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SCC BOARD APPROVES CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PLAN *Remaining funds to be used to best meet educational needs of NJ's students*

Trenton, NJ (July 27, 2005) — In an effort to best meet the educational needs of New Jersey's students, the New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation (SCC) Board of Directors today approved a Capital Construction Plan for the agency's remaining Abbott funds. There are 59 projects in the plan that are recommended for construction.

The prioritization process for the project selection contained several checks and balances to ensure fairness and equity. First, a Special Committee of the Board, which included the Department of Education, the Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Office, selected the projects to be included based on certain educational and programmatic criteria, as well as an equitable distribution of funding.

Once the Special Committee selected the projects, the members of the Board's three standing committees reviewed the list of schools. Then, the plan was sent to the full Board today for final approval.

"The overall goal of this process was to allocate the SCC's remaining funds in a fiscally responsible way and to build schools where they are most needed," said Alfred C. Koeppel, Chairman of the Board. "It was appropriate for the Special Committee to address this issue because it required much more than construction judgments. I want to thank the Committee for their time and effort."

Examples of the criteria that the Special Committee used when selecting projects included schools that: were a high priority for the district, address overcrowding or health and safety issues, serve as early childhood centers, are well along in the design or land acquisition process, or are in districts that have had little progress in their construction program.

The projects included in the Capital Construction Plan are those that are recommended for construction. In order for the SCC to build all of the schools included in the plan, the construction budgets of each school must be met. While the SCC has developed a strict construction budget for each of the projects, unforeseen circumstances may cause the cost of a project to exceed its original estimated amount.

"With improved financial oversight and new internal controls underway, the SCC—to the extent possible—will take every step necessary to ensure that projects stay on budget and that every dollar is spent wisely," said Koeppel. "These controls, which were put in place as a result of the Inspector General's review, will allow us to maximize our remaining funds and get more value for the taxpayers' dollar."

[List](#) – Special Committee List of Projects Recommended for Completion