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Schools Development Authority Announces Demolition Activities to Clear Site for Future Union Avenue Middle School in Paterson



PATERSON, NJ – The New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) joined Paterson School District Officials to mark the start of demolition work to make way for the future Union Avenue Middle School.

“The demolition activity commencing today, continues the SDA’s ongoing commitment to provide the students of Paterson with the educational infrastructure needed to help them achieve success,” said SDA CEO Charles McKenna. “The construction activities to ready this site for a new Union Avenue Middle School are under way. Once completed, this new middle school combined with the two SDA-constructed schools that opened in Paterson last year, and the purchase of Paterson Catholic High School will brighten the educational opportunities for many students in this community.”

The new Union Avenue Middle School is being built on the site of a facility that served as swing space while the SDA constructed other new facilities in the District. The SDA will construct a new, approximately 161,000-square-foot, school facility that will be designed to educate up to 1,000 students in grades six through eight. The facility will contain 36 classrooms, nine science labs, a cafeteria with stage, a gymnasium, computer lab, and media center. The school will be the seventh new school facility constructed by the SDA in Paterson.

“I want to thank the SDA for once again working with our district to ensure that a new 21st century school building will be constructed for the children of this specific neighborhood,” commented Acting Superintendent Eileen Shafer. “I have embraced a ‘Together We Can’ motto; and today is a shining example of how working collaboratively CAN bring about positive change.”

Tricon Enterprises, Inc. of Keyport was awarded a \$3,474,000 general construction contract to perform abatement activities, demolition of all structures including underground structures, and grading the site. All demolition and associated site work is anticipated for completion in Spring 2018.

The next phase in advancement of this important project will be advertising for a design-build contractor to design and construct the school. Following approval of an award, the design phase will commence. The design-build approach typically allows some design and construction activities to proceed concurrently through phased advancement. The new school is currently anticipated to open to students in September 2021. The total estimated SDA project cost for the new school is \$112.9 million.

The SDA has invested more than \$415 million in completed projects in Paterson alone including eight Capital projects (School #16, Dr. Hani Awadallah E.S., 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.

The SDA's 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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