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Christie Administration Breaks Ground for Addition/Renovation Project at Paul Robeson Community School for the Arts



NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ – Against the backdrop of construction machines busy at work, New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Charles McKenna joined New Brunswick School District students and leaders today to break ground for the addition/renovation project at the Paul Robeson Community School for the Arts.

“It is great to be back in New Brunswick today to mark the construction of another significant project that, once complete, will double the capacity of this school,” said SDA CEO Charles McKenna. “The Christie Administration’s commitment to improving New Jersey’s educational infrastructure and the productive partnerships we enjoy with New Brunswick school and local officials, have ensured that the students of the Robeson Community School for the Arts will have a learning center equipped with the tools needed to help them achieve greatness.”

The 60,000 square-foot, 3-story addition will include a new multi-purpose room, 30 additional classrooms, four small instruction rooms, and two Basic Skills/ESL classrooms. The 59,400 square-foot existing school will be renovated. This work will include the introduction of a fire sprinkler system and

the renovation/rearrangement of spaces including the school's food service area, media center, classrooms, nurse's office, main office and student services suite. The school is anticipated for student occupancy in September 2018.

“This ground-breaking event represents the beginning of a wonderful project that, by adding capacity to New Brunswick's growing school community, will address the needs of our students for years to come,” says Dr. Aubrey Johnson, Superintendent, New Brunswick Public Schools. “Thanks to New Jersey's Schools Development Authority, after two years of construction we'll welcome our students back into an all-but-new facility for the Paul Robeson Community School for the Arts. I know I speak for the entire New Brunswick community when I say we're appreciative.”

The addition to the 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.

Hall Construction Company, Inc. of Farmingdale, New Jersey was awarded a \$32.0 million design-build contract for the design and construction of the project. As part of the design-build contract, Hall Construction Company, Inc. will work with Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor Engineering, PC of Warren, New Jersey to perform the design. GREYHAWK North America, LLC of Mount Laurel, New Jersey is the construction manager for the project. The total estimated project costs are \$47 million.

To date, the SDA has invested \$270 million in completed projects in New Brunswick alone including four capital projects. 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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