

**NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2012

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (“SDA”, “NJSDA” or “the Authority”) was held on Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at 9:00 A.M. at the offices of the Authority at One West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey.

Participating were:

Edward Walsh, Chairman
Caren Franzini (NJEDA)
Kevin Luckie (NJDCA)
James Petrino (State Treasury)
Bernard Piaia (NJDOE)
Michael Capelli
Kevin Egan
Karim Hutson
Loren Lemelle
Joseph McNamara
Robert Nixon
Martin Perez
Mario Vargas

being a quorum of the Board. Ms. Lemelle, Mr. McNamara, Mr. Perez, Mr. Capelli, Mr. Egan, Mr. Hutson, Mr. Petrino and Mr. Piaia participated in the meeting via telephone conference.

At the Chairman’s request, Marc Larkins, chief executive officer; Jason Ballard, chief of staff; Jane Kelly, vice president & assistant secretary; Andrew Yosha, vice

president; Donald Guarriello, vice president and chief financial officer; Albert Barnes, senior counsel; Gregory Voronov, director; Thomas Schrum, director; and Sean Murphy, director, of the SDA; and Nicole Crifo of the Governor's Authorities Unit participated in the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Walsh. Mr. Walsh requested that Ms. Kelly read the requisite notice of the meeting. Ms. Kelly announced that the meeting notice had been sent to the *Trenton Times* and *Star-Ledger* at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, and that a meeting notice had been duly posted on the Secretary of State's bulletin board at the State House in Trenton, New Jersey.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Walsh then presented the minutes of the meetings of the Board held April 4, 2012 for consideration and approval. He noted that presented for Board consideration were the minutes of the Board's April 4, 2012 Open and Executive Session meetings. A copy of the minutes and resolutions for Board consideration and approval were provided to the Members for review in advance of the meeting. Upon motion duly made by Mr. Vargas, and seconded by Mr. Nixon, the April 4, 2012 Open and Executive Session meeting minutes were approved by the Board upon its vote in favor of the resolution attached hereto as *Exhibits 3a/3b*.

Authority Matters

CEO Report

Mr. Walsh asked Mr. Larkins to provide the report of the CEO. Mr. Larkins reported that the SDA had a very productive month in April. He noted that on April 23 he had attended the Assembly Budget Hearing and updated the legislators regarding the

work that is being performed by the Authority. Mr. Larkins also reported that on April 24, he and SDA staff were in the Brick Township school district to announce the advancement of \$1 million in grants to the district for facilities work. He also reported that on April 26 he visited the Sussex Technical School in Sparta, New Jersey to announce the advancement of two grants for approximately \$1 million towards facilities in the district. Mr. Larkins said that on April 26 he attended an event held jointly by the New Jersey Subcontractors Association (“NJSA”) and the National Electrical Contractors Association (“NECA”) and discussed the SDA’s program over the last two (2) years and expectations for the program moving forward. He reported that on April 27, he met with the New Jersey School Business Officials Association (“NJSBOA”) to discuss the grants program. Mr. Larkins stated that the NJSBOA’s membership includes both regular operating districts (“RODs”) and SDA districts. He said that the majority of the group is comprised of ROD officials. Mr. Larkins advised the Board that there will be a follow up meeting to discuss concerns raised at the NJSBOA meeting and noted that there may be changes proposed with regard to the ROD grant program moving forward. In continuing, Mr. Larkins reported that the SDA advertised a site package for PS #20 in the Jersey City school district and noted that bids are due on May 16. He said that this advertisement is for preparing the site for construction. Mr. Larkins noted that the design work for the project presently is with a design firm and will be traditional design/bid/build. He said that the SDA is hopeful that the firm can complete their work and that the SDA can advertise for a construction award. Mr. Larkins said that the SDA anticipates two (2) more advertisements this month for the completion of site work in Paterson at the Marshall Street School and for the New Brunswick Redshaw project, which is currently

under review with the Department of Community Affairs (“DCA”) and other outside agencies. He thanked Mr. Luckie and DCA staff for their involvement.

Mr. Larkins then referenced the meeting agenda and noted that the memorandum for the award of an early site package for PS #16 in Paterson was forwarded for the Members’ review. He said that the memorandum was distributed separately from the other materials because bids did not come in until late last week. Mr. Larkins noted that SDA staff had to sit with the presumptive awardee to ensure that everything was in order with regard to their bid. Next, Mr. Larkins informed the Members that the demolition award that was presented to the SRC for consideration regarding the Harry L. Bain Elementary School was pulled from the agenda. He said that SDA staff met with the presumptive awardee to discuss problems with the bid. He said that, thereafter, SDA staff met with the second firm but there were also problems there. He advised the Board that the SDA is planning to take a second look at the package and re-advertise it without delay during the month of May. In continuing, Mr. Larkins noted that SDA work is ongoing and that staff is continuing to meet with the districts to plan their projects. Mr. Larkins reported that SDA staff has had productive meetings with Phillipsburg district and Union City district staffs. He said that the in-house design studio is hard at work with the next group of design/build projects. Mr. Walsh added that he and Mr. Larkins have met to discuss the process of getting projects to completion. He said that the planning side is progressing and there will be ongoing discussions regarding how to improve the construction phase. Mr. Larkins noted that the Board recently approved the delegation regulations and that they are on the verge of being published. He said that the regulations would govern the process for a district to apply to the Department of

Education (“DOE”) and SDA for delegation of a project. Mr. Walsh asked that SDA staff report back to the Board regarding SDA’s direction towards advancement of the construction process. Ms. Franzini asked if Mr. Larkins could provide an emergent project update to the Members. Mr. Larkins reported that the Education Law Center (“ELC”) has sued the DOE concerning the advancement of the emergent projects. He said that DOE is working on a response and that the SDA is in full support of the DOE. Mr. Larkins asked Mr. Voronov to give the Members an update regarding the emergent projects. Mr. Voronov said that, as previously reported to the Members, there are twenty-nine (29) projects that are categorized as Tier 1/Tier 2 projects, which are the higher priority tiers. He said that SDA staff has identified projects that require design versus projects that could go directly to a GC task order. Mr. Voronov stated that Mr. Anselmo’s group is working through developing scoping documents to start those procurements. He said that staff also has identified some projects and has had conversations with districts that are interested in delegation. Mr. Voronov said that the SDA made offers of two grants to Gloucester City to address their projects. He said that there are seven (7) other projects that may be delegated and that the offers will be going out in the short term. Mr. Larkins added that, in total, there are about sixty-nine (69) to seventy (70) projects because a few schools fell off due to district changes in plans regarding the use of the buildings. He said that, of the 70, one-third or so are ready for advancement into design or to a GC to perform the work. Mr. Larkins said that of the one-third, eight (8) are planned for delegation to the districts. Mr. Larkins said that, for the other two-thirds, staff is working on planning and scoping.

Audit Committee Report

Mr. Walsh then provided the report of the Audit Committee. He advised the Members that, in Mr. Nixon's absence, he had chaired the April 16, 2012 meeting of the Committee. He reported that, as part of the March 2012 New Funding Allocation and Capital Program update, management had reported a \$6.2 million increase in the Planning Reserve and no change in either the Unforeseen Events or Emergent Reserves. He informed the Members that the reserve balance for the Regular Operating Districts ("RODs") increased by \$3.7 million due entirely to a reduction in state share for projects nearing completion. Mr. Walsh then asked Mr. Voronov to provide additional details regarding the ROD program. He also inquired as to whether there is a separate budget for RODs. Mr. Voronov explained that there is a set amount of money allocated in terms of funding for ROD grants in the amount of \$3.5 billion. He reported that when the district receives a grant, the district is capped at whatever value the DOE approves. Mr. Voronov said that, in the past, SDA did manage some projects in the RODs, but that this is no longer statutorily authorized.

In continuing, Mr. Walsh reported that management also had provided the Committee with a status of audit reports. He asked Mr. Ballard to present this section of the report. Mr. Ballard said that the Program Assessment and Development Division ("Division") had advised the Committee that, in order to ensure implementation of those recommendations reported as closed, the Division will be performing implementation reviews. He noted that the Division is also assessing all open recommendations and, as appropriate, re-writing recommendations to reflect intervening organizational/structural,

statutory or regulatory changes. Mr. Ballard said that the Division met with and interviewed key people within the organization in order to address each audit item and obtain an updated response. He said that the updated responses provided enough information to identify those assessments/audits that should be recommended for administrative closure now. He noted that three (3) KPMG reports were recently reviewed in detail, identifying them as the Primavera Expedition Post Implementation and Capital Plan Execution Assessments and the Environmental Conditions Audit. He said that all reports were based upon processes in place prior to 2010, when the Authority's structure changed.

At Mr. Walsh's request, Mr. Ballard then reported on the Division's activities. He said that the Division now has a fully updated audit manual and has completed two (2) annual audit plans based upon a risk model. He advised that a detailed audit program has been created in consultation with the Office of the State Comptroller. He said that the Division's assessors will be shadowing its auditors in order to improve their auditing skills and ensure consistency in the approach towards audits and assessments. Mr. Ballard also advised the Members that the Division has revised its report format. He briefly described the changes made.

Mr. Walsh said that management had provided the Committee with the March 2012 Monthly Financial Report. He said that, as of March, 2012, the Authority's operating expenditures were at \$10.6 million, which is \$1.4 million lower than budget for the corresponding period in the prior year. Mr. Walsh advised the Board that school facilities project expenditures total \$39 million, which is \$8 million lower than spending

for the corresponding prior year period due largely to the decrease in construction work and other project costs offset by an increase in grant activity.

School Review Committee Report

Change Order/Amendments – Design Ideas Group, LLC

Mr. Walsh asked Ms. Franzini to provide the report of the School Review Committee (SRC). Ms. Franzini reported that the Committee met on April 16, 2012 and discussed various issues. She said that the Committee was provided with an update regarding the emergent projects, which will be the subject of ongoing discussion at future meetings. Ms. Franzini also referenced the 2011/2012 Capital Program schedule, which, she noted, would be reviewed on a quarterly basis. Ms. Franzini congratulated SDA staff with regards to the progress of the closeout process, which reflects that schools are being returned to the districts. Ms. Franzini then reported that the Committee had discussed an amendment in the amount of \$146,840.00 for Design Ideas Group, LLC. (“DIG”) for the New Phillipsburg High School in the Phillipsburg school district for additional design services. She gave a brief overview of the project, noting that it is a part of the 2012 Capital Program.

A resolution pertaining to the approval of an amendment for DIG had been provided to the Members in advance of the meeting. Following discussion, upon a motion by Mr. Luckie, and seconded by Mr. Vargas, the amendment for DIG was approved by the Board upon its vote in favor of the resolution attached hereto as ***Exhibit 6a1***.

Approval of Contract Award – PA-0024-N01 – Paterson PS #16 – Demolition

Ms. Franzini reported that the award being considered for approval is for Paterson PS #16 (“PS #16”) in the Paterson school district. She noted that the award is for demolition services. Ms. Franzini said that there were eleven (11) project rating proposals (“PRPs”) and that two (2) were non-responsive. She noted that five (5) responsive bids were received and that the low bidder is Tricon Enterprises, Inc. (“Tricon”). Ms. Franzini noted that the award is in the amount of \$1,376,000.

A resolution pertaining to the approval of an award for PS #16 had been provided to the Members in advance of the meeting. Following discussion, upon a motion by Mr. Nixon, and seconded by Mr. Vargas, the approval of award for PS #16 was approved by the Board upon its vote in favor of the resolution attached hereto as *Exhibit 6bi*.

In response to an inquiry regarding the status of project environmental issues, Mr. Schrum explained that PS #16 is a mixed residential neighborhood with one large commercial building. He said that the preliminary assessment analysis had come back more favorably than the SDA had anticipated. Mr. Schrum explained that the demolition award is inclusive of all environmental issues. He said that there will be approximately eight (8) months of demolition and that the notice to proceed (“NTP”) should be received by June 15. Mr. Schrum stated that the design is currently in the schematics phase and will be a part of the kit of parts (“KOP”) program. Mr. Walsh suggested following up with Mr. Schrum regarding this project at future SRC meetings.

Reports

Mr. Larkins provided an update regarding the Active Projects report. He congratulated Mr. Schrum and his team, along with other SDA staff, for obtaining a

certificate of occupancy (“CO”) for Elementary School #3 in the West New York school district which involved significant atrium issues. He said that due to SDA self-management and the assistance of the DCA, a full CO was achieved. Mr. Larkins noted that the school is planning occupancy within the next few weeks. He said that a ribbon cutting ceremony has not been planned, but should happen at some point. Mr. Walsh inquired as to how many other atrium projects the SDA must address. Mr. Larkins replied that there are two (2) other atrium issues, specifically Newark Science Park (“Science”) and Paterson International (“Paterson”). He said that the work at Science is pretty much complete, but that final testing is needed. Mr. Larkins noted that the work at Paterson should take place in the short term and conclude by end of the year.

Mr. Ballard provided the Members with an update regarding the Closeout report. He said that the report reflects several schools with open contracts with a zero (“0”) dollar value. Mr. Ballard said that staff sent out letters pertaining to invoices on the open contracts and is awaiting responses. He said that those contracts are expected to be closed out as quickly as possible in order to effectively close the projects. Mr. Ballard said that the contracts involve schools that have already been transferred to the districts. He noted that, currently, there are thirty-two (32) design contracts with an overall outstanding balance of \$600,000.00. Mr. Ballard reported that the contractors have approximately sixty (60) days within which to respond, and that the SDA anticipates responses by the end of May. He added that, if responses are not received, the projects will be administratively closed by SDA staff. He said that the Contracts Management Division (CMD) will validate whether or not all work has been performed pursuant to the

contracts. He said that, if additional work is needed, SDA and CMD will determine how the work will be accomplished.

Next, Mr. Ballard provided an update regarding the demonstration projects. He reported that SDA met deadlines to close all six (6) pre-development grants. Mr. Ballard stated that one of the six, the Camden Catto Elementary School, has not yet been closed in its entirety. He said that staff is still reviewing and working with the contractor towards close out. Mr. Ballard said that there have been discussions regarding shared savings, but the SDA is not ready to issue any savings to contractors until all final invoices have been received, all final allocations have been made, and everyone is in agreement that all work has been performed. Mr. Ballard then reported that SDA staff is looking to close out three (3) to four (4) more Capital Program schools by the next Board meeting.

Public Comments

Mr. Walsh announced that the Public Comments portion of the meeting would begin. He then asked if there were any members of the public present who wished to address the Board.

Moneke Ragsdale from Camden New Jersey addressed the Members. Ms. Ragsdale said that she was present to speak about the Lanning Square (“Lanning”) capital project in Camden. She said that it was her understanding that the Camden Board of Education (“CBOE”) had submitted a document of inquiry to the SDA regarding that school and, to her knowledge, the CBOE has not received a response. She said that she

wanted to paint a picture of what was going on in Camden. She said that she had listened to the Members' earlier comments regarding the safety of the children which she believes is number one. She said that the Lanning children are out in the rain without any shelter and that they are unsafe waiting to be taken to schools far away from their homes. She advised that most parents have to rely on public transportation and, in the case of an emergency, they are unable to get to their children on a timely basis. Ms. Ragsdale also questioned why the Lanning property was made available in connection with construction of a medical school. She expressed concerns for the safety of the children as they wait for bus transportation. Ms. Ragsdale then asked for an update on the Lanning project. Mr. Larkins replied that Lanning was one of the one hundred and ten (110) schools that were subject to the prioritization process. He explained the scoring process and noted that the issue that Camden has at the present time is decreased enrollment. He advised that, at the present time, overcrowding is heavily weighted in the scoring process and that Camden has space, although not great space, within which to school the children. He noted that many schools in the 31 SDA districts are in disrepair but that a top priority is given to districts that are overcrowded and do not have sufficient space for students. He stressed that due to the declining enrollment and ample school space in Camden, Lanning did not score out well. Mr. Larkins advised that Lanning is not a dead project, rather, it just didn't come to the top of the list in this process. He then explained that the medical school is using that site because when it was decided that Lanning was not going to proceed in the near term, the Authority wanted to use the property for the betterment of Camden. He advised that the property is not being leased directly to the medical school and that the rent derived from leasing the property will go into the Camden school

system. He said that this makes more sense than having the property sit dormant with no gain to the school district. Mr. Larkins then said that he didn't know what document of inquiry Ms. Ragsdale was referring to in her opening statement and suggested she seek to find out what the actual document stated and where it was sent. Mr. Larkins said that he has had some limited communication with Camden. He noted that Ms. Wendy Kunz is present at the meeting and that she has been somewhat active in communication with the Authority but that there appear to be issues with the district's leadership. He said that he is aware that the Camden School Board took some action relative to the Urban Hope Act and that they are pursuing other options for delivery of facilities. Ms. Ragsdale then discussed the use of a gym/cafeteria/auditorium space as classroom space for six (6) and seven (7) year olds which leads to an inability to focus and does not promote learning. Mr. Larkins then explained how school size is reviewed during the prioritization process. Mr. Larkins said that the problems Ms. Ragsdale describes are similar to those reported throughout the thirty-one (31) SDA districts. Mr. Larkins then advised that the SDA has delivered four or five new facilities to Camden costing many millions of dollars. He stressed that Camden has not been ignored or neglected. He assured her that the SDA is working with the district to advance projects that the district deems appropriate. Ms. Ragsdale said that she attends the Camden School Board meeting every month but doesn't get any answers. She asked if there was a way she could find out more or be notified about what is going on in her district from the SDA. Mr. Walsh asked if she has voiced her concerns to her school board. She replied "yes, every month". Mr. Larkins asked that SDA staff provide Ms. Ragsdale with contact information for the Authority's Communications office so that she might receive answers to her questions on an ongoing

basis. Mr. Walsh thanked Ms. Ragsdale and invited the next speaker to address the Members.

Reverend Eddie Torres introduced himself as a longtime activist in the City of Camden. He advised that he is currently pursuing a law suit with the Camden School Board, the State Education Commissioner, the Attorney General and the Mayor of Camden. He then said that if things that have happened in Camden happened in any other school district there would be an outrage. He noted that he has been fighting with the school district since 2000. He stressed that the State has taken over the Camden schools, noting that, at the time, the SCC had over \$6 billion dollars for Abbott School Districts and Camden was to receive \$400 million of those funds. He said that there are architectural designs for several schools, including Lanning. He said that political forces have made the schools unsafe and taken away police protection. He stated that the Urban Hope Act was forced on the community without any community input. Mr. Torres then said that community representatives will be meeting with the Education Law Center (“ELC”) this Saturday. He advised that they plan on filing suit for all the schools that were promised to Camden stating that there should be nine (9) new schools and twenty-three (23) schools repaired. He said that the high school has had a construction platform in front of the school for almost five (5) years. He then said that Camden deserves its money back noting that Jersey City got their \$237 million and Bayonne got their \$80 million. Mr. Walsh thanked Reverend Torres and invited the next speaker to address the Members.

Mr. Gary Frazier then addressed the Members. He said that it has been ten years that the children have been waiting for their schools and that something should have been done by now. He stressed that it is important for the SDA Board to understand what the children are facing in the Lanning area which is one of the most dangerous areas in Camden. He said that Lanning was a priority school and that, in the last Administration, funding was set aside for that school to be built. He stressed that he has spoken with the School Board and has attended every meeting. He said that Mr. Mangaliso Davis has been out on the corner every morning to assure the children's safety, putting his life at risk. He explained that, after the community spoke with the Mayor, the children were moved to a community center that is not safer. He said that the SDA should relinquish the funds to Camden so the school can be built. He stated that everyone knows that there are things going on behind the scenes. He said the community is hosting meetings in homes and on the street to get Lanning built. He then said that 13.8% of the children have special needs and he expressed his concern that their children have been classified as "at risk". He stressed that the community is trying to reform their city but they need the SDA to make some serious moves for the sake of the children. He said that there were three hundred (300) children in the Lanning School before they were separated to attend several different schools. He said the special needs children have been split up as well. Mr. Walsh suggested that a special meeting take place. Mr. Frazier responded that special meetings don't get schools built. He said that the Board of Education doesn't care and he's asking the SDA to sit down with the people who do care. He apologized for getting upset but explained that the community continually is given "different stories". Mr. Walsh asked that the SDA come up with a "game plan" for a discussion with the

community representatives. He said that the SDA hears them loud and clear but that he is not familiar with all the issues and will need to do some research and then get back to them. Mr. Walsh thanked Mr. Frazier and invited the next speaker to address the Members.

Mr. R. Mangaliso Davis then addressed the Members. He said that he is a lifelong resident of Camden and has a long resume of service not only locally but internationally. He said that he is an international juror for third world countries, an environmentalist and activist. He said that he now finds himself involved with Board of Education issues. Mr. Davis said that Camden is a unique place in terms of its people and location and said that the power is not with the elected officials. He stated that unfortunately politics have not delivered for the people of his community, and that millions of dollars have come into the city of Camden but revitalization has not. He said that revitalization starts with redevelopment of neighborhoods, small businesses and the youth. He said that Camden has the highest unemployment rate in the State and in the country for a city of its size. Mr. Davis stated that the superintendent doesn't talk to the community and has dismantled the parent center. He explained that before the present superintendent was there, about one hundred and twenty five (125) parents met monthly to talk about the schools. He said that there is no voice of the people and that the politicians turned the city of Camden into a takeover district. He said that the community is being told that the schools are being closed because they are failing. He said that children in the eighth grade are functioning on a fifth grade level and all that results is that the teachers that are failing the children get tenure. Mr. Davis said that Camden has

the highest paid superintendent in the state, that she earns more than the Governor, and that she has more time out on medical leave than their students have in the classroom. He asked the Members to share anything that would help them become more productive. He said that the community representatives all came to the SDA Board meeting to give a face to problems in Camden and to say that nobody is speaking for them or to them. Mr. Walsh responded that a lot of what was said may or may not be relevant to the SDA Board members whose charge it is to build schools. Mr. Walsh asked that the Members be allowed time to take in all the comments that have been made and that a contact for a meeting will then be made. Mr. Davis asked that a meeting take place in the very near future. Mr. Walsh stated that the Members are only trying to help and if the SDA isn't helping, things will need to be reconsidered. Mr. Davis thanked the Members for listening to him. Mr. Walsh thanked Mr. Davis and invited the next speaker to address the Members.

Next, Mr. Eulises Delgado addressed the Members. He said that he is a sixty (60) year resident of Camden. He said that he was concerned with the politicians in the state that have failed the children in Camden. He said that he witnesses kids having to see drug dealers in the streets. He said their mayor has failed them because she listens to the wrong people. He said that there should be a criminal federal investigation in the city of Camden to find out where all the money has gone. He said millions of dollars have been poured into Camden but the people that live there do not see it. He said that he wants to see the Lanning School built. He said that the Board of Education does not tell the community anything. He said the school superintendent doesn't come to their residences

or schools to talk to the children. He expressed his belief that she has failed the people and that the whole school board should be dismantled. He said that people should be put on the school board that can be trusted and that the politicians should be kept out. Mr. Delgado said that all the board does now is float children around from school to school and create phony reports that are sent to the state which indicate that the children are progressing, which they are not. He thanked the members for listening to him and asked that the SDA meet with the real Camden residents and not with the superintendent. Mr. Walsh thanked Mr. Davis and invited the next speaker to address the Members.

Wendy Kunz then addressed the Members. Ms. Kunz said that the Board can see that emotions are running high in Camden. She said that there were hopes last year that Lanning would be on the list to advance but it wasn't. She said that this was very disappointing and that she has been to a number of legislative meetings and come to the SDA. She then expressed disappointment that the SDA has had no official communication with the district, the Board, the neighborhood or the administration. She said this was checked out by the Board president yesterday and confirmed by the school business administrator. Mr. Larkins said that Ms. Kunz' information was not accurate. He said that the way the structure is set up the SDA must rely on the officials and people who have been put in place for its communication with the district, adding that it is unreasonable to think that he could go to all the thirty-one (31) communities and talk about every single school project. He said that in his two (2) years with the SDA he has personally reached out to the district no less than five (5) times and he has gotten no response until about two (2) months ago when SDA finally got a call back from the

administration. He said that on the phone was Camden's superintendent, assistant superintendent, business administrator and several other members from the district. He then said that he was in Camden for the opening of Camden Morgan Village Middle School and there were board representatives there. He emphasized that the SDA is trying to do the right thing for all of the school districts. Ms. Kunz said that all she is trying to do is get answers as she doesn't hear from any of her contacts at the SDA. Mr. Larkins said that Ms. Kunz was just recently at the SDA attending a meeting with staff. He stressed the need to be honest and accurate. Ms. Kunz said she met with staff on Camden High School and not on Lanning. Mr. Larkins then stated that she and he have had multiple conversations regarding Lanning. He said that he wanted to make it clear that what she was saying was not accurate and was conveying the wrong impression. He said the SDA is committed to transparency and that every time Ms. Kunz tried to contact him he has been responsive. He stressed that he is passionate about this organization and offended when people start portraying the organization in a way that is unfair to the people who work here who are all public servants. He said that if Ms. Kunz is going to come to a meeting and complain about not getting information, she should first try to get that information. Ms. Kunz said that a letter was sent on March 23 to Mr. Tom Schrum, SDA program director, and there has yet to be a response. Ms. Kunz then said that there is no disputing that school facilities affect student learning. She said that Camden has schools all over the city but they are in the wrong places. She asked if the seats that were counted in the city were counted as an arithmetic exercise or whether the review focused on where the seats are located and the condition of those seats along with the condition of the buildings. She stated that she was doing an inventory of the district and determined

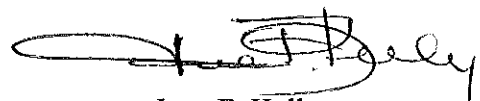
that most of the classrooms are between 600 and 700 square feet when the average classroom should be 900 square feet. She said that most of the classrooms are not air conditioned and the windows do not work properly. She said that she is also here to ask about what is happening with the H. B. Wilson School. She said that H. B. Wilson has been heavily vandalized and is a dangerous building in the neighborhood. She said that they are told they must keep up the insurance on the building but, due to the neighborhood, the district is not able to get insurance. She then said that DOE and SDA keep sending people down to the old H.B. Wilson School to inspect it for potential reuse as an educational facility. She said this facility is next to a new building that does not have a playground for the older grades in that building. She said it is very important for the neighborhood that the building is torn down.

Mr. Larkins said that, in fact, he has also spoken to Ms. Kunz about the H.B. Wilson School along with the other Camden schools. Ms. Kunz said that all that she has been told officially is that the SDA is studying H.B. Wilson. Mr. Larkins reminded Ms. Kunz that the last time she visited the SDA he spoke with her personally about H. B. Wilson. Mr. Walsh assured Ms. Kunz that the SDA would be responding to the questions raised but that the response may not be given directly to her but rather to the appropriate body in Camden. Ms. Kunz then said that H.B. Wilson was second in Camden's concerns behind Lanning. She noted that the Camden High School continues to shed masonry and that emergency action is being taken to protect the students. She then discussed ongoing problems at Camden High School. Mr. Larkins said that he has not seen and is unaware of the document Ms. Kunz had indicated was sent to the SDA and

requested that if the solicitor or the district wished to communicate with the SDA on that type of matter it should be forwarded to him and not to an SDA program director who may or may not have anything to do with the issue at hand. Mr. Walsh advised Ms. Kunz that the Members have heard her concerns and those expressed by the other public commenters, that there will be discussions and that the SDA will be addressing those issues presented that fall under the jurisdiction of the SDA.

Mr. Walsh asked if there were any other members of the public who wished to address the Board. Hearing none, upon a motion by Mr. Luckie, and seconded by Mr. Vargas, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

Certification: The foregoing represents a true and complete summary of the actions taken by the Board of the New Jersey Schools Development Authority at its May 2, 2012 meeting.



Jane F. Kelly
Assistant Secretary