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SDA Board of Directors Approves New Plan for Trenton Central High School

Trenton, NJ – Following a presentation by Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Charles B. McKenna, the SDA Board of Directors today approved a revised plan that paves the way for the construction of a new Trenton Central High School (TCHS) in Trenton, New Jersey.

The proposed project scope approved by the Board calls for delivery of approximately 305,000 square feet of new construction along with renovation of approximately 35,000 square feet of identified areas of the existing building that will remain and will be included in the new school. The features to be renovated include historical architectural elements such as the iconic main entrance portico, clock tower, and auditorium as well as the adjoining three-story wings. In addition to dozens of new state-of-the-art educational spaces, the plan will also provide air conditioning, new technology equipment throughout the new school and a new 10,000 square foot state-of-the-art media center.

“Governor Christie has made a commitment to improving education for all New Jersey children, and providing students with the facilities they need to succeed is critical to this initiative,” said SDA CEO McKenna. “The overwhelming support we have received from the school district, local legislators and most importantly the community, fuels our desire to move this project forward as quickly and efficiently as possible. I look forward to our continued partnership with these stakeholders as we turn this vision into reality.”

"On behalf of the staff and students of TCHS we would like to thank the SDA on their vote to build a new high school," said TCHS principal Hope Grant. "Thank you Mr. McKenna for taking immediate action regarding the safety, health and well being for the high school students in the Trenton school district. We look forward to an open, collaborative and transparent partnership with the SDA."

“The Trenton Board of Education is overjoyed by the unanimous decision of the SDA today to move ahead with the building of a new high school for Trenton,” said Trenton Board of Education President Sasa Olessi-Montano. “The collective recognition that our students deserve better was confirmed today. As we move forward, we will all work together to ensure they get the best, 21st century high school money can buy. We want to thank the SDA, the community, teachers, parents and students who all came out today to show district unity and support for the project.”

SDA will continue its collaboration with the school district leadership to design and provide a new facility that will fully support the district’s Small Learning Communities educational program for more than 1,800 students. Some of the spaces that will be provided through new construction include: 13 new science labs, 12 new computer/tech labs, 24 new specialized instructional areas (Culinary Arts Lab, Cosmetology Classroom, Digital Communications Lab, Photo Media Lab, Television Studio, Design & Engineering Lab, Manufacturing Process Lab, Dynamics of Machinery Lab, Structure & Design Lab, Anatomy Lab, and various art and music spaces), and a new 15,000 square foot gymnasium.

The estimated \$130.5 million project will advance through a Design-Build delivery approach. The design-build method differs from the traditional approach by permitting SDA to contract with one firm

for both design and construction of school facilities projects. This allows for some design and construction activities to proceed concurrently through phased advancement.

The plan approved today nullifies SDA's previous project to rehabilitate the 80 year-old, 438,862 square foot Trenton Central High School as approved in 2012, with the exception of providing temporary ventilation in the existing cafeteria. SDA will now work with the District on the goal of identifying and securing space for TCHS students before the start of the 2014-2015 school year.

To date, the SDA has invested more than \$210 million in completed projects in Trenton alone, including 8 new schools (Columbus Elementary School, Gregory Elementary School, Joyce Kilmer Elementary School, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, Mott Elementary School, P.J. Hill Elementary School, Parker Elementary School, Daylight/Twilight High School), 3 emergent projects and 19 health and safety/grant projects.

The SDA's current portfolio of active projects is valued at more than \$2 billion – including the Capital Project Portfolio (approximately \$1.5 billion), emergent projects (\$100 million) and Regular Operating District grants (\$450 million state share).

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