



For More Information:

Edye Maier – (609) 858-2909

January 24, 2014

Citing Student Needs, SDA CEO McKenna to Push For New Trenton Central High School

Trenton, NJ – With the steadfast support of Governor Christie, Schools Development Authority (SDA) CEO Charles McKenna today announced the Administration’s recommendation for the construction of a new Trenton Central High School in Trenton, New Jersey.

“Within a day of my appointment to lead the Schools Development Authority, I arranged a tour of Trenton Central High School with the Trenton Schools Superintendent, School Board President and Principal of Trenton Central High School,” said SDA CEO Charles B. McKenna. “Since then, and after reviewing the pending plans for a major rehabilitation, I have determined and will recommend that the better course is to build a new school that retains some of the iconic elements of the existing building and that will provide the 21st century learning environment that is required to meet the educational needs of the students.”

The proposal supported by McKenna would include the conservation of the iconic school clock tower and auditorium with the demolition and reconstruction of new academic wings. This new facility would provide the 21st century learning environment needed for more than 1,800 Trenton Central High School students to reach their educational potential.

In 2012, the SDA proposed a major renovation project for the 80 year-old, 438-862 square foot Trenton Central High School as part of its Capital Portfolio. Since this renovation project has been Board approved to advance, the change recommended by McKenna will first require approval of the local school board. If the school board agrees with McKenna’s approach, the change will be brought to the SDA Board of Directors for approval. Mr. McKenna will seek these approvals expeditiously, with next steps including a presentation to the local school board in the coming days. After receiving the necessary approvals, SDA would immediately work with the district to initiate plans to provide for student swing space before the start of the 2014-2015 school year with hopes of initiating building demolition before the end of 2014.

“I can assure the Trenton community that with their support and input, we will get the facility into the best possible condition as quickly as reasonably possible,” added McKenna. “We will move forward together, as quickly as possible, to ensure Trenton Central High School students have the educational tools and facilities they need to succeed.”

To date, the SDA has invested more than \$210 million in completed projects in Trenton alone, including eight capital projects (Columbus E.S., Gregory E.S., Joyce Kilmer E.S., MLK E.S., Mott E.S., P.J. Hill E.S., Parker E.S., Daylight/Twilight H.S.), 3 emergent projects and 19 health and safety/grant projects.

The SDA’s current portfolio of active projects is valued at nearly \$2 billion – including the Capital Project Portfolio (more than \$1 billion), additional projects in construction (\$55 million), emergent projects (\$100 million) and Regular Operating District grants (\$500 million state share).

###