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Christie Administration Officials Celebrate Construction Progress of New School with Beam Signing Event in Vineland



VINELAND, NJ – New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Charles McKenna joined Vineland students and local officials for a “beam signing” ceremony to highlight the progress of construction on the new Lincoln Avenue Middle School. Students along with school officials signed a steel beam that will become a lasting part of the new facility.

“Today’s beam signing ceremony signifies not only the progress being made on the new Lincoln Avenue Middle School, but also the SDA’s efforts to alleviate overcrowding throughout the Vineland school district,” said SDA CEO Charles McKenna. “As we sign the steel today, we celebrate the state-of-the-art facility that will benefit Vineland students and enhance their education for many years to come.”

The new Lincoln Avenue Middle School will be a one-story, approximately 99,000 square foot facility designed to accommodate 620 students in grades six through eight. The new school will include 19 general classrooms, five science/project labs, three small group instruction rooms, specialized classrooms, instrumental and vocal music rooms, an art room, a life skills lab, a technology lab, a media center, a multipurpose room with stage, a cafeteria, a gymnasium and athletic fields.

“I am truly excited about today’s beam signing event, bringing us one-step closer to the completion of this long awaited school,” said Dr. Mary Gruccio, Vineland Public Schools Superintendent. “How exciting it is to have all of the names of those closest to the project and our students to forever be a part of this beautiful building. I want to thank the SDA and Charles McKenna for their continued partnership.”

The school is being built using the design-build approach on a site that was acquired by the SDA. The design-build method differs from the traditional approach in that the SDA contracts with one firm for both design and construction of a school facilities project. The design-build method allows for some design and construction activities to proceed concurrently through phased advancement, potentially terminating improvement upon the overall schedule.

Ernest Bock & Sons, Inc. of Philadelphia, PA was awarded a \$36.9 million design-build contract for the design and construction of the school. As part of the design-build contract, Ernest Bock & Sons, Inc. is working with SSP Architectural Group of Bridgewater, New Jersey on the design. Joseph Jingoli & Sons of Lawrenceville is managing the project. The total estimated project cost is \$49.8 million. The school is anticipated to open in September 2018.

To date, the SDA has invested nearly \$140 million in completed projects in Vineland alone, including five capital projects and one demonstration project. 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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