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November 18, 2026

New Jersey Schools Development Authority Breaks Ground on New Elementary School in Pleasantville



Pleasantville, NJ - The New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) today joined Pleasantville Public Schools, state and city officials, and students at a groundbreaking ceremony for the new elementary school at the site of the former Decatur Avenue School. Project stakeholders gathered to mark this significant milestone and highlight the enhanced learning spaces that will be made available to Pleasantville students upon its completion.

"As we break ground for construction of a new elementary school today, we are building the foundation for the future success of generations of students," said **SDA CEO Manuel Da Silva**. "Alongside our dedicated partners, we are building a high-quality, modern educational facility that will support learning, growth, and exploration for Pleasantville's young learners. We look forward to continuing our strong partnerships here in Pleasantville as we bring this shared vision to life."

"As someone who is homegrown, who grew up in this community, and whose journey in education has been rooted right here in Pleasantville, standing before you today as Superintendent of Schools is both humbling and deeply rewarding," said **Dr. Felicia Hyman-Medley**, Superintendent of Pleasantville Public Schools. "I am honored and grateful to be part of this historic moment. This groundbreaking represents so much more than the beginning of a new school building. It represents a

new beginning, new opportunities, renewed hope, and our continued commitment to providing our students and staff with the very best educational environment possible. As we break ground today, let us remember that we are not simply building a school; we are building a legacy—a legacy of opportunity, excellence, pride, and promise for generations of Pleasantville students to come."

The new school will be an approximately 91,000 square-foot facility designed to educate a maximum of 650 students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. This high-quality facility will include: general classrooms, a science demonstration/art lab; a project/technology lab; a cafetorium, a gymnasium, a media center, and vocal and instrumental music rooms.



The construction of this new school project is advancing through a design-build approach. The design-build method differs from a traditional design-bid-build approach by allowing the SDA to contract with one firm for both design and construction of a school facilities project. Ernest Bock & Sons, Inc. is the design-build contractor. As part of the design-build contract, Ernest Bock & Sons, Inc. is working with USA Architects, Planners + Interior Designers, Ltd. on the design. New Road Construction Management Co., Inc. is managing the project. Once complete, this $72.6 million project will be the first major capital project completed by the SDA in Pleasantville.

About the New Jersey Schools Development Authority

The SDA is the State agency responsible for fully funding and managing the new construction, modernization and renovation of school facilities projects in 31 SDA Districts. Its current portfolio of active projects is valued at approximately $2 billion – including the Capital Project portfolio, emergent projects and Regular Operating District grants. Since the program's inception, the SDA has provided funding for and management oversight of 900 completed school facilities projects in SDA Districts and has executed more than 5,400 grants for Regular Operating Districts throughout the State of New Jersey. For more information about the SDA, please visit our website at: www.njsda.gov or follow us on social media at: Facebook; Instagram; LinkedIn; or Twitter.