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Christie Administration Breaks Ground for New A. Chester Redshaw Elementary School



NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ – New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Marc Larkins joined legislators, local officials, and New Brunswick School District leaders today to break ground on the new A. Chester Redshaw Elementary School (Redshaw). With the sounds of construction equipment already at work, today’s ceremony celebrated the start of the building’s construction following the implementation of critical reforms to the State’s school construction program under the Christie Administration.

“The Redshaw students have been without their school building for far too long,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “Through the Christie Administration’s targeted use of practices such as design-build, we are hopeful that we will be able to deliver this project to the New Brunswick Community quickly and efficiently.”

Since demolition of the original school began in 2006, students have been educated in a temporary facility nearby. The Christie Administration’s advancement of this long stalled project will serve to strengthen the community by providing educational opportunities to New Brunswick’s schoolchildren.

The new Redshaw Elementary School will be a 135,000 square-foot, two-story facility designed to educate approximately 900 students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grades. The building will be constructed on a district-owned site on Livingston Avenue between Comstock and Delavan Streets where the original school formerly stood. The facility will include 46 classrooms, 12 classrooms for

special education, basic skills and small group instruction, a cafeteria, a multipurpose room with stage, gymnasium, media center, art room and a music room. Hall Construction Company, Inc. anticipates completion of the new facility for the 2014-2015 school year.

“This is a day we have awaited for some time,” said New Brunswick Public Schools Superintendent Richard Kaplan. “Our students are looking forward to a 21st Century school built under the auspices of the NJSDA and its outstanding leader, Marc Larkins.”

The new Redshaw School is the first project under the Christie Administration to be constructed using a design-build approach. The design-build method differs from the traditional approach by allowing the SDA to contract with one firm for both design and construction of school facilities projects. Because design-build allows for some design and construction activities to proceed concurrently through phased advancement, some argue it is more efficient than the traditional approach.

Hall Construction Company, Inc. of Farmingdale, New Jersey was awarded a \$34.9 million design-build contract for the design and construction of the new school. As part of the design-build contract, Hall Construction Company, Inc. will work with Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor Engineering, PC of Warren, New Jersey to perform the design. Epic Management of Piscataway, New Jersey is the construction manager for the project. The total estimated project costs are \$51.2 million.

This project was selected for advancement as part of the 2011 Capital Project Portfolio announced by Governor Christie. The SDA’s Capital Program represents the Christie Administration’s ongoing commitment to responsible advancement of projects through efficient and proper use of public funds, an objective prioritization of statewide educational needs, advancement of sound design and construction principles to bring increased accountability and eliminate wasteful spending.

The SDA’s current portfolio of active projects is valued at over \$2 billion – including the 2011 and 2012 Capital Project portfolios (more than \$1 billion), additional projects in construction (\$100 million), emergent projects (\$50 million) and Regular Operating District grants (\$604 million state share).

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