

# *the* Buffalo Public Schools *program*

## Annual Progress and Status Report

Submitted by the  
**Joint Schools Construction Board**

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## SECTION I

### THE PROGRAM

#### *A Vehicle Of Change For The Buffalo Community*

The Buffalo Public Schools Program (Program) is the most comprehensive District-wide school reconstruction effort in the history of the City of Buffalo. The Program, involving more than 60 education related facilities and nearly \$1 billion in capital improvements, will have a significant impact on the Buffalo community at large, far beyond the construction efforts, and is designed as a vehicle for change for the City of Buffalo.

The Joint Schools Construction Board (JSCB), comprised of representatives from the City of Buffalo and the Buffalo Board of Education contracted with LPCiminelli and its team of nationally recognized firms (Program Team) to fulfill ***The Promise*** of designing and constructing centers of excellence and opening doors for future generations to thrive in stimulating, state-of-the-art learning environments. Together, they will be implementing the District's largest capital improvement project since the 1920s.

This innovative Program utilizes a unique design-finance-build delivery approach to achieve standardization of design and community planning. During its first phase, the Program Team worked collaboratively and in conjunction with the community to develop a Strategic Plan that would redesign the school system to efficiently and effectively serve both current and projected enrollments.

The corresponding planning process involved intricate communication and coordination among all the stakeholders, including educators, administrators, faculty, staff, students, and the community. With its approval on January 28, 2004, a finite set of core school models were established and are being incorporated into the existing facilities, thereby maximizing program space and minimizing future investment in capital construction.

In addition to the extensive construction aspect of the Program, the JSCB identified the need and importance of maximizing the economic development potential for the City of Buffalo. To this end, it is the intent of the Program to create and sustain a new diverse workforce, and implement innovative financing techniques that will provide sources of revenue for the City's local share of the Program's costs.

To accomplish these tasks, the JSCB established a number of precedent-setting initiatives involving the establishment of mandatory levels of minority and women-owned business participation, a diversity workforce inclusion agreement, an OSHA partnering agreement, and the sponsorship of the Buffalo Building Trades Development Partnership (BBTDP). The BBTDP is being utilized as a training and feeder program for the local construction industry to help supply the necessary diverse workforce for the Program in order to meet its objectives, and to eventually benefit the workers of all ethnic backgrounds and their families throughout the City of Buffalo.

The subsequent sections of this document provide insight into the status of the Program's first phase, as well as the scope of work for its next phase.

## **FINANCING**

### ***The Catalyst to Maintain Momentum***

The Program's financial model for Phase I and Phase II features the creation of an entirely new method of financing school construction projects in the State of New York. Pursuant to special State legislation, the Program will continue to benefit from tax-exempt financing for the ten-year, \$1 billion public/private partnership program.

The Series 2003 Bonds and the Series 2004 Bonds (the "Bonds") financed Phase I and Phase II of the Program, respectively. The credit structure for the Bonds is based on annual appropriations of State aid to education, which provides a secure flow of funds that will not be affected by Buffalo's current fiscal challenges and credit issues.

The financing team crafted a mechanism by which all State aid to education due to the City from the State Comptroller flows first into a trust account. Funds in the trust account are then withheld to pay debt service on the Bonds on a pro-rata basis determined by the expected flow of State aid receipts, with the remainder flowing to the City's General Fund. In the event that the withheld funds as of one month before the debt service payment date are insufficient to pay debt service, a statutory intercept is in place, whereby all State aid to education thereafter is withheld to meet the upcoming debt service payment.

Unlike other similar intercepts or diversions of State aid currently in place in the State of New York, this is a pre-default intercept, meaning that the bonds need not go into default before the intercept occurs, an innovation that allowed both Moody's and Standard and Poor's to rate the Series 2003 and Series 2004 Bonds near the State of New York's general obligation credit ratings and significantly higher than the City's credit ratings (A2 / A+, respectively). This unique credit structure allows Buffalo to harness the entire flow of State education aid to leverage debt for the Program, without pledging property taxes or other City resources increasingly needed to help the City regain fiscal stability.

While the credit of the financing structure is significantly stronger than the City's own credit, unlike most other school construction projects, the cost of the financing will not be borne by the City. The State will provide education aid for approximately 94 percent of the annual debt service on the Bonds. In all of the City's previous school District financings, the City was responsible for its "local share." However, on the Bonds, the City's "local share" will be fully provided for by financing innovations developed by the LPCiminelli Team, including the use of innovative investment products, the structuring of debt service to specifically match the flow of State-aid, and financial contributions from partners on the Team. As such, the cost of the financing will not be borne by the taxpayers of the City of Buffalo.

The Series 2003 Bonds were issued on September 16, 2003, and the Series 2004 Bonds were issued on December 22, 2004.

## SECTION II

### PHASE I SUMMARY

#### *Establishing a Firm Foundation*

On September 8, 2004 more than 1,800 students began occupying newly renovated District schools. The students, along with Mayor Masiello, District Administration, community leaders, and stakeholders entered the newly refurbished facilities and witnessed the beginning of the reformation of our City's educational infrastructure.

Highlights of this renovation process include classrooms and media centers that feature new computer stations, science labs, libraries, home and career classrooms, as well as restored existing auditoriums and rows of new locker lined hallways. In addition, new energy efficient heating systems replaced outdated boilers, and new electrical and mechanical systems were installed. Further, all schools received new fire, security, and temperature control systems to improve their operations and economics.

Of noteworthy importance is the fact that all Phase I schools have been renovated and delivered on time and in budget. The final school to be delivered as part of this phase of the Program is on schedule to be turned over on May 1, 2005.

#### CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT INITIATIVES

##### *Planting a Seed to Nurture Growth*

In keeping with *The Promise* of building and developing Centers of Excellence in every corner of our community, the JSCB created numerous opportunities for students to experience first hand the construction industry through an extensive set of Curriculum Enrichment Initiatives. The associated programs are designed to capture the interest of students in the construction professions trades as early as the elementary grades. It is the vision of the JSCB, through these hands-on efforts, that students will be able to pursue education in the areas of architecture, construction, engineering, accounting, sales, program management, and other related career opportunities.

There are eight programs that encompass this undertaking, including: a Job Shadowing Program; Intern Program; ACE Mentoring Program; BEAM; Upward Bound; SUNY at Buffalo Partnership; On-site Enrichment; and Build Up for students to participate in to begin their exploration into the world of construction. It should be noted that these programs are made available largely through the support of mentors that are provided by LPCiminelli and the many design firms and contractors who are currently working on the Program.

#### MINORITY AND WOMEN WORKFORCE AND CONTRACTOR DIVERSITY

##### *Creating Business and Economic Opportunities*

It is the JSCB's policy and overriding priority to provide minorities and women equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of the Program. This includes, but is not limited to, participation in procurement contracts for materials, supplies and equipment, and contracts for the construction, renovation or repair of school facilities and equipment. To this end, the

Program Team structured its contracting plan to target small businesses and minority and women-owned firms.

Large and small contracts have been created as opportunities for these businesses to compete with the larger, established firms. Through this plan, smaller firms have been able to successfully partake and contribute to the reconstruction of Buffalo's public schools. As a result, the Program has been able to widen the opportunities for minorities and women participation, increase competition, and reduce costs.

To ensure the success of this goal, the JSCB adopted standards for the Program to ensure equal opportunity and non-discriminatory activity. Correspondingly, the JSCB established Program levels for MWBE participation of 25 percent and 5 percent, respectively, as well as workforce goals of 23 percent and 7 percent, for minorities and women, respectively.

Subsequently, the JSCB contracted with Bevlar and Associates, Inc., a minority firm, as its compliance and monitoring agent, to independently oversee and audit the Program's participation of minority and women workforce and contractor diversity on a monthly basis. Bevlar's activities include reviewing required documentation from contractors who declare they will ensure non-discrimination in construction work, and most importantly, that all contractors are meeting the minority and woman workforce participation goals.

According to Bevlar's most recent report presented to the JSCB on January 3, 2005, the cumulative totals of more than 125 Phase I contractors through November 2004 indicate awards of 27.11 percent of current contracts to minority contractors and 10.35 percent to women-owned businesses. We are quite pleased to report that we have not only met the Program MWBE goals, but also exceeded them by more than doubling the number of contracts awarded to women-owned businesses.

Currently, the minority workforce participation is 22.21 percent, while the female workforce participation is 7.09 percent. We are quite confident these numbers, especially the minority workforce, will improve by the end of the Program's first phase.

With construction well underway, many newer, smaller, and less experienced contracting firms are now realizing an opportunity to participate on major commercial projects. It is the JSCB's objective that the larger construction, supplier, or professional service firms establish a partnering/mentoring program with willing minority and women-owned firms in order to help with their maturity, development, and growth.

To this end, LPCiminelli provides mentoring services to firms in need of assistance, including advisors, facilitators, advocates and more, that work together to enhance the viability of these smaller contractors as they work through the early growing pains on their road to future success and stability.

Through these initiatives, the JSCB is well on the way of creating a unique and encouraging business environment for the promotion and development of minority and women workforce and businesses in our community.

## **SECTION II - PROJECT UPDATES**

### **P.S. #19 – Native American Magnet**

The Native American Magnet school serves the educational needs of more than 550 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students.

The scope of work for this school, which maintains its Native American cultural heritage theme, included the construction of a new cafeteria addition that was built within the existing courtyard and utilizes a roof that is a full translucent skylight system. Additionally, a new elevator was built within the existing structure, a new playground structure was erected in the courtyard, and new aluminum windows installed throughout the facility.

#### ***Milestone Dates:***

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Construction Start</i></b>            | <b><i>Nov. 12, 2003</i></b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Finish Auditorium Renovations</i></b> | <b><i>Oct. 27, 2004</i></b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Finish Cafeteria Addition</i></b>     | <b><i>Oct. 27, 2004</i></b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Finish Basement Renovations</i></b>   | <b><i>Nov. 29, 2004</i></b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Finished construction</i></b>         | <b><i>Dec. 1, 2004</i></b>  |

## **SECTION II - PROJECT UPDATES**

### **School #31 – Stanton Academy**

Stanton Academy serves the educational needs of more than 650 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students.

In addition to the previously noted standard renovations, this school was chosen to participate in the United States Green Building Council in energy and environmental design (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, LEED). It should be noted that the Stanton Academy is the only existing school in the country to be eligible for LEED certification. The installation of a “white roof” for energy conservation purposes, is one of the many unique design features of this facility.

#### ***Milestone Dates***

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Construction Start</i>             | <i>Oct. 22, 2003</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Auditorium Renovations</i>         | <i>July 28, 2004</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Phase 1, 2, and 3</i>       | <i>Sept. 3, 2004</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Phase 4 (except ground)</i> | <i>Nov. 26, 2004</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Ground Floor</i>            | <i>Dec. 31, 2004</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish construction</i>            | <i>Dec 31, 2004</i>  |

## **SECTION II - PROJECT UPDATES**

### **P.S. #38 – Frank A. Sedita Academy**

The Frank A. Sedita Academy serves the educational needs of approximately 650 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students.

In addition to the previously noted standard renovations, work at this school included the conversion of existing under utilized rooms into a computer room, an art room, and created space between each classroom for additional shared computer stations.

#### ***Milestone Dates***

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Construction Start</i>  | <i>Oct. 22, 2003</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Phase I</i>      | <i>July 30, 2004</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Phase III</i>    | <i>Sept. 3, 2004</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Phase IV</i>     | <i>Sept. 3, 2004</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Phase II</i>     | <i>Oct. 29, 2004</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Construction</i> | <i>Dec. 30, 2004</i> |

## **SECTION II - PROJECT UPDATES**

### **P.S. #66 – North Park Academy**

The North Park Academy serves the educational needs of more than 540 middle school students.

In addition to the aforementioned standard renovations, the work at this school included a new elevator addition, the complete refurbishment of the gymnasium, and the installation of new building systems.

#### ***Milestone Dates***

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Construction Start</i>            | <i>Oct. 13, 2003</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Auditorium Renovation</i>         | <i>June 18, 2004</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Classroom Construction</i> | <i>Aug. 20, 2004</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finished Construction</i>         | <i>Aug. 31, 2004</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Elevator Installation</i>  | <i>Sept. 10, 2004</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Site Work</i>              | <i>Oct. 29, 2004</i>  |

## **SECTION II - PROJECT UPDATES**

### **P.S. #67 – Discovery School**

The Discovery School serves the educational needs of more than 300 kindergarten through eighth grade students.

In addition to the aforementioned standard renovations, the project included the installation of a translucent fabric roof over the existing open courtyard, transforming unused spaces into a study hall, a tech lab, a mechanical drawing CAD room, a library, and a cafeteria. A visible working elevator, curved corridor ceilings, concrete covered columns, and exposed infrastructure on classroom ceilings complete the “Discovery School” concept.

#### *Milestone Dates*

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Construction Start</i>        | <i>Oct. 16, 2003</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Site Work</i>          | <i>Oct. 29, 2004</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Courtyard Addition</i> | <i>Dec 10, 2004</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Construction</i>       | <i>Dec. 31, 2004</i> |

## **SECTION II - PROJECT UPDATES**

### **P.S. #74 – Hamlin Park**

Hamlin Park serves the educational needs of almost 400 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students.

The project's first phase renovations included the construction of a new 35,000 square foot, three-story addition that provides additional classroom space, a new library, a technology room, and a computer lab. During the next phase of this project, the main facility will not only undergo the aforementioned standard renovations, but will also have the existing library converted into a science room and a home and careers classroom.

Work at this school began in February 2004, several months later than the other Phase I projects, and is on schedule to be completed by May 2005. Students have moved into the new addition area, and work is underway on the main facility.

#### ***Milestone Dates***

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Construction Start</i></b>  | <b><i>Feb. 16, 2004</i></b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Finish Addition</i></b>     | <b><i>Dec. 31, 2004</i></b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Finish Phase I</i></b>      | <b><i>Dec. 24, 2004</i></b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Finish Phase II</i></b>     | <b><i>May 01, 2004</i></b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Finish Phase III</i></b>    | <b><i>May 01, 2005</i></b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Finish Construction</i></b> | <b><i>May 01, 2005</i></b>  |

## **SECTION II - PROJECT UPDATES**

### **P.S. #80 – Highgate Heights Elementary**

This school serves the educational needs of more than 600 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students.

In addition to the previously noted standard renovations, this project included the installation of a rubber playground for school and community use, construction of a new 4,500 sq. ft. cafeteria addition above the existing gym, and a new 2,500 sq ft. classroom addition above the existing auditorium.

#### ***Milestone Dates***

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Construction Start:</i></b>     | <b><i>Oct. 6, 2003</i></b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Complete East Addition:</i></b> | <b><i>Jan. 1, 2005</i></b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Complete West Addition:</i></b> | <b><i>Jan. 21, 2005</i></b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b><i>Finish Construction:</i></b>    | <b><i>Jan. 31, 2005</i></b> |

## **SECTION II - PROJECT UPDATES**

### **P.S. #302 – Emerson Middle School**

Emerson Middle School serves the educational needs of approximately 400 middle school students.

In addition to the previously noted standard renovations, the project provided the following enhancements: refinishing of the gymnasium, including replacement of the court and installation of new wall pads; new lighting fixtures; and an exterior metal panel system for weatherproofing. A skylight system was also installed in various locations throughout the building to allow for the natural flow of daylight. Finally, removable seating was provided in the auditorium to allow for the space to serve multiple purposes.

#### *Milestone Dates*

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Construction Start</i>   | <i>Oct. 27, 2003</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Site Work Complete</i>   | <i>Nov. 19, 2004</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Gymnasium Completion</i> | <i>Dec. 17, 2004</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Construction</i>  | <i>Dec. 31, 2004</i> |

## SECTION II - PROJECT UPDATES

### **P.S. #307 New Comprehensive East High School**

East High School has become the home of the City of Buffalo's first Bioinformatics Sciences Program, with a potential occupancy of 750 students.

In addition to the previously noted standard renovations, the school has been redesigned to include interactive science lab centers, technology rooms, and a CAD Room Center. There is also an infill two-story courtyard addition that allows for expansion of the cafeteria and the study hall.

#### *Milestone Dates*

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Construction Start</i>             | <i>Sept. 29, 2003</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Complete Light Court Addition:</i> | <i>Nov. 12, 2004</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Interior Renovations:</i>   | <i>Nov. 26, 2004</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Elevator Installation:</i>  | <i>Dec. 30, 2004</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finish Construction:</i>           | <i>Dec. 30, 2004</i>  |

## **SECTION II - PROJECT UPDATES**

### **District-Wide Telecommunications Reconstruction Project**

The District -Wide Telecommunications Reconstruction Project, providing telephone head-end equipment and telephones within the District, is substantially complete. The infrastructure for this equipment was installed as part of the Buffalo Public Schools E-Rate Year 4 Project. Additionally, this project consists of furnishing and installing a new district wide telephone system, phone switches and telephones in 88 schools and other school district support buildings. Also included are classroom computer data cabling and the infrastructure support to tie-in to the newly installed district wide computer network in 12 additional schools.

## **SECTION II - PROJECT UPDATES**

### **Performance Contract**

The Performance Contract was developed to save the Buffalo School district valuable financial resources by adding more efficient and precise delivery of maintenance systems. Some of the improvements that will be added to the 23 schools are:

- lighting upgrades;
- temperature control systems;
- energy efficient motors;
- new steam traps;
- automatic pool covers;
- building envelope improvements.

These energy and maintenance improvements will enhance the learning and teaching atmosphere of the 23 different schools as well as improve system performance. Lighting upgrades will replace old lighting systems with newer more cost effective systems that brighten hallways and classrooms. Temperature control systems will more precisely regulate the temperature in the classroom and administrative office areas. Automatic pool covers will trap and prevent excessive moisture from causing mildew damage and overworking the climate control systems. Building envelope improvements will properly seal the building from exterior elements and prevent the occurrences of drafts in the hallways.

## SECTION III

### PHASE II OVERVIEW

#### *Building upon a Firm Foundation*

We are proud to state that through the Program Team's diligent effort over much of 2004, Phase II of the Program has been approved for commencement this month. This phase of the Program encompasses the reconstruction of 13 schools, All-High Stadium, and two District-wide projects.

Work at the schools includes reconstruction and additions to existing buildings in order to update/replace building systems and finishes, as well as provide a building plan that fully accommodates the use of the facilities consistent with the Strategic Plan. The reconfiguration of classrooms, large instructional spaces, administrative spaces, new finishes to floors, walls and ceilings, existing window refurbishment or replacement, elevators, building entries, and new and refurbished mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems all have an important role in the reformation of the facilities included in this phase of the Program.

The two District-wide projects included in this phase of the Program address the areas of technology and energy that will improve the operations and fiscal stability of each school.

Following is a brief description of the scope of work associated with each of the Phase II projects:

#### **P.S. #6 - Buffalo Elementary School of Technology**

This project includes the demolition of a temporary classroom structure and a complete interior renovation of the school. A comprehensive upgrade of the lighting and space conditioning systems will be undertaken at the building. The school will continue to accommodate pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade instructions.

#### **P.S. #33 - Bilingual Center**

This school is to receive new building additions, which will greatly increase the amount of available program space. In an addition planned for the building's north side, the design currently includes a new gymnasium and several new classrooms and other academic spaces. The center will remain a pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade facility.

#### **P.S. #37 - Futures Academy**

The scope of this project includes major revitalization of the building's interior, and improvements to its health facility. A children's courtyard is planned on the east side of the property, along with several other exterior improvements. The District plans to maintain a pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade configuration at this school.

### **P.S. #39 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Multicultural Institute**

A large building addition is planned to provide additional classroom and cafeteria space. The school is also slated for a major renovation of its interior spaces in addition to the new classroom wing. By adding new space to the building's south side, an outdoor courtyard will be created at the center of the facility, thereby allowing the District to re-plan the building so that grade levels are much more logically arranged. This school will remain a pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade facility.

### **P.S. #69 - Houghton Academy**

This school is in need of significant additional space to house its current programs. Prospective improvements at this school include a substantial renovation of the building's interior, and upgrades to its lighting, space conditioning and technology systems. The academy will change its grade configuration from a middle school to pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **P.S. #82 - Early Childhood Center**

New finishes in most areas of the building are planned, as well as new systems for lighting, space conditioning, and technology. Restrooms will be added at many locations, and a series of changes will be made to the floor plan to improve the organization of the school, including new exterior windows throughout the building. This center will change its grade configuration from pre-kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to pre-kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **P.S. #90 - Drew Science Early Childhood Center**

Additions are currently planned, and designs are developed for more strategic use of the building's courtyard for hands-on learning experiences. Upgrades are planned for the majority of all interior spaces, and exterior improvements including full replacement of the school's windows and other work to the building envelope. This school will serve pre-kindergarten through grade 2 levels.

### **P.S. #91 - BUILD Academy**

Improvements to the school include upgrades to the building's lighting, equipment and technology, as well as a reconfiguration of the existing interior spaces to better meet the school's current needs. Other improvements include new windows and work at the building's exterior to improve weather-tightness. The BUILD Academy will continue as a pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade facility.

### **P.S. #94 - West Hertel Academy**

Comprehensive upgrades to the building's interior, including improvements to lighting, space conditioning, and technology systems are planned for this facility. In addition, the Main Office will be relocated, and new windows and other exterior improvements will be made to improve the building's energy efficiency. Changes to the courtyard drainage are also scheduled to make this secure space more usable. The grade configuration at the Academy will shift from a middle school to pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **P.S. #95 - Waterfront Elementary**

The project scope includes the renovation of the existing building in order to update/replace building systems and finishes, the construction of a two-story, 21,000 square foot classroom addition, and the construction of a new, 1,500 square foot, front entry. The renovated school floor plan accommodates the increased school enrollment and conversion from an open-plan classroom concept to a traditional floor plan. The District intends to continue serving pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade at this facility.

### **P.S. #192 - Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts**

A comprehensive renovation is planned to convert Buffalo Traditional School into Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts. The District's Traditional Program will be relocated to renovated space now being constructed in Phase I. This will clear the way for a comprehensive renovation of the building's interior to make it ready to properly support the District's Arts Programs. Large additions are planned to provide new space for both visual and performing arts programs. The new arts programs will serve grades 5 through 12.

### **P.S. #200 - Bennett High School**

A substantial renovation of the existing school building and two large classroom additions are planned. Also being considered is the rehabilitation of the stadium at the rear of the school. These improvements will bring an additional 30,000 square feet of new space to the building, an important step in creating an environment that is responsive to today's standards for academic spaces and technology. The building's additions are being carefully designed to complement the historic architecture of the existing building. Bennett will continue serving grades 9 through 12.

### **P.S. #304 - Hutchinson Central Technical High School**

Plans for this school include a technology upgrade, complete interior renovations and some exterior improvements. The renovations will provide an opportunity to re-plan the building layout so the educational departments can be more cohesively grouped. Hutch Tech will continue serving grades 9 through 12, with a primary focus on technologies.

### **District-wide Technology Project**

The scope of this project includes a video distribution system that will be designed to bring high-speed video content to students and teachers via a monitor in each classroom. All associated services will be supported by a high capacity Digital Video Storage Server and an updated electrical power infrastructure. The system will be installed in 56 Buffalo public schools.

### **District-wide Energy Performance Project**

The scope of work for this project includes numerous energy conservation improvements, such as lighting retrofits, boiler burner replacements, automatic pool covers, facility management systems, and steam trap replacements. This project will have a positive impact on 34 schools throughout the City of Buffalo.

## SECTION IV

### SUMMARY

#### *A Great Beginning*

The Buffalo Public Schools Program has been an exemplary model of how municipal cooperation works to help meet the needs of our City's schools. Federal, state, county and city governments have built strong partnerships to enhance educational opportunities for our children in the City of Buffalo and its surrounding regions, as reflected in the State Comptrollers independent audit that issued an "A" for the JSCB's management and financing of this monumental Program.

During this past year, the JSCB has successfully completed the renovation of eight of the nine schools included in the first phase of the Program, as well as a District-Wide Technology Project and Energy Performance Contract, together providing a plethora of new programming and enhanced classroom-teaching experiences for our students. The last of first phase schools, which did not commence construction until February 16, 2004, is on schedule for completion on May 1, 2005.

Additionally, the JSCB along with its independent monitoring consultant have worked diligently to realize the Program's goals for increased workforce and business development. The current, and most aggressive policy on women and minority participation the City of Buffalo has ever put in place for a public project, are designed to put work in the hands of people who reflect the demographic make-up of our City.

With the recent approval of Phase II, it is evident that with the State's continued support of the Buffalo Public Schools Program, we will not only achieve the parity desired in education throughout the City, but also as importantly, provide a true *Vehicle for Change for the Buffalo Community*.