades 9 through 12. This is Long Branch's fourth new facility.
 - A ribbon-cutting was held at **McKinley Kindergarten Center #3 School**. The new facility accommodates 210 students and provides relief to the overcrowded elementary schools.
- August
 - SDA awarded a \$15.9 million construction contract to Hessert Corporation for additions and renovations to **Dunfee School** and **Horbelt School**, and renovations to **Collins School** in Barnegat Township in Ocean County.
 - SDA awarded a \$33.6 million construction contract to Delric Construction Co. for the new **Speedway Elementary School** in Newark. It will accommodate 690 students in pre-kindergarten through 8th grades.
 - SDA awarded a \$20.4 million construction contract to D&K Construction Co. for an addition and extensive renovations at **West New York Public School No. 2**. It will house 705 students in pre-K through 6th grades.
- July:
 - A July ribbon-cutting for the new 550-student **Gregory School** in Long authority in the Monmouth County district. Branch marked the opening of the third new state-of-the-art school by the
- June:
 - A groundbreaking was held for Camden's new **H.B. Wilson Elementary School**, which will house 600 students in pre-K through 6th grade.

- A groundbreaking was held in Orange for the expansion of **Park Avenue Elementary School**, built in 1880 – the oldest public school still in use in the city.
- Groundbreaking in Buena took place for the new **Buena Regional Middle School** adjacent to the high school on Weymouth Road.

Upcoming events:

- Sept. 27: Ribbon-cutting ceremony for **Parker Elementary School**, Trenton
- Sept. 27: Topping-off ceremony for **Cicely Tyson School of Performing Arts & Fine Arts** in East Orange. This is East Orange's Demonstration Project
- Oct. 2: Ribbon-cutting ceremony for **Salvatore R. Calabro Elementary School**, Hoboken
- Oct. 3: Dedication ceremony for **First Avenue School**, Newark

Construction Update:

Contractor Procurement

Construction bids were advertised in August for school projects in Camden, Newark and Orange. (Exhibit A)

Construction bids were advertised in July for school projects in Newark, Orange, Plainfield and Trenton. (Exhibit B)

Construction bids were advertised in June for school projects in Barnegat, Greater Egg Harbor and Newark. (Exhibit C)

Construction Contracts

As of August 31, 2007, the authority has entered into construction contracts totaling \$3,134,124,131 since the inception of the school construction program in 2002.

Larry Hanover



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

SCHOOL OPENINGS - SEPTEMBER 2007

School District	School Name	Type	Project Type
Camden*	Catto Community	ES	New
Clark**	Arthur L. Johnson HS	HS	Rehab
Clark**	Hehnlly ES	ES	Add/Rehab
Clark**	Kumpf MS	MS	Rehab
Clark**	Valley ES	ES	Rehab
Egg Harbor**	Davenport ES #2	ES	New
Egg Harbor**	Slaybaugh ES	ES	New
Garfield	Garfield MS	MS	New
Harrison	Harrison HS	HS	New
Hoboken	Salvatore R Calabro ES	ES	Rehab
Irvington	Augusta Kindergarten	ES	Add/Rehab
Irvington	Mt Vernon Ave ES	ES	New
Irvington	University 6 ES	ES	Rehab
Jersey City	Heights MS #7	MS	New
Long Branch	Gregory ES	ES	New
Long Branch	Long Branch HS	HS	New
New Brunswick	McKinley K Center #3	ES	New
Newark	First Avenue	ES	New
Trenton	Parker ES	ES	Add/Rehab
Union City	Union City ECC	ECC	New
Vineland	Veterans Memorial	MS	Add/Rehab
West New York	West New York ES #4	ES	New

*Demonstration project, incorporating community features and coordinated with wider economic development. Managed by a municipal redevelopment entity and a redeveloper/developer. SDA provides 100% funding and oversight.

**SDA manages previously approved projects in Regular Operating Districts receiving 55% or more of their budgets from state aid