



1 of 1 DOCUMENT

Copyright 2011 ALM Media Properties, LLC
All Rights Reserved
Further duplication without permission is prohibited

New Jersey Law Journal

New Jersey Law Journal (Online)

January 14, 2011 Friday

LENGTH: 911 words

HEADLINE: Suits & Deals;

\$4.6M for Construction Delays

Ernest Bock & Sons v. Princeton Regional Board of Education: A school board will pay a general contractor \$4.6 million for construction delays under an agreement finalized Jan. 3.

Ernest Bock & Sons of Philadelphia and the Princeton Regional Board of Education signed a \$32.8 million contract on Oct. 2, 2003, for renovations and additions to the local high school that were supposed to be completed by Oct. 31, 2005.

They were not done until September 2007 and Bock alleged the two-year delay was caused by defects in plans drawn up by architect Hillier Architecture of Princeton and added more than \$10.8 million to the project cost, including extra amounts for labor and materials.

The school board paid Bock \$3 million shortly after it passed a resolution approving the deal on Dec. 14, says the contractor's lawyer, **John Palladino**, of **Hankin Sandman & Palladino** in Atlantic City. The rest will be paid in five installments of \$320,000 over five years, starting next January.

Palladino says the settlement also entitles Bock to 12 percent of anything over \$2 million the board may recover in an anticipated suit against Hillier, now part of RMJM, an international company with a U.S. base in New York.

Bock's claim was resolved through mediation with **John Gelson** of **McLaughlin Gelson D'Apolito Stauffer Shaklee & Curtis** in Wall.

The board's attorney, **Dana Ostrovsky** of **Parker McCay** in Marlton, confirms the settlement.

-- By **Mary Pat Gallagher**