

February 2004 Monthly Report

Introduction

February marked a great month in construction milestones for the SCC. With a plethora of groundbreakings in Trenton and several topping-off ceremonies in Paterson, results of the SCC's hard work toward remaking the educational infrastructure of our state are substantively paying off for children throughout New Jersey.

The SCC made construction awards in 3 districts for combined construction cost estimates totaling \$141,026,000, in February alone. Design awards for projects in 2 districts, with current construction cost estimates totaling \$8,167,860, were also awarded. The SCC offered 57 grants to 21 districts that receive less than 55% of their funding in state aid. The state share for these projects is anticipated to be worth \$41,736,102 for overall project costs expected to be \$143,899,526.

1. [SCC 'Tops Off' Paterson's P.A.N.T.H.E.R. Academy As Crane Hoists Planetarium Dome into Place](#)
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- I. **SCC 'Tops Off' Paterson's P.A.N.T.H.E.R. Academy As Crane Hoists Planetarium Dome into Place**

Ceremony Marks Milestone at New Aerospace Studies High School

SCC representatives joined Paterson Public School District educators, and construction workers for a dramatic "Topping Off" Ceremony to mark a milestone

at the new P.A.N.T.H.E.R. - Paterson And NASA Together for High Expectations and Results Academy, a state-of-the-art aerospace studies high school being built in conjunction with the National Aeronautics & Space Administration.

After a brief ceremony, the new 15,000-square-foot, three-story school addition was literally "topped off" when the planetarium dome – a tubular aluminum framework 27-foot high and 40-foot in diameter – was hoisted by crane some 70 feet in the air and set into place to complete the structure at Memorial Drive and Ellison Street located across the street from Passaic Community College in downtown Paterson. The addition is connected to the existing building – a totally renovated 15,000-square-foot one-story structure that formerly housed an automotive parts business.



Students signed a panel for the planetarium dome



Students from Panther Academy attended the milestone event

Aside from a planetarium and auditorium, P.A.N.T.H.E.R. – will include 10 classrooms, two chemistry labs, a physics lab, computer lab and media center. The school, which will accommodate up to 200 students pursuing a math and science curriculum, is scheduled to open this fall.

The \$9 million project is being fully funded and managed by the SCC.

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II. **SCC, Neptune Twp. School Officials Dedicate New High School Annex Former Bank Now State-of-the-Art Educational Facility**



SCC representatives also joined Neptune Township School District educators, local officials and community supporters for a Dedication Ceremony and Open House at the newly completed Neptune High School Annex – a former abandoned bank that has been transformed into a state-of-the-art educational facility.

The 45,000-square-foot, four-story High School Annex is on Neptune Boulevard across from Neptune High School. The Annex, which underwent a \$5.5 million makeover, will serve as swing space for 9th grade students during the district's current \$47 million renovation and expansion of Neptune High School.



Jerry Murphy, SCC, Chief Operating Officer

Once the high school project is completed – scheduled for fall 2005 – the Annex will accommodate administrative offices, a specialized high school for Career Academy programs, and a police sub-station in the former bank's drive-through area.

School Superintendent Michael T. Lake said the opening of the High School Annex marks a significant milestone toward the completion of the Board of Education's wide-ranging school construction and expansion program. The school board also expressed its appreciation to the teachers, administrators and support staff for their dedication to the educational mission of the school district.

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III. **SCC Breaks Ground for New Long Branch High State Funding, Managing \$63.5 Million School Building Project**



New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation representatives were also on hand in February when the Long Branch Public School District took part in a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of construction of the new Long Branch High School – the city's newest school.



Rendering of New Long Branch High School

The new high school on Indiana Avenue will have the capacity to hold 1,500 students when completed in 2006. The school is one of four new 21st century educational facilities the SCC is building in the Monmouth County City. During the groundbreaking, the Long Branch High School band, chorus and dance team performed for the invited dignitaries.

The SCC is fully funding and managing the \$63.5 million high school project. In a statement, Governor McGreevey said, "The state is committed to improving school facilities for New Jersey students in a cost-effective, streamlined and efficient manner. School buildings must be designed to provide access to modern technology and a thoughtful environment, which is

conducive to student achievement.

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IV. **SCC Holds 'Beam-Signing' & 'Topping Off' Ceremony For New Roberto Clemente School in Paterson**

Crane Hoists Last Piece of Structural Steel in Place to Mark Construction Milestone for City's 1st New School in 16 Years



The Paterson Public School District hosted another ceremony in February with a "Beam-Signing" and "Topping Off" to mark a milestone in the building of the state-of-the-art New Roberto Clemente School - the city's first totally new educational facility in 16 years.

The steel beam - after being signed by those who attended the morning ceremony - was hoisted by a crane and bolted into place by ironworkers to complete the steel structure of the New Roberto Clemente School which is situated on a 3.6-acre site - an entire city block - at Market Street and East 19th Street.

The New Roberto Clemente School will provide educational opportunities for over 700 students from Kindergarten through 8th grade. The 113,000-square-foot, two-story facility - which will include space dedicated for community use - will feature 33 classrooms, 8 small-group instruction rooms, a gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria, two science rooms, a computer lab, media center and music room. There will also be outdoor, age-appropriate play areas for the various grade levels.

The new school, scheduled to open in 2005, will replace the old Roberto Clemente Elementary School and Public School #1.



Paterson Mayor Jose "Joey" Torres, joins construction workers and Bryan Doherty, Business Representative, Iron Workers Local 483, to mark the construction milestone.

The SCC is fully funding and managing the \$27 million project.

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V. **SCC Receives \$1.04 Million Grant from BPU For Solar Energy Systems in 4 School Districts**

Science Programs in Elizabeth, Newark, Neptune and Phillipsburg Will Participate in the

"Green Building' Technology*Neptune Community School*

The SCC has received a \$1.04 million grant from the State Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to provide photovoltaic (PV) power systems - using panels that convert sunlight directly to electricity - and PV technology for the science curricula of four new schools being built by the SCC in Elizabeth, Newark, Neptune and Phillipsburg.

*Newark Science Park High School*

The new schools - Elizabeth Vocational Technical High School, Newark Science Park High School, Neptune Community School and Phillipsburg Early Childhood Learning Center - were designated for the solar energy funding under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the SCC, BPU and the four school districts.

The cost to design and install PV power systems in each school is approximately \$260,000 apiece - for a total of \$1.04 million. The Board of Directors approved the MOU at its meeting on January 28, 2004.

This funding from the BPU will enable us to further New Jersey's conservation efforts by implementing environmentally sound, renewable energy resources in these schools under the 'green building' guidelines.

Under the MOU, the BPU will directly reimburse SCC a maximum \$10,000 for each of the four school districts from the federally funded State Energy Program for costs incurred for designing each school's PV power system.

*Phillipsburg Early Childhood Center*

The MOU also commits \$1 million from the New Jersey Clean Energy Program - paid by the BPU to SCC - to implement the PV power system in each school. The statewide Clean Energy Program targets \$125 million annually toward technologies that save electricity and natural gas and increase the amount of electricity generated from clean, renewable resources.

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VI. SCC Breaks Ground for Kilmer School in Trenton

State Funding, Managing \$20.5 Million Project



The Trenton Public School District educators, students, city officials and community supporters were joined by SCC staff in a Groundbreaking Ceremony to mark the start of construction of the new Joyce Kilmer Elementary School.



The new Joyce Kilmer School will provide educational opportunities for approximately 767 students from Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade. The new 119,882-square-foot, three-story facility will be built on an open athletic field next to the existing school, which will serve as swing space until the new school is completed sometime in 2006. The new Kilmer School will include 34 general classrooms, a Special Education self-contained classroom, two science classrooms and a science lab, two computer labs, art and music rooms, a media center, gymnasium, cafeteria, and first-floor administrative offices. Pre-K through 2nd grade students will attend

classes in a second-floor L-shaped wing to limit possible interaction with upper-grade students.

A central courtyard will provide light and ventilation to educational spaces as well as serve as a "Living Science Center" and supplemental educational space. The SCC is providing \$20.5 million in funding and will manage the new building project in the city school district of Mercer County as part of the state's unprecedented \$8.6 billion school construction program.

Students in yellow plastic hard hats and wielding yellow plastic shovels led the groundbreaking at the Whittlesley Road school site in Trenton. The ceremony also featured Kindergarten students who performed Lift Every Voice and Sing and recited Trees, the famous poem by Joyce Kilmer, a native of New Brunswick, NJ, who died on a French battlefield in 1918 while serving with the US Army during World War I.

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VII. SCC Breaks Ground for New Columbus School in Trenton

Students Open Time Capsules from 1913 & 1959 School Buildings

The SCC also joined Trenton Public School District educators, students, alumni, city officials and community supporters in a Groundbreaking Ceremony and Time Capsule Opening to mark the start of construction of a new facility to replace the Christopher Columbus Elementary School which dates back to 1892.



Students Henry Alvarado and Tiwan Ritter open time capsules

Students - wearing yellow plastic hard hats and wielding yellow plastic shovels - led the ceremony at the Mulberry Street and Brunswick Avenue site for the construction of the city's first new school in 20 years. They distributed vials of dirt with tags proclaiming "Learning from the Past, Planning for the Future - Columbus School 1892-2004." The students also opened time capsules set in the cornerstones of an addition to the school constructed in 1913 and an addition built in 1959. The capsules included newspapers - an April 9, 1913 edition of the Trenton Evening Times, an October 1959 edition of the Trentonian - textbooks, class lists and other memorabilia from the respective eras. (There were no artifacts from the school's original 1892 cornerstone - its contents apparently were removed at the dedication of the 1913 addition.)



Columbus Elementary School Choir

The ceremony included remarks from former students and educators, including Helen Linico, a 1951 graduate, and Zezzie Chambless, who taught there from 1968 to 1973.

The new Christopher Columbus Elementary School will provide educational opportunities for 260 students from Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade. The 73,681-square-foot, three-story facility will include large-group and community-related functions such as a cafeteria, media center, gymnasium and administrative offices on the first floor. The second

floor will accommodate 1st through 4th grade classrooms, special education areas and science and art rooms. The third floor will comprise 4th through 8th grade classrooms as well as a science lab, satellite administration area and a small-group instruction room. The new school is scheduled for occupancy by early 2006.

Columbus School students are attending classes in facilities at St. Hedwig's School on Indiana Avenue while the original buildings are razed and the new school is constructed.

The SCC is providing \$15.7 million in funding and will manage the new building project in the city school district of Mercer County.

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VIII. SCC Holds Groundbreaking for Parker School Expansion

State Funding \$11 Million Project in Trenton



Last but not least in Trenton, the SCC kicked off construction for a new addition and renovations at Parker Elementary School.

The Parker School expansion will provide educational opportunities for approximately 475 pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade students at the school on Ferry Street. The project calls for the complete renovation of the existing 58,000-square-foot building - which dates back to 1938 - and construction of a new 19,200-square-foot addition to include classrooms, a cafeteria, kitchen, media center, Early Childhood House and administrative offices. Work is scheduled for completion by the fall of 2005.

Once again, the SCC is fully funding and managing the construction of the \$11 million renovation and expansion project in the city school district.



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IX. **Construction Update** **Construction Starts**

The SCC awarded 5 construction packages in 3 districts during the month of February for combined construction cost estimates totaling \$141,026,000. These awards will involve 5 schools in various districts including: 2 in Neptune with bid awards worth \$36,236,000, 1 in Newark with a bid award worth \$64,499,000 and 2 in Trenton with combined bid awards worth \$40,291,000. A full list is attached as [Exhibit A](#).

As of February 27, 2004, the SCC has entered into 385 construction contracts that total \$1,605,384,191. From January 2004 through February 2004, the SCC has awarded 20 construction contracts with combined amounts worth \$290,712,000.

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X. **Contractor Procurement**

The SCC advertised 2 construction packages for the Elizabeth and Plainfield school districts in the month of February, which will impact 2 schools. ([Exhibit B](#).)

Design bids were sought for 6 schools in 4 districts in February as well. ([Exhibit C](#).)

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XI. **Design Update**

In February, the SCC awarded 2 design contracts for schools in Jersey City and the City of Orange Township. The projects have current construction cost estimates of \$3,091,860 and \$5,076,000 respectively. The Jersey City project award is for design services to rehab the existing Academy I Middle School and additions and renovations will be made to the Lincoln Avenue Elementary School in Orange.

As of February 27, 2004, the SCC has entered into 234 design contracts with a total value of \$264,900,635, as well as assumed an additional 72 architectural assignments that totaled \$88,718,606. Since the beginning of January 2004 and through February 2004, the SCC has awarded 7 design projects, with current construction cost estimates at \$71,669,836.

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XII. Predevelopment & Land Acquisition

At the February Board meeting, the directors granted contingent approval for land acquisition for several projects. One such approval was for a 1.5-acre tract of land for the Main Avenue Elementary School in Passaic. The new school will be an 88,340 gross square-foot facility that will serve 647 students in Pre-K through 5th grade.

Another acquisition contingently approved at the Board's February meeting was for .599 acres in Paterson. This property will be used for the new Roberto Clemente Kindergarten Center. The overall project involves a 7,925-square-foot facility with a projected enrollment of 100 students.

As of February 27, 2004, the SCC has entered into 467 site acquisition contracts for appraisals, site evaluations, environmental investigations, title services and actual acquisitions totaling \$151,661,263.

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XIII. School District Grants

The SCC offered 55 Section 15 grants to 20 districts that receive less than 55% of their funding in state aid. The total project costs for these grants are expected to be \$143,899,526, with a state share anticipated to be worth \$41,736,102 of that total and will positively impact 53 schools in 15 counties.

As of February 27, 2004, the SCC has executed 1,263 Section 15 grant agreements with 365 districts, in all 21 counties, that receive less than 55% of their budget in state aid for total project amounts of \$4,309,565,746, for which the state share totaled \$1,338,448,623. Between January and the end of February 2004, for 34 districts in 14 counties were scheduled to receive \$32,564,818 in direct property tax relief as the state share for 76 projects.

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XIV. Office of Diversity and Emerging Business Markets

In February, the SCC published its latest edition of the *Diversity Digest* newsletter. Produced specifically to keep small-, minority- and women (SBE / MBE / WBE) owned enterprises informed about the changes and programs available at the SCC, this newsletter has become a valuable resource for the state's small contractors working to do business with the SCC. This issue highlights the Governor's initiative to increase contract set asides, ongoing efforts at SBE contractor training, increased participation in the construction trades program, contacts for the surety bonding, working capital and minority outreach programs, as well as a spotlight on the Paterson school district. The document is available on the web at www.njscc.com.

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XV. Conferences/Presentations

NJ Business & Industry Association Breakfast Series, "Meet The Decision Makers

2004" 2/03/2004, Edison

Geothermal Training for Design Professionals, 2/11/2004, Morristown

NJ Business & Industry Association, Building the Schools Update:
How to Participate in NJ's \$12 Billion Construction Program, 2/20/2004, Iselin

Design Competition Announcement, 2/24/2004, Perth Amboy

Professional Women In Construction Networking Event, 2/24/2004, New York City

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John F. Spencer, Chief Executive Officer
Prepared by George Strachan, March 24, 2004