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SDA Officials Break Ground for New Leonard Place Elementary School in Passaic



PASSAIC CITY, NJ – New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Charles McKenna joined Passaic City School District leaders and students today to break ground for the new Leonard Place Elementary School.

“Last year we opened the Passaic Gifted and Talented Academy and today we celebrate another example of the Christie Administration’s efforts to alleviate the student overcrowding that exists here in Passaic City,” said SDA CEO Charles McKenna. “This new school will provide the learning environment and technology needed to help Passaic students achieve their dreams. Once complete, the new Leonard Place Elementary School will allow the District to move students from the 12-acre Dayton Avenue site so that demolition and construction of a multi-structure Educational Campus there can move forward.”

The new 105,000 square-foot, three-story school will be designed to educate approximately 700 students in kindergarten through fifth grades. The school will include 30 general classrooms, five small group instruction classrooms, a science classroom, instrumental and vocal music rooms, an art room, a multipurpose room with stage, a gymnasium, a cafeteria, and a media center.

“The Passaic Board of Education remains grateful to Charles McKenna and the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) for their ongoing commitment to provide Passaic students with the 21st century classrooms that will support learning and achievement for many years to come,” said Passaic Superintendent Pablo Munoz. “At every stage in this process the SDA has made the needs of our

students and our community a priority, and we look forward to continuing our partnership on future school projects.”

The new school is being constructed on the Leonard Place site that was acquired by the SDA in 2008 and 2009. The school will be across the street from the SDA-built Passaic Gifted and Talented Academy, which opened to students in 2015. The building is anticipated for completion prior to the start of school in September 2018.

The Leonard Place Elementary School is being built using the design-build approach. This method differs from the traditional approach in that SDA contracts with one firm for both design and construction of a school facilities project. The design-build method also allows for some design and construction activities to proceed concurrently through phased advancement, an approach that potentially allows for improvement upon the original overall schedule.

Dobco, Inc. of Wayne, New Jersey was awarded a \$32.75 million design-build contract. As part of its design-build engagement, Dobco, Inc. is working with Di Cara / Rubino Architects also of Wayne, New Jersey on the design. The construction manager is Epic Management, Inc. of Piscataway, New Jersey. The total estimated SDA project cost for the new school is \$55.9 million.

To date, the SDA has invested \$197 million toward completed projects in Passaic City. Its current portfolio of active projects is valued at approximately \$2 billion – including the Capital Project portfolio, emergent projects and Regular Operating District grants.

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