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Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

## **PASSAIC PUBLIC SCHOOLS PREPARING FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE NEW SCHOOLS AT DAYTON AVENUE EDUCATION COMPLEX**

PASSAIC, NJ—Passaic Public Schools is preparing for the advancement of the Dayton Avenue Education Complex, one of the largest school projects undertaken by the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (NJSDA). At the June 6, 2017 Board of Education meeting the Passaic Board of Education voted to close the 33 Temporary Classroom Units (TCUs) that makeup Passaic School No. 17, effective July 1, 2017, in order to meet the demands of the construction schedule.

“This important investment in our schools is long overdue and will allow school officials to move school children from TCUs and overcrowded classrooms to improved learning spaces,” said Board President Salim Patel. “The new schools go a long way toward continuing the progress and ultimately reaffirming our commitment to teaching and learning.”

The Dayton Avenue Educational Complex will be comprised of four schools, and will support more than 2,700 students. NJSDA forecasts that it will advertise for a Design-Build contract in June. Passaic School Officials have been notified to prepare for site work that could begin as early as Spring 2018.

School No. 17 was built in 2001, after Beth Israel Hospital closed and the land was purchased by the State with plans to build a school. To relieve the significant district overcrowding, the NJSDA provided TCUs to house students, eventually expanding to 35 units containing classrooms, offices, and a multi-use space. After a re-districting effort in 2014, School No. 17 was partnered with Theodore Roosevelt School No. 10 to align services across grade levels.

Action was taken at the June 6, 2017 Board of Education meeting to adjust the attendance zones near and around School 17. Pre-K through Grade 1 students currently attending School 17 will be advised of their new school assignments by the end of the school year. In addition, the district is working closely with the NJSDA to identify additional temporary classrooms at locations throughout the district to accommodate necessary programming shifts.

“While new school construction will require some of our students to be assigned to new schools next year, school officials will be communicating all school reassignments to parents before the end of this school year. We want to make any changes as easy for parents as possible,” added Superintendent Pablo Muñoz.

The Passaic Public Schools is sincerely grateful to the NJSDA for their commitment to reducing the severe overcrowding experienced throughout the city’s schools. To date, the SDA has invested \$194 million toward completed projects in Passaic. In 2015, the NJSDA completed the Passaic Gifted and Talented Academy, School No. 20. In May 2017, the NJSDA, along with local leaders, participated in a Beam-Signing Ceremony to highlight the construction progress for the Leonard Place School.

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