

# Newsletter

New Jersey Schools Development Authority



## Message from CEO Charles B. McKenna

Welcome to the spring edition of the NJSDA quarterly newsletter. One of our newest attributes of the organization may very well be how you accessed this document. Our newly revamped website was designed to make the user experience more accessible and easier to navigate in addition to being more pleasing to the eye. Please be sure to check back in with the website for all of the latest information about the workings of the Authority.

In addition to the new website, the newsletter highlights the new Chief of Staff, Al Alvarez who in the short time he has been here has already made a big impact. Al will be overseeing SDA's Special Projects Division and has a keen interest in the SWMBE program to ensure that small and minority businesses get training in how to go about securing SDA and other state work. We are excited to welcome him on board.

At the April 4, Board meeting we honored our longtime Board member Joseph P. McNamara who passed away suddenly in 2016. The SDA Boardroom was officially named the Joseph P. McNamara Board Room and a plaque honoring Joe was installed at the entrance. It was a great event made so by Joe's family in attendance.

This newsletter will update you on construction milestones, ROD grants and discuss the Small, women, minority owned Business enterprise training that the SDA provides to the contracting community. It is an incredible asset to new and small contractors and one of the things that we do which provides great value to those seeking to start and grow businesses in this state.

We are coming into our busiest season for construction so we will be keeping our eye on the ball and moving along the projects in order to better provide for the education of the state's most important assets – our children.

### Looking for updates on SDA projects in your community?

Visit SDA's [active project](#) section at [www.njsda.gov](http://www.njsda.gov)

to see details about projects in your area.



# Construction Milestone Events



*Groundbreaking for the new Kennedy Elementary School in Harrison*

SDA continues to advance new projects into construction. In February a demolition event was held in Pemberton for the new Denbo-Crichton Elementary School project. A beam signing ceremony to mark the end of steel erection was held in Irvington for the new Madison Avenue Elementary School project.



*Beam Signing for the new Madison Avenue Elementary School in Irvington*



*Demolition Event for the new Denbo-Crichton Elementary School in Pemberton.*

In March, SDA joined local officials at a groundbreaking ceremony in Harrison for the new Kennedy Elementary School project.

To view all SDA press Releases visit our home page.

## Meet SDA's new Chief of Staff

## 2018 SMWBE Contractor Training Program



Albert "Al" Alvarez joined the SDA on January 17, 2018 as Chief-of-Staff. Mr. Alvarez most recently served as Deputy Director for Personnel

to then Governor-Elect Phil Murphy's Transition Office. Mr. Alvarez oversees many functions at SDA including special projects and the SMWBE Training Program.

Committed to ensuring the success of small businesses, the SDA launched its eighth annual Small, Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (SMWBE) Contractor Training Program in March. The free nine week program is designed to provide firms with valuable knowledge and the tools to grow their businesses.

This year's program included 37 participating firms. Class sessions are taught by SDA staff experts.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information about the SMWBE Contractor Training Program.

## SDA Dedicates the Joseph A. McNamara Board

In July 2016, the SDA lost a devoted and respected board member when Joseph McNamara unexpectedly passed away. To honor his memory and his service to this organization and the education of New Jersey students, the SDA Board Room was officially dedicated the Joseph A. McNamara Board Room on Wednesday, April 4, 2018.



*Wife Ellen McNamara and Son Christopher McNamara*

## Community Meetings

In an effort to connect with communities on project related concerns, the SDA hosts community meetings at the start of construction. These meetings are designed not only to inform community members on upcoming project activity, but to also provide them a forum for any questions they may have. Community meetings have proved to be an excellent way to keep all those who are impacted by a project informed as to its scope and schedule. SDA representatives recently attended a community meeting in Millville for the new Millville Senior High School.

## Recent Project Activity

The SDA recently released its [2018 project forecast](#).

Since January 2018, the SDA has advertised and/or awarded contracts for the following projects:

### Recent Advertisements :

Camden (Camden County) – New Camden High School (Design–Build Services)

Paterson (Passaic County) – New Union Avenue Middle School (Design-Build Services)

Plainfield (Union County) -Woodland Elementary School (Abatement, Demolition and Site Improvement Services)

### Recent Contract Awards:

Pemberton (Burlington County) - Denbo-Crichton Elementary School (Design- Build Services)

East Orange (Essex County)- George Washington Carver Elementary School (CM Services)



## ROD Grants

The Regular Operating District (ROD) Grant program funds at least 40 percent of eligible costs for projects in ROD districts Statewide. These projects generally address health and safety issues, as well as other critical needs, and have a positive impact on student learning.

Since January 2010, the SDA has executed 5,409 grants, providing an estimated \$6 billion to local districts and leveraging projects estimated at \$8.1 billion. A list of executed ROD Grant projects can be found on the [SDA website](#).

For more information please visit our website at [www.njsda.gov](http://www.njsda.gov) or call 609.341.5900

To contact the SDA, please email the Authority at [CustomerService@njsda.gov](mailto:CustomerService@njsda.gov)