

September 2003 Monthly Report

Introduction

With the Summer of 2003 behind us, the Schools Construction Corporation is proud to have reached a stage in the program that is a clear line of demarcation from health and safety repairs, to a program focused on new construction, substantial renovations and additions. The program continues to be a catalyst for not only remaking the educational infrastructure throughout the state, but also economic development, job creation, and property tax relief. Since the program's inception and through the month of September, the SCC has obligated over \$3 billion for the entire program and paid out over \$1.2 billion. Over \$700 million has been disbursed for the calendar year 2003, with the month of September at approximately \$96.5 million alone.

Also in September, 17 construction packages were awarded for 8 districts where the SCC manages all activities. Twenty-four districts that receive less than 55% of their funding in state aid had over \$9.3 million obligated for direct property tax relief as the state share of projects that totaled roughly \$33.5 million.

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- I. **Governor McGreevey Touts Progress on School Construction as Part of "Better Schools for a Better Tomorrow" Initiatives**



Governor McGreevey highlighted the progress that the SCC has made over the past year at an event in Westfield, Union County, at the beginning of the month. He underscored his charge to our agency that in order to prepare the state's youth to be able to compete in the 21st century, they must be provided with classrooms that are safe, modern and not crowded. Moreover, he also reiterated the fact that the SCC is "building schools where children will get the opportunities they need to compete in the new economy, and we are helping to make our communities, and ultimately our state, strong for years to come."

The Governor discussed the fact that the SCC had "seen remarkable progress in the Schools Construction program in its first year in existence," in comparison to the previous two years after the enactment of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act in 2000. Governor McGreevey pointed out some the noteworthy accomplishments that this agency has achieved in the past year, including:

- o Completion of over 90% of the necessary Health and Safety Renovations.
- o Putting almost \$1 Billion towards construction contracts - eight times what had been spent between 2000 and 2002.
- o Doubling the number of architectural assignments.
- o Increasing by twelve-fold the amount spent on acquiring sites for projects from what had been spent from 2000 to

- 2002.
- o Cutting the timetable for projects from five years to three.

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II. SCC Holds Milestone Groundbreaking for School Expansion in City of Trenton



The SCC embarked upon a major expansion program in the Trenton School District when officials broke ground for a \$3.9 million addition and renovations at the Gregory Elementary School for the benefit of its students, faculty and the community at large.

This was the SCC's first groundbreaking in the City of Trenton, and the SCC and the Trenton Board of Education marked this milestone at a ceremony attended by local and state educators and public officials.

The new 8,300-square-foot addition to the school at 500 Rutherford Avenue will include a new cafeteria, kitchen and 2 new classrooms. The work also will include extensive renovations to 2 general classrooms, 3 resource rooms, the media center, technology lab, computer room, music room and administrative offices. The expansion is targeted for completion by 2005.

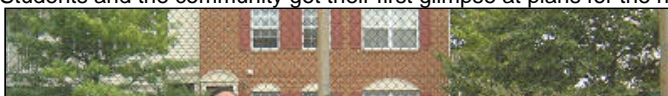


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III. SCC and Newark Public Schools Celebrate New Science Park School Project

The University Heights Science Park community in Newark moved a giant step closer toward realizing a dream envisioned 10 years ago as educators, state, county and city officials, students, parents and supporters all gathered for a ceremonial event midway through the month. The event marked the 10th Anniversary of the creation of the University Heights Science Park and the unveiling of architectural renderings for a quality science high school within the realm of college science and technology.

Students and the community got their first glimpse at plans for the new Science Park High School that will maximize 21st Century educational opportunities for up to 1,200 students.



The project currently has a construction cost estimate of approximately \$63 million and is slated for completion by 2006. Science Park High School in Newark will be part of University Heights Science Park, a science incubator that includes several institutions of higher learning - NJIT, Essex County Community College, UMDNJ and Rutgers, Newark.

The new 290,150 square-foot building will accommodate 800 to 1,200 students. Building highlights include: a media/technology center that will include an ITV lab, a long distance learning system and CAD; classroom space divided into "Academic villages," educational learning modules for interdisciplinary instruction, and lecture rooms; fabrication room for robotics and other science-related activities; independent science research area; an auditorium, gym and cafeteria; and space for student services.

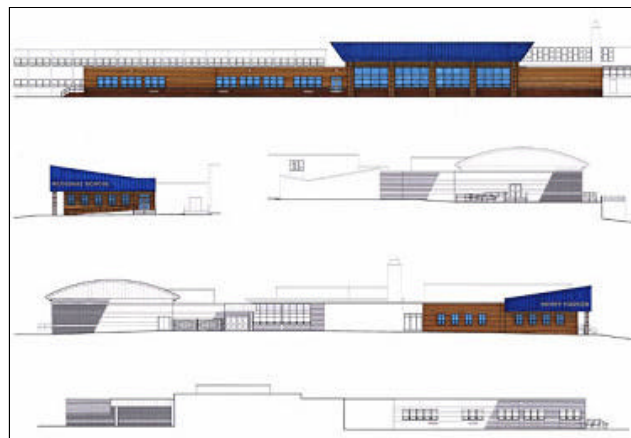
The event marked a milestone for the entire City of Newark as in the next couple of months all the hard work and planning of the community will come to fruition as construction will get under way on a truly innovative school for the 21st Century.

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IV. Henry Hudson Celebrates Groundbreaking of Addition & Renovations for Regional School District



Local, state and school officials also participated in a ceremonial groundbreaking for a \$14.6 million addition and renovation project to Henry Hudson Regional High School in Highlands, Monmouth County. The State will fund \$4.3 million toward the construction costs.



The project involves new construction of a 26,200-square-foot addition to the 475-student high school at One Grand Tour. It will include two science labs with a shared prep room, one science demonstration room, a cafeteria with stage, a serving kitchen, faculty dining area and new media center. Presently, there are 34 classrooms. Renovations will include the reconfiguration of classroom space, refurbishing of the music room, replacement of the fire alarm system, upgrades of the HVAC and security system, sidewalk replacement and additional lighting.

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V. SCC Breaks Ground for Early Childhood Center in Garfield



The SCC also began construction on an early childhood center in Garfield, the only Abbott District in Bergen County, in September.

The \$8.9 million facility will benefit over 300 pre-kindergarten students. This is the SCC's first groundbreaking in the City of Garfield, and the SCC and the Garfield Board of Education marked this milestone at a ceremony attended by local and state educators and public officials.

The project involves new construction of a 45,000 square-foot two-story facility that includes a nurse's area and 24 classrooms. The school is anticipated to open in September 2004.

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VI. Construction Update Construction Starts

The SCC awarded 8 construction packages in 6 districts during the month of September for combined construction bid amounts totaling \$39,066,582. These awards will involve 11 schools in various districts including: Boiler replacements at 4 schools and demolition work at 1 high school in Newark, large addition projects at the middle school in Manchester Township, and an early childhood center in Elizabeth. A full list is attached as [Exhibit A](#).

As of September 30, 2003, the SCC has entered into 343 construction contracts that total \$1,143,051,190.

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VII. Contractor Procurement

The SCC advertised 17 construction packages for 8 school districts in the month of September, which will impact 19 schools. The Trenton school district saw advertisements for 6 projects while Gloucester City, Plainfield and Newark all had 2 projects apiece advertised. A full list of the construction advertisements for September is attached as [Exhibit B](#).

Design bids were sought for 16 schools in 7 districts in September as well. New Brunswick had 5 advertisements, while Keansburg and Irvington each accounted for 2. The full list of those advertisements is attached as [Exhibit C](#).

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VIII. Design Update

Over the course of the month, 20 design contracts were awarded in 16 districts. The construction cost estimates for all of these projects totaled in excess of \$36.7 million and will impact 61 schools.

As of September 30, 2003, the SCC has entered into 196 design contracts with a total value of \$199,268,019, as well as assumed an additional 67 architectural assignments that totaled \$78,915,206.

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IX. Predevelopment & Land Acquisition

At the September Board meeting, the directors granted contingent approval for land acquisition to take place for several projects. One such approval was for an approximately 39,000 square foot tract of land in the City of Elizabeth for the new Performing Arts High School. It is anticipated that the new school will be a 200,000 gross square foot facility that will serve a projected enrollment of 900 students.

Another acquisition contingently approved at the Board's September meeting was for approximately 5 and one-half acres in the City of Newark. This property will be used for the New Park Elementary School. The overall project involves a 162,000-square-foot facility to serve a projected enrollment of 750 students grades K through 8.

The Directors also contingently approved acquisition of property in Newark for the West Side High School expansion. The site involves 23 parcels equivalent to roughly 1 and three-quarter acres. This represents phase I of acquisitions for the renovation and addition of the high school serving grades 9 through 12. The project is envisioned to enlarge the existing 90,000 square-foot facility to 255,00 square feet in order to serve an anticipated enrollment of 1,500.

As of September 30, 2003 the SCC has entered into 314 site acquisition contracts for appraisals, site evaluations, environmental investigations, title services and actual acquisitions totaling \$73,425,454.

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X. School District Grants

The SCC executed 24 Section 15 grants with 10 districts that receive less than 55% of their funding in state aid. The total project costs for these grants are expected to be \$33,539,331, with a state share anticipated to be worth \$9,315,573 of that total.

Several districts received multiple grant awards in the month of September. Saddle Brook Township in Bergen County will receive grants for projects at 5 schools. The total projects costs are expected to be \$1,274,734, with a state share of \$509,894. The school district in Montclair, Essex County will receive \$245,070 toward 6 projects, worth \$612,677. Springfield Township in Union County will receive grants for 5 schools with total project costs of \$18,918,886, of which the state will pay \$3,918,980.

As of September 30, 2003, the SCC has executed 1,066 Section 15 grant agreements with districts that receive less than 55% of their budget in state aid for total project amounts of \$3,899,703,492, for which the state share totaled \$1,200,063,887. In September alone, 10 districts in 6 counties received \$9,315,573 in direct property tax relief as the state share for projects that totaled \$33,539,331.

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XI. Conferences/Presentations

BCA NJ Membership Meeting, 9/03/2003, Atlantic City, NJ

"Back To School" with the NJ Schools Construction Corporation, 9/04/2003, Newark, NJ

2nd Annual Conference on Economic Development, 9/05/2003, East Brunswick, NJ

NJ State Building and Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO Annual Convention, 9/10/2003, Atlantic City, NJ

NJ Alliance for Action Inc. "Where's The Work?" 9/10/2003, Hightstown, NJ

American Council Engineering Companies of NJ (ACECNJ) Meeting, Update on NJ School Construction, 9/11/2003, Woodbridge, NJ

Asian Indian Business Exposition, 9/17/2003, Edison, NJ

21st Annual Minority Enterprises Development Week Awards Celebration, 9/18/2003, New York, NY

Education Law Center: Are We Building Schools for the 21st Century? 9/18/2003, Piscataway, NJ

Contractor Information Workshop, 9/18/2003, Trenton, NJ

The NY/NJ Minority Purchasing Council, Inc., "Sailing To Success", 9/19/2003, Weehawken, NJ

Growth Opportunities and Strategies Summit "Set Asides: All Angles", 9/22/2003, Newark, NJ

Bergen County Building Trades Informational School Construction Conference, 9/26/2003, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ

National Federation of Filipino American Associations Conference, 9/27/2003, Secaucus, NJ

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John F. Spencer, Chief Executive Officer
Prepared by George Strachan, October 22, 2003

