



NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Authority

FROM: Larry Hanover, Senior Public Information Manager

DATE: October 22, 2007

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

Introduction:

Funding for New Jersey's school construction program is once again an issue before the state Supreme Court.

The Education Law Center, which represents students of New Jersey's 31 Abbott districts, filed a motion on Oct. 1 requesting that additional funding be provided by Dec. 31, 2007 for the program.

The Governor's Office issued a statement saying: "The administration recognizes that the need for school facilities across the state is great, and we are working to identify a revenue source that will begin to address this and other capital needs in New Jersey."





The Interagency Working Group on School Construction has recommended an additional \$3.25 billion for the program – \$2.5 billion for Abbott districts, \$750 million for Regular Operating Districts. In April, the SDA deferred construction on 27 projects in its Capital Plan, pending authorization of additional funds.

The SDA currently has 22 projects under construction. 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.

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

The month of October was highlighted by the ceremonial openings of four SDA-managed schools, a beam-signing marking a construction milestone for an East Orange demonstration project and the recognition of the authority for its outstanding work on school projects in Newark and Elizabeth.

Other SDA news (as of 10/22/07):

- Cicely Tyson, the Emmy Award-winning and Academy Award-nominated actress, was among the guest speakers at a beam-signing ceremony marking a milestone in the construction of the new **Cicely Tyson School of Fine and Performing Arts** in East Orange. The community magnet school will accommodate 1,300 students from pre-K through 12th grade. One of six state demonstration projects, the school will be a cornerstone of revitalization efforts in the Main Street area of the Essex County city.
- A ribbon-cutting was held for an addition and major renovations at **Veterans Memorial Intermediate School** in Vineland that will provide 21st century educational opportunities for 578 students in 6th through 8th grades and help alleviate overcrowding in the district.
- A dedication was held for the new **First Avenue School**, the Newark's first new elementary school project that was managed by the SDA. It provides 21st century educational opportunities to 850 pre-kindergarten to 8th grade students. The new school nearly doubles the student capacity of the original First Avenue School. Built in 1928, the old school had a capacity for 450 students.
- A ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrated the major renovations at **Salvatore A. Calabro Elementary School** that will benefit 131 students in pre-kindergarten through 4th grade. It is the first major SDA project to be completed in Hoboken.

- A ribbon-cutting was held for an addition and major renovations at **Parker Elementary School** in Trenton to benefit 475 students in pre-K through 8th grade. It is the sixth major project completed by the SDA in the Capital City.



- The New Jersey Schools Development Authority received 2007 New Jersey Golden Trowel Awards from the International Masonry Institute (IMI) in recognition of the design and construction excellence of two SDA-managed projects: **Science Park High School** in Newark and **Ronald Reagan Academy School #30** in Elizabeth.

Science Park High School won for “Best of Educational: Middle/High School” as well as the “Grand Award” – the IMI’s highest honor signifying the “best of the best.” Science Park, the first new high school built in Newark in 39 years, accommodates 1,200 students in grades 7 to 12. Ronald Reagan Academy School #30 won for “Best of Educational: Elementary School.” The Elizabeth school has 750 students from pre-K to 8th grade.

Upcoming events:

- November 20: Groundbreaking, **Speedway Avenue Elementary School**, Newark
- November 30 (tentative): Groundbreaking, **Park Elementary School**, Newark.


Construction Update:

Contractor Procurement

Construction bids were advertised in September for school projects in Keansburg and Orange. (Exhibit A)

Construction Contracts

As of September 30, 2007, the authority has entered into construction contracts totaling \$3,146,077,685 since the inception of the school construction program in 2002.



Larry Hanover

Construction Bid Advertising and Bid Due Dates as of October 22, 2007

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