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New Brunswick's Paul Robeson Community Theme School for the Arts to get addition, undergo thorough renovation, during two-year construction

State-financed, \$47 million project to begin summer 2016

School to increase in size by 60,500 square feet

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ (November 23, 2015) – Through a partnership with the New Jersey Schools Development Authority, New Brunswick Public Schools is preparing for a \$47 million renovation and 60,500-square-foot addition project at Paul Robeson Community Theme School for the Arts. This project is scheduled to begin at the conclusion of the current school year, during the summer of 2016.

The renovation will involve all 59,400 square feet of the Robeson facility's current. Construction and renovations will be done by Farmingdale, NJ-based by Hall Construction Co. Inc. and are slated for completion in the summer of 2018, prior to the beginning of the 2018-19 school year.

"This project to thoroughly update and significantly expand the size of Robeson School represents a terrific opportunity both for our current and future students," says New Brunswick Superintendent of Schools Aubrey Johnson. "After two years of work – which is being financed by the state – we'll have what amounts to a completely new, state-of-the-art educational facility. It's the definition of a 'win-win' arrangement."

Located at 199 Commercial Avenue, Robeson School was built in 1981. When the two-year project is finished, the building will essentially be an entirely new facility. LEED-certified, the addition will feature a multi-purpose room, classrooms, and smaller instructional rooms. While the pre-K–5 school currently has a student body of 515, the project will increase total capacity to 823 students.

During construction, Robeson students will attend classes at Building 40, at 40 Van Dyke Avenue. Leased by the New Jersey Schools Development Authority from a private owner, the facility – known locally as the "Swing Space" – contains more than 40 classrooms, a full kitchen and cafeteria, gymnasiums, a media center, and all other required core spaces.

For the project's duration, the school district will provide students daily bus transportation to Building 40.

The New Jersey Schools Development Authority has previously delivered four other capital projects in New Brunswick – New Brunswick High School, Redshaw Elementary School, McKinley Community School, and Building 40.

About New Brunswick Public Schools

The New Brunswick, NJ public school district consists of two high schools (New Brunswick High School and Health Sciences Technology High School), a middle school (New Brunswick Middle School) and eight elementary schools (Lincoln, Livingston, Lord Stirling, McKinley, Redshaw, Roosevelt, Paul Robeson, and Woodrow Wilson schools). The New Brunswick Public School District offers a comprehensive educational program for students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve and serves more than 10,000 students.

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