



## **Message from CEO Charles B. McKenna**



I am seven months into this position and it has truly been a baptism by fire – in a good way. The Authority is busy planning and executing a large number of building projects and is alive with activity. Summer is the busy period for construction (especially after the poor construction weather this winter) and that can be seen by the number of active projects being constructed around the State. Indeed, there are 11 SDA projects currently in active construction. From Phillipsburg in the west where a new high school is being constructed to Elizabeth in the east where a new high school is also being built and from two elementary school projects in Paterson in the north to the new Gloucester City Elementary School/Middle School in the south that will have its contract awarded in days, there is activity all over the State. Also in active construction are - three new projects in Newark, a project in Passaic, a new elementary school in Elizabeth and a project in Jersey City. Suffice it to say, schools are being built that will be used to educate students in need for generations to come. Thus, while the need is great, we are actively taking positive steps to address the needs of thousands of New Jersey school students.

While we are engaged in all of this construction, we are also busy in administering more than 1,600 ROD grants recently authorized by the Christie Administration. Once fully executed, these grants will provide millions of dollars in state funding which will be augmented by local districts to account for \$1.2 billion in repairs, renovations and upgrades to schools throughout the State.

While all of these projects will have a direct impact on the education of our children they also benefit the economy of the State. The monies expended on construction provide good jobs for thousands in the construction fields. This aids New Jersey's economy, especially small and minority-owned businesses. Education is the future of our State and Country and providing jobs now makes us immediately stronger. Thus, the SDA is in the enviable position of making a better future for our children while fostering a better now for the thousands of individuals employed on its projects.

Moving ahead we look forward to opening two schools this coming fall. The George L. Catrambone Elementary School in Long Branch will be ready for the first day of classes in September and soon thereafter the A. Chester Redshaw Elementary School will open in New Brunswick. Trenton Central High School students will begin their year in swing space that is presently being renovated for them and the work on the existing high school will begin in earnest. The busy summer will thus continue into an even busier fall in the hopes that the winter will be kinder to us than was the case last year. We face an enormous challenge at the SDA, but we are making good headway and the children of the State will be better for our efforts.

## **Construction Progress Continues Throughout the State**

During the Christie Administration's tenure, the SDA has worked diligently toward the goal of ensuring that all New Jersey students are afforded safe, modern and efficient 21<sup>st</sup> Century schools.



*Officials at Newark Construction Announcement Event*

With eleven new schools in construction throughout the state, buildings are being erected at a fast pace. During the past few months, the SDA and its stakeholders have celebrated construction milestones associated with some of these projects. In April, SDA visited Newark to announce the start of three new schools – [Elliott Street Elementary School](#), [Oliver Street Elementary School](#) and [South Street Elementary School](#). In May, State and local representatives were on hand for a groundbreaking ceremony for the new [Marshall Street Elementary School](#) in Paterson. In June, [Elliott Street Elementary School](#) students participated in a beam signing ceremony. Students signed a piece of steel that was later hoisted into place as part of the permanent structure. The SDA looks forward to more project events in the coming months, including the September opening of the new George L. Catrambone Elementary School in Long Branch.



*Officials at Paterson Marshall Street Groundbreaking*

In addition to the school construction projects, there is even more work going on throughout the state. Fit-out of temporary space for Trenton Central High School students is ongoing, so that the space can be utilized by the students for the 2014-2015 school year. This will allow the SDA to move forward with activities to replace the existing Trenton Central High School facility. Construction activities have begun for the new Phillipsburg High School, with foundation work ongoing. The erection of steel for the new Academic High School in Elizabeth is nearing completion. In an effort to keep the community apprised of the status of projects, the project information for Capital Portfolio Projects has been updated on the SDA's website. Please visit SDA's website for updated [project information](#).



*Elliott Street School students at Beam Signing*

## **Capital Portfolio Status**

More than half of the school facility projects in the SDA's Capital Portfolio have advanced through construction or design activities. Of the 39 projects in the Portfolio:

- 1 project has been completed,
- 11 projects are in active building construction, 2 of which are due to open to students before the end of the year,
- 3 projects have initiated Design-Build activities,
- 2 projects have ongoing site work activities,
- 2 projects are in Design-Build procurement,
- 5 projects are in design, and
- 15 projects are in scope development.

For additional information on the current status of the Capital Portfolio, please click [here](#).

## **Emergent Projects Remedy Some of the Building Conditions in SDA Districts Across the State**

Existing school buildings throughout the State are being improved through a partnership between the SDA and local districts. The SDA funds emergent projects deemed necessary in SDA Districts due to potential health and safety issues. The responsibility for maintenance of school facilities, as always, resides with each district.

The SDA is currently managing 18 emergent projects as follows:

- 11 projects are in construction,
- 6 projects are in design, and
- 1 project is in design procurement.

The emergent projects currently in construction address a variety of issues. These include a roof replacement and masonry repairs at Orange Preparatory Academy (formerly Orange Middle School); exterior masonry, lintel and window repairs at School 11 and School 12 in Passaic; and replacing the HVAC system at Alma Flagg Elementary School in Newark.

The SDA has also delegated 37 emergent projects to local school districts for management since the start of the Christie Administration. For a status of the SDA's Emergent Program please click [here](#).

## **Recent Project Activity**

Since April 2014, the SDA advertised and awarded contracts for the following projects:

Recent Advertisements:

- Elizabeth (Union County) – New Elementary School Design-Build

Proposals Currently Under Review:

- Gloucester City (Gloucester County) – Gloucester City New ES/MS Design-Build

Recent Contract Awards:

- Garfield (Bergen County) – James Madison School #10 Early Site Package
- Keansburg (Monmouth County) - Joseph C. Caruso Elementary School Construction Management Services
- Millville (Cumberland County) – Millville High School and Lakeside Middle School Design Services
- Newark (Essex County) – Chancellor Avenue Elementary School Emergent Project Design Services
- Newark (Essex County) – Science Park High School Emergent Project Design Services
- Orange (Essex County) – Orange Middle School Emergent Project Roof Replacement and Masonry
- Trenton (Mercer County) – Hedgepeth Williams School Emergent Project Design Services

## **ROD Grant Program Update**

In 2013, Governor Christie announced the single largest offering of the ROD grant program. As a result, the DOE approved more than 1,600 grants for school improvement projects at more than 900 schools in 335 districts throughout the State. The SDA offered all of these grants in the beginning of 2014. The SDA commenced execution of these grants in spring 2014, after districts provided proof of local share funding and completion of other required grant-related documents.

One of the first grants executed from this allocation was to the Allendale School District. In April, CEO McKenna visited Allendale to highlight the \$350,000 in grant funding that would be used for four school improvement projects. The funding provided to the Allendale School District will be utilized to replace existing unit ventilators with new unit ventilators and provide air conditioning; install a new rooftop HVAC unit at the Brookside School; replace the existing unit ventilators with new HVAC units in classrooms 14-16 and the Media Center at Hillside Elementary School.



*SDA Visit to Allendale*

From the start of the Christie Administration through June 30, 2014, the SDA has executed 1,393 grants providing more than \$453 million to local districts and leveraging projects estimated at a total of more than \$1 billion. This includes recent grant executions such as Denville (Morris County) which received nine grants totaling nearly \$1 million, Byram Township (Sussex County) which received one grant totaling \$395,912, Buena Regional (Atlantic County) which received one grant totaling \$1.2 million and Collingswood (Camden County) which received five grants totaling \$360,000. For a full listing of ROD Grant projects, click [here](#).

## **Connecting With the Community**

The SDA strives to engage our community partners and stakeholders. Recently, the SDA held its monthly board meeting in Paterson, New Jersey to hear firsthand from community members. The SDA also has met with various stakeholder groups over the past few months such as the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, Great Schools of New Jersey, the Healthy Schools Now Coalition and the Construction Management Association of America Metro NY/NJ Chapter. These meetings are important to maintaining open communication and collaboration on how best to achieve our mission.

Another component of the SDA's ongoing outreach efforts is our annual [SMWBE Contractor Training Program](#). Recently, the SDA completed the 2014 program, with 21 firms graduating. These firms now are equipped with valuable knowledge on how to do business with the SDA and the State of New Jersey. As additional projects advance into construction, the SDA is providing opportunities for New Jersey's construction industry including the State's small, minority and women-owned businesses.



*2014 SMWBE Contractor Training Program Graduates, Instructors and SDA Executives*

---

**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)**