

May 2003 Monthly Report

Introduction

The positive momentum of the Schools Construction Corporation continued to be sustained in the month of May, as evidenced by the number of groundbreakings, procurement activities and notices to proceed that took place. Groundbreakings took place in various areas around the state including Asbury Park, Paterson and Passaic. Notices to proceed were issued for projects with construction cost estimates totaling \$35,344,476. The SCC executed 36 Section 15 grants for projects with total costs expected to be \$136,389,891. Construction packages were advertised for work on 15 schools. Additionally, the SCC was privileged and proud to have Jack Kocsis assume the role of Board Chairman. The Board of Directors approved program parameters for implementing design-build as an alternative delivery method in order to speed the time it takes to deliver some projects and control costs. Renovations also got into full swing on the SCC's central administrative offices on One West State Street.

1. [Governor McGreevey Announces Addition to Bradley Elementary School Addition in Asbury Park](#)
2. [Paterson Celebrates Groundbreaking for P.A.N.T.H.E.R. Academy](#)
3. [Passaic City Celebrates Groundbreaking](#)
4. [Jack Kocsis Takes Helm as Chair of SCC Board](#)
5. [Construction Update](#)
6. [Design Update](#)
7. [Predevelopment & Land Acquisition](#)
8. [Office of Diversity and Emerging Markets](#)
9. [School District Grants](#)
10. [Conferences/Presentations](#)

I. Governor McGreevey Announces Addition to Bradley Elementary School Addition in Asbury Park



Governor McGreevey speaks at the Bradley Elementary School Groundbreaking

Governor McGreevey presided over a groundbreaking ceremony for a new addition to the Bradley Elementary School in Asbury Park. This initiative is the result of an \$8 million dollar investment by the State of New Jersey through the SCC and will support the creation of new classrooms to accommodate 450 children in grades Kindergarten through Fifth.



Conceptual drawing of the facility

"Our efforts in literacy and teacher preparation can only succeed if children are being educated in safe, modern classrooms," said McGreevey. "In these classrooms, children will learn computer skills that prepare them for the future, as well as the magic of art and music, and the wonder of science. Investing in school construction provides our children with the tools they need to succeed, laying the foundation for the future success of our towns, our counties and ultimately, our entire state."



Governor McGreevey greets children of the Bradley School

The project involves the construction of a new 32,700 square foot facility, for new classrooms, a science room, a new gymnasium, an art room and a music room. Renovations will also take place to approximately 47,000 square feet of existing space to add air conditioning throughout the building and provide a new sprinkler system. The project will be done in three phases starting at the beginning of June 2003 and concluding by the end of December 2004.

[Back to top](#)

II. Paterson Celebrates Groundbreaking for P.A.N.T.H.E.R. Academy



Paterson celebrated a groundbreaking for construction of the P.A.N.T.H.E.R. Academy High School. Paterson received \$8.4 million from the State of New Jersey to build the project.

This new Science High School involves new construction, as well as renovation to an existing

facility to create approximately 30,000 square feet that will serve 150 students. The new school will include, among other items a planetarium. Substantial completion is expected in January 2004.



P.A.N.T.H.E.R. stands for "Paterson and NASA Together for High Expectations and Results." The school's curriculum is geared toward math and science in order to help prepare students for careers in science and engineering. Students also participate in extracurricular activities like robotics and rocketry, as well as visit NASA's Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. The program enrolls 8th graders in Saturday classes and a summer "Space Academy" in a partnership with Passaic County Community College.



This project was helped to become a reality by Dr. Mark McDowell who is an Eastside High School alumnus and NASA scientist. Dr. McDowell helped champion the concept and secure additional funding for the planetarium.

[Back to top](#)

III. Passaic City Celebrates Groundbreaking



Ceremonial groundbreaking at the Drago School

May also saw a groundbreaking ceremony for a new addition to the Mario J. Drago School No. 3 in Passaic. The project will receive \$10 million in funding from the State as yet another part of the \$8.6 billion School Construction program that will help to revitalize the community, bring

jobs and targeted growth to the area.



Conceptual drawing of the new facility addition

The project involves the construction of a 56,360 square-foot addition to the Mario J. Drago School No. 3 located on Belmont Place. The new addition will include 25 pre-kindergarten classrooms, two kindergarten classrooms, administrative offices, a parent resource room, two special educational instructional rooms, one computer classroom and a cafeteria/multipurpose room. Other classroom space includes a science discovery classroom and an art/music instructional room.

IV. **Jack Kocsis Takes Helm as Chair of SCC Board**

On May 16th, the SCC held a special meeting of its Board of Directors with new Chairman, Jack Kocsis. Mr. Kocsis was tapped to fill the vacancy that was created when the SCC's previous Chairman, Tony Coscia, became Chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

As SCC Board Chairman, Mr. Kocsis is responsible for steering the policies and procedures of the school construction program, including overseeing its goals and objectives. As Executive Director of the Building Contractors Association of New Jersey (BCANJ), his construction expertise and experiences have been a critical link between day-to-day operations of the Schools Construction program and guiding it to be positioned for future success.

Mr. Kocsis has been member of SCC's Board since its inception this past October 2002. As Executive Director of BCANJ, he is responsible for the daily operation of the Association, which involves maintaining open communication with its 200 active and associate members, labor, legislators, academic and industry colleagues.

V. **Construction Update Construction Starts**

The SCC issued 12 notices to proceed in 9 districts with construction cost estimates totaling \$35,344,476. 3 contractors received notices to proceed for projects in the Millville school district for health and safety repairs with construction cost estimates totaling \$4,226,875. Elizabeth will have 2 schools impacted with notices to proceed for projects with construction cost estimated of \$1,542,384. An award was also finalized for the Ignacio Cruz Early Childhood Center in Perth Amboy for \$11,449,000.

As of May 31, 2003, the SCC has entered into 308 construction contracts that total \$812,877,931.

Contractor Procurement

May saw 11 construction packages advertised for 8 districts that will result in work being done on 15 schools. There were a couple instances of note. Jersey City advertised 4 packages for upgrades at that many schools. Burlington advertised 1 package for health and safety repairs at 5 schools. [Exhibit B](#) is attached and provides more specific detail.

Since the program's inception and through May 27, 2003, the total dollars obligated for improvements, new construction and additions across the State of New Jersey was

\$1,861,824,248.08 and impacted 1076 schools.

[Back to top](#)

**VI. Design Update
Design Procurement**

In May, the SCC advertised 16 packages for design work. These packages will result in design services being performed for 19 schools in 6 districts. Several districts had multiple advertisements including: Union City (5), Newark (4), Vineland (3) and Plainfield (2). The 2 packages advertised for Plainfield will actually impact 6 schools. A full list is attached as [Exhibit C](#).

As of May 31, 2003, the SCC has entered into 138 design contracts with a total value of \$93,609,268, as well as assumed an additional 62 architectural assignments that totaled \$72,492,272.

[Back to top](#)

VII. Predevelopment & Land Acquisition

May was also a very busy month for land acquisition activities. A former auto repair shop site in Paterson was purchased for the Panther Academy, which was certainly a critical component to the project. The SCC also funded the purchase of the 8-acre Middle School # 7 site by the Jersey City Public Schools from the City of Jersey City.

Another property was purchased in Long Branch for the new High School. At the May board meeting, the Directors also gave preliminary approval to site acquisition for the Speedway Elementary School and the New East Side High School in Newark, as well as for the Garfield Avenue Elementary School.

As of May 31, 2003 the SCC has entered into 204 site acquisition contracts for a total of \$39,019,211.

[Back to top](#)

VIII. Office of Diversity and Emerging Markets

The Office Diversity distributed the second issue of the Diversity Digest. This issue featured a message from Governor McGreevey, as well as profiles of individuals and companies that have benefited from the Office of Diversity's efforts. The publication serves to outline programs that are available through that office, as well as provide specific program updates, contact information and scheduled activities. It is distributed via e-mail and hardcopy, and it is available as well on the SCC's website, www.njscc.com.

The Office of Diversity continues to work diligently in order to exceed its goals for minority and women owned business of 7% and 3% respectively.

[Back to top](#)

IX. School District Grants

The SCC executed 36 Section 15 grants with 19 districts that receive less than 55% of their funding in state aid. The total project costs for these grants are expected to be \$136,389,891, with a state share expected to be worth \$40,805,238 of that total.

Several districts received multiple grant awards in May. The Lawrence Township school district, in Mercer County, received 6 grants for construction to take place at 3 elementary schools, 1 intermediate school, 1 high school and 1 middle school. The total cost for these

projects is anticipated to be \$29,974,889, of which the state share constitutes \$9,058,602. Saddle Brook Township, in Bergen County received 4 grants for 3 elementary schools and 1 high school. The total costs for these projects is expected to be \$18,543,030 with a state share of \$5,264,548. Edison Township schools, in Middlesex County, received 5 grants for projects at 2 elementary schools and 1 continuing education center with a total projects cost of \$1,734,857, of which the state share will be \$479,303. Also in Bergen County, the Park Ridge school district received 4 grants for projects at their high school and 2 elementary schools, the sum of which will be \$3,825,430 with a state share of \$1,355,610.

As of May 31, 2003 the SCC has the SCC has executed 851 Section 15 grant agreements for total project amounts of \$3,422,872,049 for which the state share totaled \$1,068,079,127.

[Back to top](#)

X. Conferences/Presentations

Southern New Jersey Development Council Annual Construction Forecast & Exhibits,
05/14/2003, Mt. Laurel, NJ

Green Development, Making Ecology, Public Health and Real Estate Dollars Work
Together,
05/15/03, Whitehouse Station, NJ

Fifth Annual New Jersey Urban Mayors, Superintendents and School Board
Conference,
05/29/2003, Trenton, NJ

[Back to top](#)

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Prepared by George Strachan, June 25, 2003