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Schools Development Authority Joins Paterson Students and Officials for the Ceremonial Opening of the New Dr. Hani Awadallah Elementary School



PATERSON, NJ - The New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) today joined Paterson students, state and local officials to mark the ceremonial opening of the new Dr. Hani Awadallah Elementary School.

“Today marks the ceremonial opening of the new Dr. Hani Awadallah Elementary School and the culmination of celebrations for the seven new or renovated SDA-constructed schools that opened this month as scheduled,” said SDA CEO Charles McKenna. “This school provides the educational tools Paterson’s students need to succeed. In addition, the pedestrian bridge that was installed as part of the project serves as a new access link between the community and the new school - and is truly a monumental collateral benefit of our work.”

The new 105,500 square-foot school is designed to educate approximately 720 students in kindergarten through eighth grades. The facility includes 23 general classrooms, four kindergarten classrooms, specialized instruction classrooms and labs, a media center, a gymnasium, a cafeteria with a stage and a community room. The project also includes a pedestrian bridge over an adjacent NJ Transit railroad right of way in order to provide safe and convenient access for all attending students.

"Today we have come together to celebrate the grand opening of a school dedicated to the memory of a prominent leader in our local Arabic community," said Paterson Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Donnie Evans. "Dr. Hani Awadallah was a fierce advocate who appreciated the diversity of this school district and believed that each child in this great city had the right to a quality education. This new school, with its science labs, one-to-one technology for all students and staff, and a gymnasium with

handicap accessible bleachers, is a wonderful tribute to his advocacy. I thank the SDA for their commitment to Paterson and the community we serve.”

Ernest Bock & Sons, Inc. of Philadelphia was the contractor for the new school. The construction manager was STV Construction, Inc. of New York and the architectural firm was DIGroup Architecture, LLC of New Brunswick. The total project costs were \$55.2 million.

The SDA has invested more than \$415 million in completed projects in Paterson alone including eight capital projects (Dr. Hani Awadallah E.S., School #16, International H.S., Number 24 E.S., Madison Avenue K Center, John F. Kennedy H.S., Roberto Clemente E.S., PANTHER Academy) and 56 health and safety/grant/emergent projects.

In 2016 alone, the SDA will open nine new or renovated school facilities in communities throughout the State. These projects provide nearly 8,500 new seats and represent a state investment of more than \$553 million. 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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