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New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) Officials Visit Site of the Future Madison Avenue Elementary School in Irvington



Irvington, NJ – As the hum of construction machines sounded in the background, Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Charles McKenna joined Irvington School District Officials to mark the start of demolition work being done to prepare a site for the construction of the new Madison Avenue Elementary School.

“As we watch the original building be demolished, the Irvington community can begin to envision the new school that will rise on this site,” said SDA CEO Charles McKenna. “The new Madison Avenue Elementary School will provide generations of students with an academic environment that will permit them the educational tools they need to attain success.”

During the first days of building demolition, the SDA’s contractor happened upon a time capsule that was found in the annex section of the building. The contents, still intact, included various papers including a newspaper dated 1958, when the annex was built.

“We are extremely excited about the work that is occurring to enable the future construction of Madison Avenue Elementary School,” said Irvington Superintendent Dr. Neely Hackett. “Our students will have the opportunity to focus on college and career readiness in a state of the art facility. Our students deserve the very best and the SDA has made it possible to provide our students with an optimal learning environment.”

The new Madison Avenue Elementary School will replace the former school that is being demolished. The SDA will construct a new, approximately 73,000 square-foot, 3-story school facility that will be designed to educate approximately 463 students in grades PK-5. The facility will contain 28 classrooms, a cafeteria, multipurpose room, playground, media center and required administrative spaces. This will be the second new school constructed by the SDA in Irvington.

D&K Construction Company of Middlesex, New Jersey was awarded a \$3,043,185 contract to perform demolition and site preparation activities. This work includes the demolition and removal of all existing above ground and underground structures and preparation of the site for construction of the new school. All demolition and associated site work is anticipated for completion in October 2016.

The SDA anticipates advertising for a design-build contractor to design and construct the school before the end of the year. Following approval of an award, the design phase will commence. The design-build approach typically allows for some design and construction activities to proceed concurrently through phased advancement. The start of construction for the new school is currently anticipated to begin in the 1st Quarter of 2018 and open to students in January 2020. The total estimated SDA project cost for the new school is \$35.4 million.

The SDA has invested more than \$107 million in completed projects in Irvington alone since the inception of the school construction program, including one new school. It'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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