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Christie Administration Joined By Paterson Officials for a “Topping Off” Ceremony for the New P.S. 16 Elementary School



PATERSON, NJ – New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Charles McKenna joined local officials and Paterson School District leaders at a beam signing and “topping off” ceremony to highlight the progress of construction for the new P.S. 16 Elementary School. Those present celebrated the ongoing construction of the new facility by signing a steel beam, forever leaving their mark on the new school. Immediately following the beam signing, attendees watched as the steel beam was hoisted into place, topping off and completing the steel erection for the school, and becoming a permanent part of the future gym.

“School 16 is one of two brand new schools in construction in Paterson right now,” said SDA CEO Charles B. McKenna. “Combined, these two schools will provide approximately 1,350 much-needed seats for the students of Paterson. Today marks yet another milestone in the construction of this new school and brings Paterson’s students one step closer to the educational spaces they need to realize their academic potential.”

The new 109,500 square-foot School 16 is designed to educate approximately 700 students in prekindergarten through eighth grades. The facility will include 22 general use classrooms, four prekindergarten classrooms, three kindergarten classrooms, specialized instruction classrooms and labs, a media center, a gymnasium and a cafeterium.

“The construction of two new elementary schools – School 16 as well as Hazel & Marshall – is great news for our school district and this city,” said State District Superintendent, Donnie Evans, Ed.D. “Our students deserve to receive a quality education in facilities that meet 21st Century learning standards; and we thank the SDA for honoring their commitment to open both schools for the 2016 school year.

We also look forward to continued collaboration with the SDA on meeting additional facilities needs as represented in our new five-year facilities plan.”

In addition to the beam signing ceremony, district representatives opened a time capsule from the original School 16 that was found during SDA’s demolition of the facility. At time of demolition, the former PS 16 was over 100 years old. The contents of the time capsule included items such as multiple newspapers from March 1891, annual reports for the Board of Education and the City of Paterson and pictures of the Board of Education Members from 1891.

Hall Construction Company, Inc. of Howell, New Jersey was awarded a \$34.9 million contract for design and construction of the new school which is being built utilizing a Design-Build approach. As part of the design-build contract, Hall Construction Company, Inc. is working with DIGroup Architecture of New Brunswick on the design. GREYHAWK North America, LLC is the construction manager for the project. The total estimated project costs are \$62.3 million. The school is anticipated for student occupancy in September 2016.

The SDA is also constructing the Marshall Street Elementary School in Paterson. The SDA has invested nearly \$290 million in completed projects in Paterson alone including six Capital projects (International H.S., Number 24 E.S., Madison Avenue K Center, John F. Kennedy H.S., Roberto Clemente E.S., PANTHER Academy) and 56 health and safety/grant/emergent projects.

The SDA’s current portfolio of active projects is valued at approximately \$2 billion – including the Capital Project Portfolio, emergent projects and Regular Operating District grants.

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