



MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors of the Corporation

FROM: Kevin McElroy
Senior Public Information Officer

DATE: August 7, 2006

SUBJECT: New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation (SCC)
July Progress Report

Mission Statement

Create a brighter future for our children by renovating, building and funding cost-effective and efficient state-of-the-art community schools that support high quality learning environments to better prepare students for successful careers and leadership in the 21st Century in New Jersey and beyond.

Partner with communities and leaders in business, education and government to support our programs, policies and projects to create greater opportunities for our children, businesses and workforce.

Introduction

In July, the SCC and NJ Department of Education hosted two symposia with key stakeholders from Abbott, Vocational and Regular Operating Districts (RODs) to increase collaboration and communication with the districts, and discuss important issues about the future of the school construction program. Both events were held at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Attendees included superintendents, business administrators, school board members and education and community advocates.

The Abbott Symposium on July 20th was an opportunity for attendees to provide feedback on the proposed prioritization methodology. After the methodology was presented, districts broke for lunch and headed into break-out sessions where they were asked to address questions in two particular areas: prioritization and legislative issues. All participants then reconvened for a Plenary Session where the districts relayed their thoughts, concerns and suggestions for the Working Group's consideration.

The ROD/ Vo-Tech Symposium on July 27th consisted of two consecutive panel discussions: one focused on allocation and the other on planning. The “allocation” panel included: Judy Savage, Executive Director of the NJ Council of County Vocational Technical Schools; Lynne Strickland, Executive Director of the Garden State Coalition of Schools; Dr. Adam Pfeffer, Superintendent of the Greater Egg Harbor School District; Anthony DelSordi, President of the NJ Association of School Business Officials and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District Business Administrator; and bond counsel Andrea Kahn, Partner at McManimon and Scotland LLC. The “planning and prioritization” panel consisted of: Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Superintendent of the Union County Vocational School District; Carol Toth, Superintendent of the Edison School District; James Edwards, Vice President of the NJ Association of School Business Officials and Plumsted Township School District Business Administrator; and bond counsel Lisa Gorab, Partner at Wilentz Goldman and Spitzer.

Input from the symposia will be included in the Interagency Working Group on School Construction’s next report to the Governor.

Construction Update

Construction Starts

As of July 31, 2006, the SCC has entered into construction contracts that total \$2,726,435,482 since the inception of the school building program in 2002.

Contractor Procurement

Three construction bids impacting 3 schools were advertised in July for projects in Camden, Elizabeth and Newark. (Exhibit A)

School District Grants

From its inception in 2002 through July 31, 2006, the SCC has executed 2,520 Section 15 grant agreements in all 21 counties with districts that receive less than 55% of their budget in state aid. To date, 1,418 schools in 469 districts have been impacted by the Section 15 grant program. Total project costs amount to \$7,106,211,996 for which the state share totaled \$2,203,691,584.

Office of Contractor And Workforce Compliance

The SCC Office of Contractor and Workforce Compliance is dedicated to increasing the availability and accessibility of construction opportunities for small, women, and minority-owned businesses, and to individuals and their families in New Jersey. In some instances this means working with other State agencies and departments to serve our target population.



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In others, it is working with our project management firms (PMF) and other internal SCC divisions to encourage business opportunities and equal employment opportunities in the school construction program. The Office encourages firms that do business with the SCC to support diversity within their ranks and in their hiring. At every opportunity, the Office endeavors to promote the use of New Jersey's diverse business and workforce communities on SCC projects. Further programmatic information is available on the SCC website.

Conferences/Presentations

NJ State Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, 7/19/2006, Atlantic City

Kevin McElroy

Attachment

