



MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors of the Corporation

FROM: Larry Hanover
Public Information Officer

DATE: December 12, 2006

SUBJECT: New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation (SCC)
November 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

During November, SCC representatives joined school district officials, students, parents and community supporters to celebrate three construction milestones:

- The opening of the new Science Park High School in Newark;
- The groundbreaking for a new elementary school in Elizabeth;
- Beam signings to mark progress of two schools in Egg Harbor Township.

Also in November, the SCC and New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) hosted a Symposium on Land Acquisition for Abbott School Construction. More than 100 people attended, including school and municipal representatives of the 31 Abbott districts and other education, planning and community advocates who provided input on proposals to reform and improve the process of identifying and acquiring land for school construction in their districts. Some of these proposals were introduced in the Interagency Working Group reports that have been released. Discussion topics included joint-use opportunities for school construction; the inclusion of schools in Municipal Master Plans; and the role of districts and municipalities in site selection and acquisition.



SCC, Elizabeth Educators Break Ground for Elementary School

Elizabeth School District and SCC officials held a groundbreaking ceremony November 1st to mark the start of construction of the Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27, which will accommodate nearly 800 students from pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. Dr. Pantoja was a nationally renowned educator, community activist and a leading force behind the ASPIRA Association – a nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging and promoting excellence from Puerto Rican and other Latino youth.

"This new school is representative of Elizabeth Public Schools' commitment to providing its students with new and modernized school buildings to learn and develop in," stated Pablo Muñoz, Superintendent of Schools. "I am very proud of the Elizabeth Board of Education and the members of my staff who have made this groundbreaking and eventual opening of Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 possible."

The 118,000-square-foot, three-story school is being built on a 2.4-acre site on Morris Avenue in this Union County community. The school will include general classrooms, a media center/library, science labs, a technology lab, choral and instrumental music classrooms and art rooms. It also will have a cafetorium, gymnasium and recreational areas that will be accessible to the community after school hours. The school is projected to be completed by summer 2008. The school was designed by Gilbert Architects, Inc. Prismatic Development Corporation is the general contractor for the construction. Bovis Lend Lease is managing the project for the SCC.



‘Beam Signings’ at Two New Egg Harbor Township Schools

Students took part in “Beam Signing” ceremonies November 3rd to mark the progress of construction of two new Egg Harbor Township elementary schools – C.J. Davenport and E.H. Slaybaugh. These schools will provide quality resources to enhance academic achievement, provide early childhood educational programs and meet the demands of increasing enrollment in the growing Atlantic County community. The students signed white-painted steel beams that will be hoisted into place to become permanent parts of the new schools. The SCC is managing the construction of the schools and funding a percentage of construction costs.





Newark Celebrates Opening of New Science Park High School

Governor Jon S. Corzine joined Newark school district and city officials November 20th to celebrate the grand opening of Science Park High School – the first new high school built here in 39 years. The facility incorporates a quality science high school curriculum for up to 1,200 students within the realm of college science and technology. Students, parents, teachers, community supporters, state officials and SCC representatives took part in the celebration at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the realization of an academic dream years in the making.

“The state-of-the-art resources offered at the new Science Park High School will give Newark’s students additional opportunities to learn, grow, be challenged, and access the promise of New Jersey,” said Governor Corzine. “I’m proud that we’re investing in our schools, and reinvesting in Newark’s future.”

Science Park High School was developed and designed in partnership with University Heights/Science Park, a science incubator that includes the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Essex County Community College, University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey and Rutgers-Newark – collectively known as CHEN. The high school is in the designated Science Park development area created in the early 1990s. The proximity will facilitate the planned close relationship between the high school and universities. The project, which broke ground in 2004, was funded and managed through the SCC.

Superintendent Marion A. Bolden remarked, “This is a day the students at Science High and the whole Newark community have long waited for. We are extremely proud to see the opening of the first new high school in Newark in 39 years – a facility that has been designed based on educational needs and the mission of the school. This is a major step forward, with many more new schools to follow.”

Scott Weiner, CEO of SCC, stated, "In and of itself, the opening of the new Science Park High School is a major milestone for the entire City of Newark, and the SCC is proud to have been able to contribute to this significant achievement. In a larger sense, this new high school also is clearly indicative of the SCC's steadfast commitment to work consistently, and communicate effectively, with the Newark School District, the community, and the Department of Education, to continue to deliver these types of facilities for the benefit of the students of this city."



The new 275,000-square-foot Science Park High School, located off Norfolk Street, will accommodate up to 1,200 students in grades 7 to 12. It includes a media/technology center with an instructional television lab (ITV), a long distance learning system and computer-aided design (CAD) classroom space. The facility includes "academic villages" – educational learning modules for interdisciplinary instruction – and lecture rooms; fabrication room for robotics and other science-related activities;

independent science research area; an auditorium, gym and cafeteria.

The school will enhance academic achievement and help to ease overcrowding in the urban district. It will provide students with core curriculum content standards and state-of-the-art experiment-based learning. The building includes environmentally friendly and energy efficient solar cells and geothermal energy sources for heating and cooling. The technology in the school is integrated into the CHEN technology system, with technical support provided by the universities.

The school was designed by Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture & Engineering and built by Hunt Construction Group, Inc. PB+3D/I managed the project for the SCC.

Construction Update

Construction Starts

As of November 30, 2006, the SCC has entered into construction contracts that total \$2,889,247,405 since its inception in 2002.

Contractor Procurement

Three construction bids were advertised in November for school projects in Keansburg, Union City and West New York. (Exhibit A)

School District Grants

From its inception in 2002 through November 30, 2006, the SCC has executed 2,554 Section 15 grant agreements in all 21 counties with districts that receive less than 55% of their budget in state aid. To date, 1,428 schools in 471 districts have been impacted by the Section 15 grant program. Total project costs amount to \$7,106,479,729 for which the state share totaled \$2,206,055,570.

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 the SCC's target population. In others, it is working with SCC 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

Elizabeth School #27 Groundbreaking, 11/1/2006, Elizabeth

Design Ideas Group, 11/1/2006, New Brunswick

Davenport and Slaybaugh Schools Beam Signings, 11/3/2006, Egg Harbor Township

Alliance for Action 22nd Annual Construction Forecast Seminar, 11/9/2006, Trenton

Morgan Village Middle School Community Meeting, 11/14/2006, Camden

Thomas Dudley Elementary School Community Meeting, 11/15/2006, Camden

Science Park High School Ribbon Cutting, 11/20/2006, Newark

Land Acquisition Symposium, 11/28/2006, Monroe Township

Larry Hanover

Attachment

