

## January 2003 Monthly Report

### Introduction

January represented another month of ever increasing activity for the Schools Construction Corporation. Groundbreakings took place for several new construction projects in different areas around the state. The amount of executed grant agreements and new contract awards also reflected the vigorous and dynamic pace that school construction is beginning to regularly produce.

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#### I. Construction Starts

##### **Governor McGreevey Announces \$12.5 million Perth Amboy Early Childhood Learning Center**



On January 16th, Governor McGreevey was joined by the Mayor, Superintendent and several SCC staff members as he announced a \$12.5 million project to build the new Igancio Cruz Early Childhood Learning Center in Perth Amboy. The Governor wanted to highlight this project as it represents a critical component of community revitalization, as well as providing educational opportunities for over 500 pre-school aged children.

"This Early Childhood Learning Center represents much of what we must fight for together," the Governor said. "Enhancing our communities by controlling development and encouraging growth in our urban centers, ensuring every child has the opportunity to get the education they deserve, and living up to our most important obligation, to build a better quality of life for the families who get up early every day, work hard and play by the rules."

It is the Governor's vision for the SCC to help our state in not only improving and creating

educational facilities throughout the twenty-one counties, but to do so through targeted growth to the communities that need it most. As a catalyst to countering sprawl through smart growth in areas that are in need of renewal, the program also provides a basis for economic security and job creation. While the educational component is the foundation for this early childhood center and others like it, the ancillary benefits are also important.

*Rendering of new Igancio Cruz Early Childhood Learning Center*



The project involves the construction of a 67,000 square foot facility on 4.5 acres. The early childhood center will serve educational needs of 550 children that are pre-kindergarten ages 3 and 4 years old. The center will include 38 pre-kindergarten classrooms, a speech room, health suite and a multi-purpose room. The new facility will be one of the first early childhood centers to be built in Perth Amboy under the Education Facilities Construction Act.

"The construction of this Early Childhood Center means that the children of this community will be assured they will be able to start school with the skills necessary to be ready to learn. And with those skills, just imagine what is possible for these children."

### **Passaic City Breaks Ground for School Expansion**



The SCC also joined the Passaic City Board of Education, local city officials and members of the community to celebrate the ground breaking for an addition and renovations to Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School No. 6.

The project, financed by the State of New Jersey and constructed by SCC, involves a 43,000 SF, three story modular addition and approximately 19,000 SF of renovations. The construction cost estimate totals \$8.6 million. The work that will take place includes twenty-three pre-kindergarten classrooms, two special education classrooms and an administrative suite. Renovations will be made to the existing kindergarten classrooms and the existing library will be converted to a media information center. There will be an addition of small group instruction rooms that are currently lacking at the school, and renovations to add a computer/technology classroom. All additions and renovated areas will be air-conditioned.



*School 6 Chorus Sing National Anthem*

The expansion of the Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School is necessary to help accommodate the State's mandate of early childhood programs for three and four-year old children in Passaic, and to address educational and building system deficiencies. The addition is expected to be open for classes September 2003.

### Woodlynne Elementary School Breaks Ground For a New Early Childhood Learning Center

On January 25th, a groundbreaking took place in Woodlynne Borough to announce the receipt \$3.2 million dollars from the State of New Jersey to build an early childhood center. The center will be an addition to Woodlynne Elementary School and will provide educational opportunities for approximately 80-100 students.



The project involves the construction of a 13,000 square foot addition to the existing Woodlynne Elementary School. The two-story building with eight classrooms will provide much needed space. The District is currently renting space from a local church where pre-kindergarten children attend classes.

### Long Branch School District Breaks Ground on New Elementary School

SCC staff also joined the Long Branch Board of Education, local elected officials, honored guests and members of the community for a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Amerigo A. Anastasia Elementary School.



The 94,000 SF three story facility will be built on approximately 6.5 acres of land and serve 600 students in grades Pre-K through Five. There will be five Pre-Kindergarten classes, four of each Kindergarten through Fifth grades, and five Special Education classrooms. This new facility will replace the over crowded, existing AA Anastasia school that houses grades 3 - 5 that will be demolished upon completion of this new elementary school. The new school will be built with \$16.6 million in State school construction funds and will be open for classes September 2004.

The school will also feature a state-of-the art media center, a cafetorium and gymnasium for in-school and community programs and a mini medical center. The community health center will help provide medical services to the students during the day and in the evenings and weekends for the adult community. This asset to the surrounding community helps provide psychological, screening, examinations and medical needs, to those who do not drive or have access to public.

**Exhibit A** entitled Construction Awards Status details the projects that were awarded and got underway in January. **Exhibit B** details Construction Bid Advertising and Bid Due Dates as of March 4, 2003.

**As of January 31, 2003 the SCC has 238 construction contracts now totaling \$667,040,602.**

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## II. Program Enhancements

### Regional Offices

In January the SCC finalized arrangements for leased office space in Jersey City, Newark and Paterson. Space in these offices is set to have capacity for Design and Construction Project Officers, Land Acquisition Project Officers, Affirmative Action compliance administrators, Contract Administration Project Officer and administrative support staff. There is also transitional space available for staff from Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Education, as well as the SCC Procurement Division.

By placing staff closer to where projects are taking place, not only will a significant amount of unnecessary travel time be negated, but it is also envisioned that districts will be better served through proximity. Moreover, the offices will serve to receive bids and accommodate design presentations by architectural, engineering and construction management firms to better serve the private sector.

### Selection of Professional Service Consultants

A minor change was made to the policies and procedures for the selection of professional consultants. The composition of the committees to select professionals for projects will consist of 2 representatives of the client school district and 1 from representative from the SCC. Previously there would be 3 SCC staff members and 2 district representatives on the committee to make the determination of who would be the architectural firm for the design of a school or early childhood center.

The result of this change will afford greater involvement of district served in the selection of design professionals. It is the district after all who has to endorse the vision of the design firm and work them to bring it to fruition, but that vision must translate into facilities that serve students for years and hopefully decades to come.

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## III. Design Update

**As of January 31, 2003 the SCC has executed 115 design contracts in a total amount of \$57,908,646, as well as assumed 59 architectural assignment contracts totaling \$63,808,392.**

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## IV. Diversity and Emerging Business Markets

The SCC of the Division of Diversity and Emerging Markets developed a comprehensive instructional brochure outlining the diversity programs that the SCC is implementing through that office. More specifically though, a press release was generated and distributed in order to publicize the relationship that the SCC has launched with the NJ Small Business Development Centers for individual contractor prequalification assistance.

Throughout the month, staff continued to meet with minority contractors who were not currently involved with SCC, in order to encourage them to become pre-qualified, participate and bid in school construction projects.

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## V. Predevelopment & Land Acquisition

**To date, the SCC has executed 101 site acquisition contracts totaling over \$20,425,082 for such activities as site feasibility studies, appraisals, environmental investigations and title services.**

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## VI. School District Grants

In the month of January there were 64 Section 15 grants issued for 32 districts. Those grants were for projects that added up to a total cost of \$168,509,459 of which the state share was \$55,583,813. Several districts received multiple grants including: Edison (12), Cherry Hill (5), Ridgewood Village (5), and Cranford (6). A few other districts advanced less projects, but they were large none the less, including: West Essex Regional (2 projects worth \$37,102,501), East Brunswick (1 project worth \$26,834,084) and Clearview Regional (2 projects worth \$38,827,814).

**As of January 31, 2003, the SCC has executed 660 Section 15 grants with total project costs equaling \$2,744,607,178 and a state share of \$881,963,722.**

There were 3 Section 13 grants executed in the month of January totaling \$505,850, with a state share of \$260,112. There were 2 grants for the Russell O. Brackman Middle School in Barnegat Township. The other grant was executed for Passaic's Thomas Jefferson Elementary School #1.

**Since the program's inception there has been 83 Section 13 grants executed with a total amount of \$19,689,220.23, of which the state share was \$18,260,722.92.**

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#### VII. Conferences/Presentations

Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School #6 Groundbreaking Ceremony  
January 9, 2003 Passaic School District

Amerigo A. Anastasia Elementary School Groundbreaking Ceremony  
January 14, 2003 Long Branch School District

Governor James McGreevey Press Conference "Announces \$12.5 Million Grant to  
Perth  
Amboy for New Igancio Cruz Early Childhood Learning Center"  
January 16, 2003 Middlesex County School District

Plainfield Community Outreach Meeting  
January 16, 2003 Washington Community Elementary School

Woodlynne Elementary School Grounbreaking Ceremony  
January 25, 2003 Woodlynne Borough School District

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Prepared by George Strachan, February 26, 2003