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March 20, 2014

**Christie Administration Announces Start of Design-Build Contract for New Caruso Elementary School in Keansburg**  
*New School Will Be First New SDA Facility in Keansburg*

TRENTON, NJ – As the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) strives to deliver an efficient, responsible school construction program, the Christie Administration today announced the start of the design phase of the Design-Build project to build a new Caruso Elementary School in Keansburg.

“This is an exciting day for the Keansburg community, as we move toward a new Caruso Elementary School that will provide a quality educational environment for generations of students,” said SDA CEO Charles B. McKenna.

“Upon its completion, the new Caruso Elementary School will bolster our efforts to create a relevant and meaningful learning environment that promotes high academic expectations for our students and teachers,” said Keansburg Superintendent Gerald North.

The former 58,000 square foot Joseph C. Caruso Elementary School was built in 1921. Given the school’s poor condition, including roof leaks, mold, and significant deficiencies, the decision was made to relocate its students to temporary educational facilities rather than to undertake cost prohibitive repairs. Demolition of the former school was completed in June 2013.

The new three-story, 122,140 square foot Caruso Elementary School will be designed to accommodate 758 students in kindergarten through fourth grades. The new school will include 28 general classrooms, eight kindergarten classrooms, specialized instructional classrooms, a media center, multi-purpose cafeteria (an auditorium that doubles as a cafeteria) and gymnasium, as well as administrative and support facilities. The project also includes outdoor physical education and play areas, parking and fencing.

Hall Construction Company, Inc. of Howell, New Jersey was awarded a \$34.3 million design-build contract in January 2014. As part of its design-build engagement, Hall Construction Company, Inc. will work with Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor, LLC of Warren, New Jersey on the design. SDA is in the process of procuring a firm to perform construction management services for the project.

In an effort to utilize practices that have previously proven successful by the SDA, the new Caruso Elementary School will be constructed using a design-build approach, with the SDA Kit-of-Parts as its foundation. The design-build method differs from the traditional approach by allowing for some design and construction activities to proceed concurrently through phased advancement.

Construction activities are forecasted to begin in the summer of 2014. The building is anticipated for completion prior to the fall of the 2016-2017 school-year.

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

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