



MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors of the Corporation

FROM: Kevin McElroy
Senior Public Information Officer

DATE: July 10, 2006

SUBJECT: New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation (SCC)
June 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

The month of June was highlighted by the grand opening of the new Joyce Kilmer Elementary School in Trenton. The SCC also announced site remediation work is to begin at Trenton's Martin Luther King Jr. /Jefferson Elementary School to make way for the construction of a new school to accommodate more than 750 students. In Regular Operating Districts (RODs, or non-Abbotts), the SCC executed 9 grants impacting 9 schools in 7 counties with 8 districts that receive less than 55% of their budget in state aid. These Section 15 grants supported projects totaling more than \$20 million – with a state share totaling over \$7 million. Since its inception, SCC has executed 2,518 grants, providing over \$2.2 billion in funding aid impacting over 1,400 schools in 469 districts.



SCC, Trenton Educators Celebrate Grand Opening Of New Joyce Kilmer Elementary School

Trenton School District and SCC officials held a grand opening June 15th for Joyce Kilmer Elementary School. The new three-story facility will help to ease overcrowding in the district, enhance the level of student achievement in kindergarten through 8th grade and provide much-needed early childhood educational programs for 3- and 4-year-olds.

The event marked a milestone for the city of Trenton, since the Joyce Kilmer School is the first free-standing school to be built in the state capital in more than 40 years. Students, parents, residents, and state and local officials were on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the school that will now accommodate 767 students.



“The new Kilmer School project is an example of what consistent communication and effective collaboration among the SCC, the Trenton School District and the Department of Education can accomplish for the benefit of the students and the community,” said Scott Weiner, transitional CEO of SCC.

The 119,882-square-foot school has 34 classrooms, including three for pre-kindergarten students. Pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade students will attend

classes in a second-floor L-shaped wing to minimize interaction with upper-grade students. The school includes a media center/library, gym, cafetorium, two science classrooms, a science lab, two computer labs and a technology classroom. A central courtyard provides the building with additional light and ventilation and serves as an educationally significant “Living Science Center” for the students.

The new Kilmer School project was designed by Faridy Veisz Fraytak P.C. and built by Epic Management. Hill International managed the construction project for the SCC.

Remediation Work Set to Begin at King/Jefferson School Site

Scott Weiner, Transitional CEO of SCC, announced that work will get under way in July for the remediation of the Martin Luther King Jr. /Jefferson Elementary School site in Trenton, setting the stage for the start of construction of a new school.

The remediation work is expected to be completed by summer 2007, and the construction of a new school would begin shortly thereafter. The goal, under an accelerated construction timetable, is to open the new Martin Luther King Jr. /Jefferson Elementary School for 800 students in pre-kindergarten through 8th grade by August 2009.

“That is our target date, and all resources will be concentrated on achieving that goal, for the benefit of the students, the community and the school district,” said Weiner, who also is Governor Jon Corzine’s special counsel to school construction.

Initial work will entail drilling, boring and testing of the soil in preparation for the remobilization of laborers at the Brunswick Avenue site. Silt fencing and soil erosion control measures will be upgraded, a truck wheel decontamination station will be set up, and flags and stakes will be installed to mark off the area to be remediated.

Turner Construction Company will do the remediation work in compliance with the directives of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Turner’s job performance will be closely monitored by an independent third party, Weiner said.

Meanwhile, the SCC is in the process of preparing bid documents to secure another contractor to begin building the new school once the remediation is completed

After studying all options, the SCC determined using Turner for the remediation stage was “an appropriate and expeditious approach” to move the project forward, Weiner said. “This approach also is the most cost-effective way of doing this,” Weiner said. “Simply put, this is the fastest way to get this done, while at the same time ensuring that all appropriate safety precautions are being taken,” he said.

Weiner will confer weekly with Robert Revelle, the president of the Trenton Board of Education, to discuss the progress of the work. The SCC also will meet regularly with other school district and city officials. Moreover, the SCC will host monthly community

forums to keep neighborhood residents informed throughout the remediation process and the construction of a new school.

“My SCC colleagues and I recognize, and understand, the concerns of the community. As we move forward, it is our intent to earn back the trust of the community, and get on with the job of building a new school,” Weiner said.

On May 19, the SCC formally notified Turner it had 10 days to comply with SCC contractual obligations or face termination. The SCC extended the deadline several times while it negotiated with Turner, which agreed to conditions set forth by the SCC. Under the terms of the agreement, the cost of the remediation work will be split by the SCC and Turner without assessing responsibility on either side. The SCC intends to pursue any and all further remedies against Turner and all other parties involved.

Construction Update

Construction Starts

As of June 30, 2006, the SCC has entered into construction contracts that total \$2,681,054,259 since the inception of the program.

Contractor Procurement

Eight construction bids impacting 8 schools were advertised in June for projects in Barnegat, East Orange, Garfield, Newark, Orange and Trenton. (Exhibit A)

School District Grants

In June, the SCC executed 9 Section 15 grants with 8 districts receiving less than 55% of their funding in state aid. The grants impacted 9 schools in 7 counties throughout the State. Total eligible project costs were \$20,067,929, which qualified for a state share totaling \$7,187,895.

From its inception in 2002 through June 30, 2006, the SCC has executed 2,518 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 \$7,108,802,424 for which the state share totaled \$2,204,175,775.

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. 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

Status of the School Construction Program, 6/6/2006, New Brunswick

Small Business Development Center Procurement Expo, 6/14/2006, North Branch

New Joyce Kilmer Elementary School Ribbon Cutting, 6/15/2006, Trenton

Kevin McElroy

Attachments

