

June 2003 Monthly Report

Introduction

For students around the state, June was a month where schools closed for the summer, but already vigorous procurement and construction schedules really kicked into high gear for the SCC. In order to meet the strategic and ambitious goal that the corporation set for itself of completing all health and safety projects transmitted from the Department of Education by the end of the 2003 calendar year, work got under way for a hard push when students were not present. Groundbreakings and events marking other significant construction milestones took place in various school districts as well. A flurry of land acquisition activities also occurred in the month of June.

1. [McGreevey Announces Groundbreaking for New Jackson High School](#)
2. [Elizabeth Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Early Childhood Center](#)
3. [Barnegat Students Commemorate Construction of New High School](#)
4. [Regional Office Opens in Jersey City](#)
5. [Construction Update](#)
6. [Design Update](#)
7. [Predevelopment & Land Acquisition](#)
8. [Office of Diversity](#)
9. [School District Grants](#)
10. [Conferences/Presentations](#)

I. McGreevey Announces Groundbreaking for New Jackson High School



Governor McGreevey at Groundbreaking for New Jackson High School

On June 17th, Governor James McGreevey officiated at a groundbreaking ceremony for a new state-of-the-art high school being built in Jackson Township, Ocean County. The groundbreaking marked a \$21.7 million dollar investment by the State through the SCC to support the creation of a \$70 million new school facility that will accommodate 1,900 high school children.

In his remarks, the Governor underscored the fact that safe, modern classrooms are the only way literacy and quality education can be achieved in our State. Beyond the beautiful facility

that will be created, the Governor also stressed the direct benefit of substantial property tax relief that the Schools Construction program plays, not just for Jackson but also in districts and municipalities in all 21 counties.

The project itself involves new construction of a 288,500 square-foot facility with three wings, each designed with an open-air courtyard. The school will have 50 classrooms on the ground floor with an additional 35 classrooms in the west wing. Also included will be a media center, athletic fields, an 1,800 seat gymnasium, weight room, wrestling room, and an auditorium, as well as an art studio with an outside working area.



Architectural Rendering of the New Jackson High School

[Back to top](#)

II. Elizabeth Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Early Childhood Center



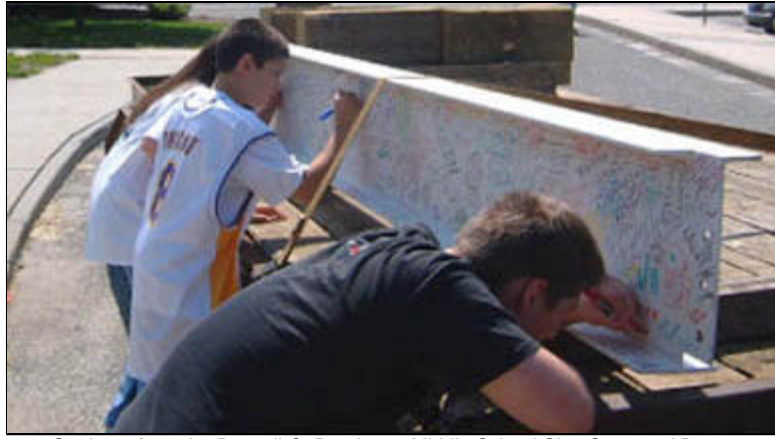
Children from the Elizabeth School District Participate in Groundbreaking

The Elizabeth School District also celebrated a groundbreaking for a new Early Childhood Center for which the State will fully fund by providing over \$12 million. On June 10th, SCC staffers were on hand while local, other state and school district officials officiated. The new educational facility will include over 20 pre-kindergarten classrooms that will house upwards of 300 three and four year-olds.

This particular project involves construction of a new 56,360 square-foot center located on North Broad Street. Beyond the 20 pre-kindergarten classrooms there will be a large multi-purpose room, two innovative enclosed exterior play courts, a teaching garden, full service kitchen, small group instructional spaces and administrative and faculty spaces.

[Back to top](#)

III. Barnegat Students Commemorate Construction of New High School



Students from the Russell O. Brackman Middle School Sign Structural Beam

The first graduating class for Barnegat Township's new high school participated in a beam signing ceremony to mark the topping off of structural steel. On June 23rd, over 250 students from Russell O. Brackman Middle School took part in a ceremony highlighting their future school's first milestone by signing a beam that will become a permanent part of their new high school's media center. The new facility is on target to be open for classes these 7th graders starting in September 2004 and they will be the first graduating class in 2008.

Beyond the new facility's steel framework coming to completion, other work that has been finished up to this point includes site work for the school building, athletic fields, and parking areas being roughed out. The underground plumbing and drainage for the building has also been completed. Additionally, installation of the building's ductwork and concrete block is well underway and a concrete slab has been poured for the high school's 2nd floor.



Construction Progress at New Barnegat High



View of New Barnegat High School from Athletic Fields

The 156,400 square foot, two story school will accommodate over 1,000 students and will be built on a site off Rose Hill Road. The state provided over \$21 million to fund the \$31 million new high school. The facility will include 29 classrooms, six science labs, two technology labs, cafeteria/kitchen, media center, guidance administration offices, gymnasium auxiliary gym, locker rooms, auditorium, art and music rooms. Outside the school are fields for football, softball and baseball, as well as a track and tennis courts.

[Back to top](#)

IV. Regional Office Opens in Jersey City



SCC Hudson County Regional Office

The SCC held an open house at the new Hudson County Regional Office on June 11th. The clear goal of the office is to help facilitate building of schools for managed projects in that region's districts. This was the first of several openings that will take place in the coming months. The SCC is strategically siting the regional offices in areas where the bulk of the work will be done. Each of these offices will be purposely placed to ensure individual school districts are better served.

Located at 333 Washington Street, the Jersey City office sits in the heart of the town's redevelopment area. It will serve Jersey City, Hoboken, Harrison, Irvington, West New York and the Union City school districts. The office will house SCC, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and the New Jersey Department of Education staff. Individuals who staff each office will be responsible for project management, design and construction review and oversight, affirmative action, land acquisition and feasibility assessments, property management, district communications and outreach.

The office will not only provide a base of operations for SCC employees and other state representatives assigned to projects in the region, it will also serve to receive bids and accommodate design presentations by architectural, engineering and construction management firms. The satellite location is expected to help SCC facilitate community involvement and to accelerate the time it takes to move a school construction project forward. In addition to Jersey City, regional offices will be located in Newark, Paterson and Trenton.

[Back to top](#)

V. Construction Update Construction Starts

The SCC awarded 17 construction packages in 10 districts during the month of June for combined construction cost estimates totaling \$54,015,187. These awards will affect 22 schools in various districts including: East Orange, Plainfield, Paterson, Passaic and Perth Amboy. Several districts had multiple construction awards including: Jersey City (3), Elizabeth (3) and Neptune (2). Even though Camden only had 1 package awarded, it will see 5 schools positively impacted. The vast majority of the awards are for health and safety work that will happen over the summer months.

Construction Award Status Report is attached as [Exhibit A](#).

As of June 30, 2003, the SCC has entered into 318 construction contracts that total

\$858,984,664.

Contractor Procurement

The SCC advertised 10 construction packages for 7 school districts in the month of June, which will impact 13 schools. Newark will see boiler replacements at 4 schools and demolition at another. A full list of the construction advertisements for June is attached as [Exhibit B](#).

Design bids were sought for 5 schools in 4 districts in June as well. The list of those advertisements is attached as [Exhibit C](#).

[Back to top](#)

VI. Design Update

As of June 30, 2003, the SCC has entered into 146 design contracts with a total value of \$106,013,234, as well as assumed an additional 65 architectural assignments that totaled \$75,076,913.

[Back to top](#)

VII. Predevelopment & Land Acquisition

At the June Board meeting, the directors granted contingent approval for land acquisition to take place for several projects. One such approval was for a 4.75 tract of land adjacent to the existing H.B. Wilson School in Camden City to make way for a replacement school. The new school will be a 90,643 gross square foot facility that will serve 539 students Pre-K through 6th grade.

Another acquisition contingently approved at the Board's June meeting was for 1.84 acres in Jersey City. This property will be used for the Ollie E. Culbreth Jr. PS #14 addition. The overall project involves a 4,500 square foot addition, removal of temporary classroom units that are now on-site, and reconstruction of a 27,000 square foot outdoor play area for recreational space and additional parking. The current school serves 650 students in grades K through 8 and will be reconfigured for 500 students in grades K through 5.

The Directors also contingently approved acquisition of property in Newark for the South Street Elementary School. The site is in the Ironbound section of the city and will be for a new 140,000 square foot elementary school designed to serve upwards of 700 students.

Similar approval was granted for property acquisition in West New York. The new PS #3 Elementary School will also be a new 140,000 square foot elementary school designed to serve over 700 students.

As of June 30, 2003 the SCC has entered into 219 site acquisition contracts for appraisals, site evaluations, environmental investigations, title services and actual acquisitions totaling \$55,396,343.

[Back to top](#)

VIII. Office of Diversity

Through the SCC's Office of Diversity and Emerging Business Markets, the SCC has taken the Governor's commitment to diversity very seriously. To date, 18.5% of all SCC dollars obligated have gone to minority-owned firms and approximately 7.4% to women-owned firms.

This aggressive program has continued to far exceed the State's benchmarks of 7% for minority-owned business enterprises and 3% for women-owned business enterprises.

[Back to top](#)

IX. **School District Grants**

The SCC executed 31 Section 15 grants with 18 districts that receive less than 55% of their funding in state aid. The total project costs for these grants are expected to be \$140,164,770, with a state share anticipated to be worth \$42,996,456 of that total.

Several districts received multiple grant awards in June. Washington Township in Morris County received grants for projects at 3 elementary schools and their middle school. The total projects costs are expected to be \$24,225,000, with a state share of \$6,282,752. The Borough of Point Pleasant in Ocean County received \$4,308,366 toward 2 projects, for their middle school and high school, worth \$14,761,988. Southampton Township in Burlington County received grants for 3 schools with total project costs of \$8,675,661, of which the state will pay \$3,370,617. The Collingswood Public School District in Camden County received 4 grants with a state share of \$373,079 toward total project costs of \$1,037,415. The Gloucester County Vocational School District received \$13,997,411 with a state share of \$6,392,417, for their Institute of Technology.

As of June 30, 2003, the SCC has executed 904 Section 15 grant agreements with districts that receive less than 55% of their budget in state aid for total project amounts of \$3,595,656,901, for which the state share totaled \$1,119,485,296. In June alone, 31 districts in 18 counties received \$42,996,456 in direct property tax relief as the state share for projects that totaled \$140,164,770.

[Back to top](#)

X. **Conferences/Presentations**

NY/NJ Marketing & Business EXPO 2003, 6/3-4/03, East Rutherford, NJ

NJSBDC 25th Anniversary, Building a Coalition of Dreams, 6/5/03, Newark, NJ

[Back to top](#)

Alfred T. McNeill, Chief Executive Officer
Prepared by George Strachan, July 23, 2003