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Schools Development Authority Officials Break Ground for New Madison Avenue Elementary School in Irvington



Irvington, NJ – New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Charles McKenna joined Irvington School District and local officials today to break ground for the new Madison Avenue Elementary School. Once completed, the school will be the second new facility built by the SDA in Irvington.

“Today’s groundbreaking ceremony is an opportunity to celebrate the start of construction of a great educational facility that will provide students with the educational tools they need to succeed,” said SDA CEO Charles McKenna. “We look forward to our continued partnership with the Irvington School District and local officials as we work to deliver a new Madison Avenue Elementary School that will help generations of Irvington students to excel.”

The new Madison Avenue Elementary School is being built on the site of the former school, which was demolished by the SDA in 2016. The new 73,000-square-foot elementary school facility is designed to educate approximately 500 students in grades pre-kindergarten through five. The school will include 26 general education classrooms, small group instruction rooms, a cafeteria, a multipurpose room with stage, music and art rooms, a science/computer lab, and a media center. The school also will have an outdoor play space that includes a basketball/volleyball court and running track. The facility is currently scheduled to open to students in September 2019.

“We are very excited and proud to bring a state-of-the-art facility to the Irvington Public Schools,” said Irvington Superintendent Dr. Neely Hackett. “I would like to congratulate the Mayor, Board of Education Members, and the entire Irvington Community for their dedication and commitment to this project. This building will have a positive impact on the lives of our most precious resources for many years to come.”

The school is being built using the design-build approach. This method differs from the traditional approach in that SDA contracts with one firm for both design and construction of a school facilities project. The design-build method also allows for some design and construction activities to proceed concurrently through phased advancement, an approach that potentially allows for improvement upon the original overall schedule.

Ernest Bock & Sons, Inc. of Philadelphia, PA was awarded a \$26.8 million design-build contract for the design and construction of the school. As part of the design-build contract, Ernest Bock & Sons, Inc. is working with SSP Architectural Group of Bridgewater on the design. EPIC Management of Piscataway is managing the project. The total estimated project cost is \$38.6 million.

The SDA has invested more than \$113 million in completed projects in Irvington alone since the inception of the school construction program. Its 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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