

July 2003 Monthly Report

Introduction

In the month of July, the Schools Construction Corporation surpassed the substantial milestone of \$1 billion worth of disbursements in connection with implementation of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act. This represents not only dollars to address the infrastructure of New Jersey schools, but also a significant economic stimulus for our state and direct property tax relief to residents throughout the 21 counties. The SCC has also paid out just over \$100 million in the month of July alone. Over half of the July disbursements, or \$51.3 million, were for SCC-managed construction contracts. Under the direction of Governor McGreevey, efforts by the SCC to cut red tape have clearly been realized as monthly disbursements for construction contracts have nearly doubled since the beginning of calendar year 2003.

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I. Hoboken Breaks Ground for High School Athletic Field



Hoboken Breaks Ground for High School Athletic Field

The Hoboken School District celebrated a groundbreaking for the construction of athletic fields in connection with the Hoboken High School. Hoboken received approximately \$755,000 from the SCC for the project. Hoboken Mayor David Roberts and Superintendent Patrick Gagliardi, joined SCC staff, school board members and other representatives of State agencies for the ceremonial groundbreaking.

This is the only athletic field for the Hoboken school district. It is also the only regulation football field in the town. The field will have multiple uses including: football, soccer, baseball, and softball, as well as little league and Babe Ruth baseball. The project was recently awarded to RNJ Construction and consists of the resurfacing of an approximately 80,000 square foot field. The project is scheduled to be completed by September 15, 2003. It is the first of 7 additional school projects that are slated to take place in the near future for Hoboken.

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II. Construction Update

Construction Starts

July saw construction starts at 10 schools in 4 districts totaling \$42,673,291.

At a special meeting of the SCC's Board of Directors on July 1st, a noteworthy contract was approved. It involved the VRH Construction Corporation, who was awarded a \$26,598,000 contract for construction services for general construction work at the new Roberto Clemente Elementary School in Paterson. This is a K-8 school expected to serve 710 students. It is designed to be a 2-story, 113,000 sq/ft building which will include an auditorium, cafeteria & gym. The project is expected to have a 16-month construction duration.

July also saw the Garfield School District receive an award for an Early Childhood Center that totals \$8,875,000. Burlington saw 1 contract for Health and Safety work at 5 schools, totaling \$6,724,291. Jersey City rounded out the month by seeing an approval for a contract to do work in the auditoriums at PS 8, 39 and 40. A full list of projects, with more specific information, is attached as [Exhibit A](#).

As of July 31, 2003, the SCC has entered into 329 construction contracts that total \$906,229,053.

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III. Design Update

The Directors approved a contract at the Board's special meeting for program sub-phase, as well as design and construction administration services for the new PS #3 Elementary School in Jersey City. It was recommended that Urban Architects, PC, be awarded this contract. PS #3 is expected to serve 796 students and currently has a construction cost estimate of \$24,153,750.

At the Board of Directors regularly scheduled meeting on July 23rd, several other sizable projects were approved in Newark, Passaic and Camden. The Directors approved an award of a professional services contract for design and construction administration services with NJ K-12 architects for the Newark University High School project. This school is projected to serve 900 students and has a construction cost estimate of \$30,780,000.

In the Passaic School District, 5 projects were approved for award under 1 procurement. The Hillier Group received an award approval for program sub-phase, design and construction administration services in connection with the construction of 4 new schools and the renovation of another. As the new schools are fundamentally identical, not only will their schedules be expedited, but also economies of scale were realized by packaging them all together. New construction will take place at Roosevelt #10, Central Avenue, First Street and Main Avenue elementary schools, along with the renovation work to take place at the Jefferson Elementary School. The 4 new schools are projected to serve 2,938 students, and the overall award involves a construction cost estimate of \$80,470,000.

Both Woodrow Wilson and Camden high schools in the City of Camden had award approvals for program sub-phase, design, and construction administration services. The architecture firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill will provide these services for renovation and addition projects at these schools. The Camden High project has a construction cost estimate of \$29,446,096 and is expected to be able to serve 738 students. Woodrow Wilson High School is similarly expected to be able to serve 714 students and has a construction cost estimate of \$21,445,579.

As of July 31, 2003, the SCC has entered into 152 design contracts with a total value of

\$116,945,090, as well as assumed an additional 66 architectural assignments that totaled \$75,855,149.

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IV. **Predevelopment & Land Acquisition**

Numerous properties were authorized for purchase at the regular July meeting of the Board of Directors as land acquisitions kicked into high gear to meet the aggressive SCC schedule. Among them were 52 properties, which were authorized for purchase on a 5.62-acre tract of land in connection with the Dudley Elementary School in the City of Camden. This new Pre-K to 6th grade school will be 90,643 square feet and is expected to serve 539 students. Another example involved 1 parcel being authorized for purchase in Garfield in anticipation of construction of a 153,500 square foot middle school that will have a projected enrollment of 1,094 students in grades 6 through 8.

As of July 31, 2003, the SCC has entered into 231 site acquisition contracts for appraisals, site evaluations, environmental investigations, title services and actual acquisitions totaling \$64,038,138.

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V. **Contract Procurement**

Also at their regularly scheduled monthly meeting, the SCC Board of Directors approved the engagement of multiple firms to perform site investigation services and a range of other predevelopment services on behalf of the SCC. The procurement will allow the SCC to expedite site investigations on a task order basis, in lieu of having to do separate procurements for every land acquisition project, thus ultimately further reducing the time it takes to complete a given school's construction.

Of the 100 firms that expressed interest at the beginning of this procurement process, 24 were selected to provide services among 6 regions designated by the SCC. A uniform schedule of unit pricing and hourly rates was developed for 50 categories of tasks that the SCC would need performed. The contract will be for a 3-year term and have a maximum fee allowance of \$8 million for each firm.

In July, the SCC advertised construction packages for 8 schools in 4 districts including boiler replacements for 4 schools in Newark. A full list of construction bids advertised for the month is attached as [Exhibit B](#).

The SCC advertised requests for design projects in 7 districts in the month of July. See [Exhibit C](#), which is attached, for a full breakout

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VI. **School District Grants**

July saw executed Section 15 grant agreements in 29 districts that receive less than 55% of their funding in state share. These districts were in 13 counties around the state and had projects with construction cost estimates totaling \$120,197,790, of which the state share constituted \$33,009,747.

Rutherford, in Bergen County, saw 5 elementary schools and 1 high school receive executed contracts with construction cost estimates for all projects totaling \$30,622,444 with a state share of \$8,202,125. The Ridgewood Village School District, also in Bergen County, had 4 elementary schools, a middle and high school, each of which receive executed grant agreements for projects with construction cost estimates of \$6,260,183 and a state share of

\$1,519,659. Northern Highland Regional, also in Bergen County, received a state share of \$2,984,005 for 1 project with a construction cost estimate of \$18,446,304. Mercer County Special Services had 2 contracts executed with construction cost estimates totaling \$23,850,000 of which the state share was \$9,540,000.

As of July 31, 2003, the SCC has executed 980 Section 15 grant agreements with districts that receive less than 55% of their budget in state aid for total project amounts of \$3,786,481,583 for which the state share totaled \$1,167,951,786. In July alone, 29 districts in 13 counties received \$33,009,747 in direct property tax relief as the state share for projects that totaled \$120,197,790.

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VII. **Conferences/Presentations**

Information Workshop, 7/22/02, Trenton, NJ

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