

EARLY LEARNING CENTER + ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Phoenixville Area School District, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

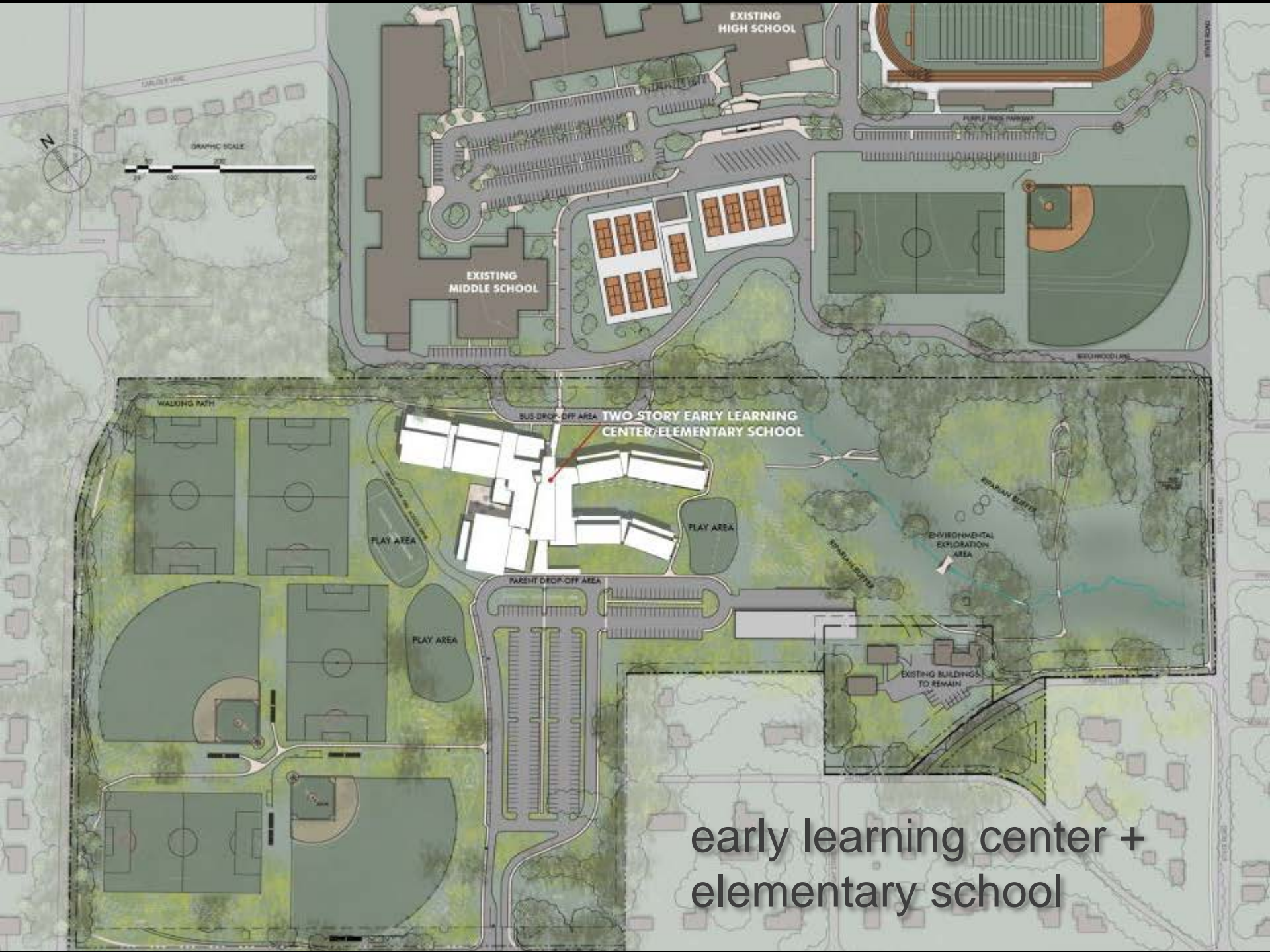


2014 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

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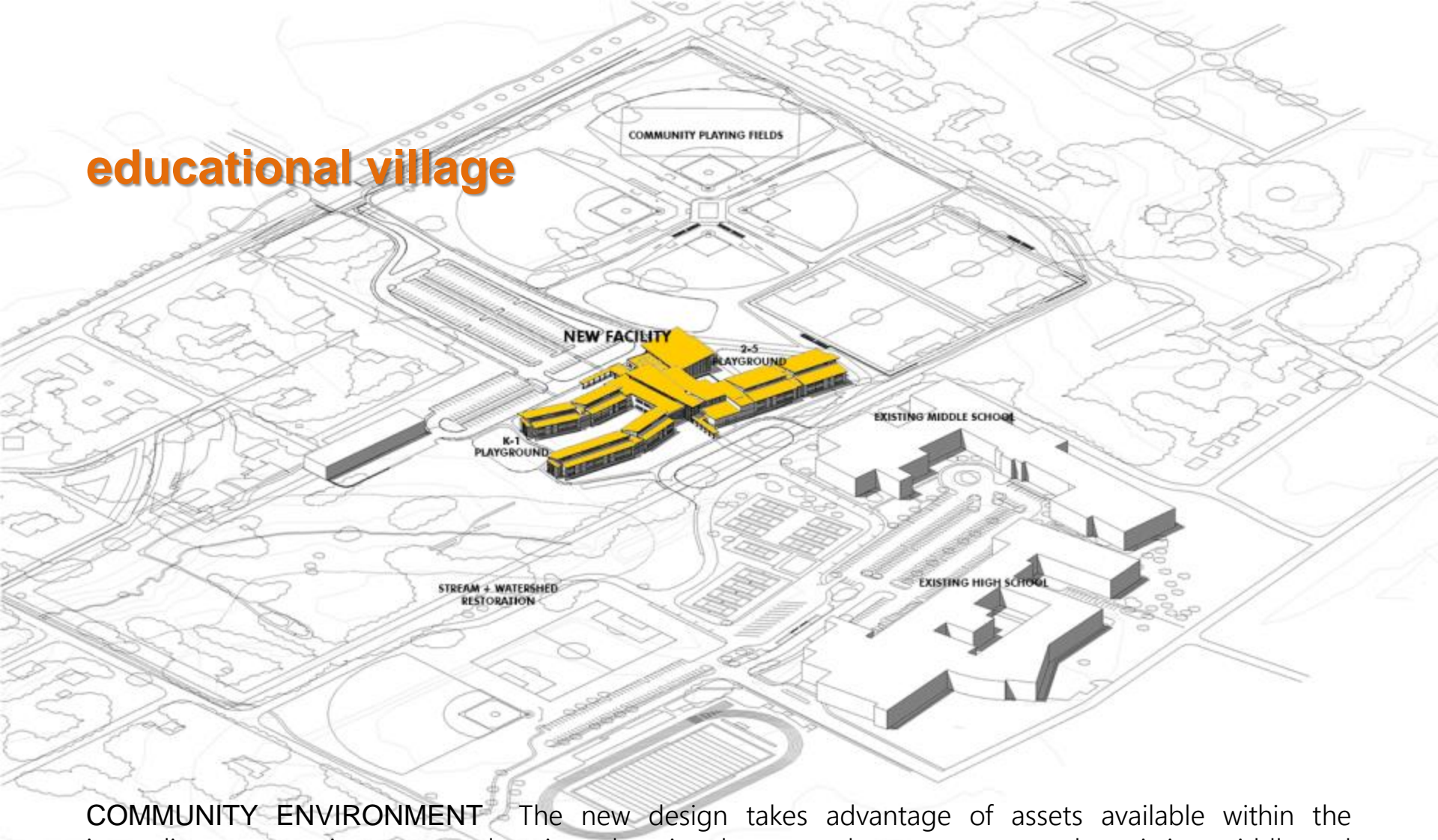
Phoenixville Area School District, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania





early learning center +
elementary school

educational village



COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT The new design takes advantage of assets available within the immediate community: a comprehensive educational campus that encompasses the existing middle and high schools. The “educational village” concept promotes connectivity between the Early Learning and Elementary School students and the rest of their educational community. The concept additionally allows for the facilities within the educational village to share resources such as roadways/bus loops, walkways, playing fields, parking, and playing fields, as well as interior community-centric elements such as learning resource centers, gymnasiums and auditoriums.



COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

The learning resource center is available through the county library system for evening and weekend use. Flexible meeting spaces are available for use by the local community, and the building can be secured for nighttime and weekend use. Playing fields, playgrounds, and the gymnasium additionally are accessible for community use.

Because food and nutrition will become a major focus of the educational program, the school plans to partner with local farmers to source fresh produce that will be supplemented by the students' own garden boxes located on site.

instructional forum

media + technology core

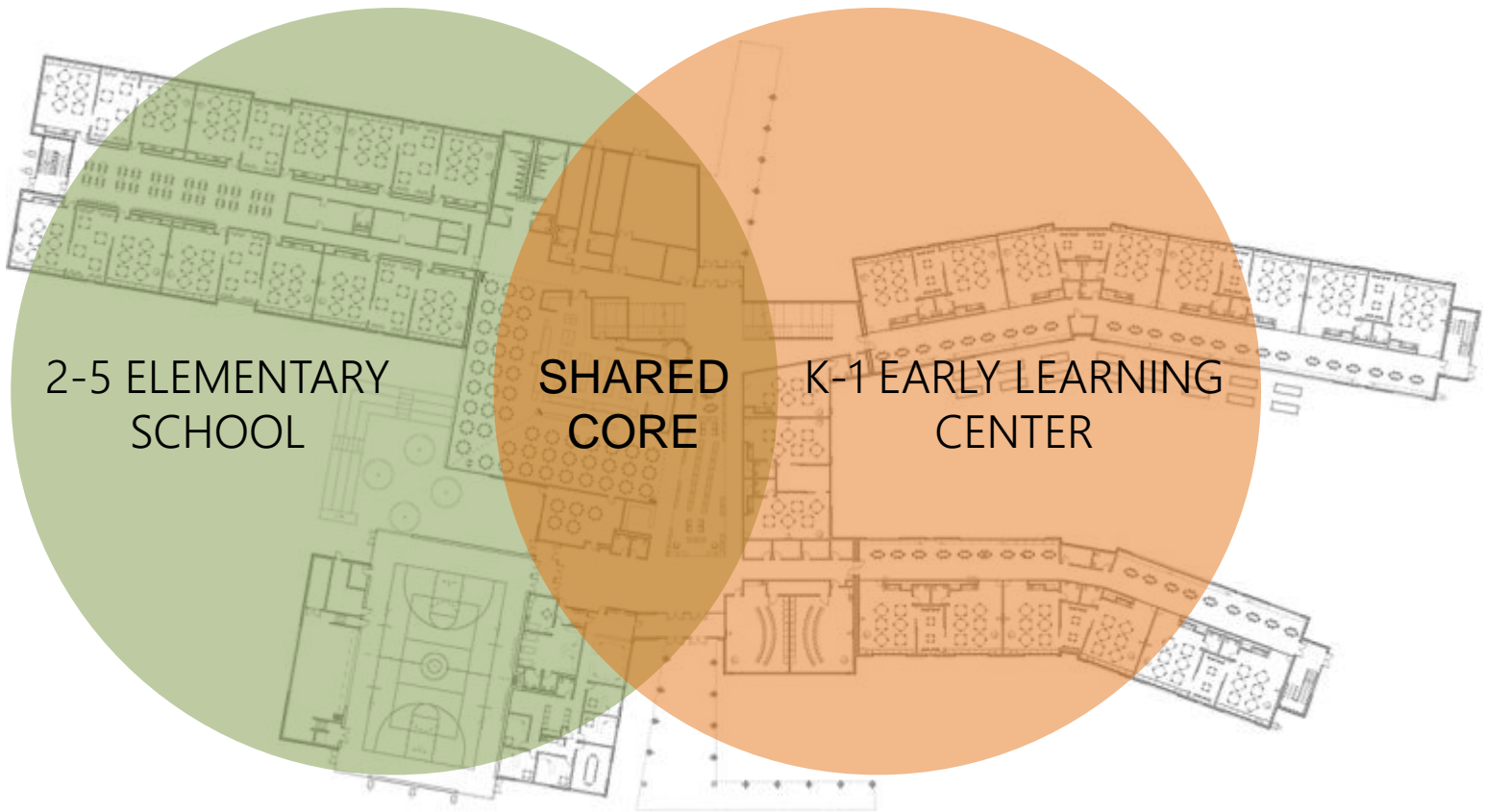


LEARNING ENVIRONMENT The District's philosophy is to provide customized and personalized education to every student. They decided early in the visioning process that a primary goal for the facility would be to create a focus on literacy and learning in a non-standard learning environment. In response, the design places the media and technology center at the core of the facility with all other functions radiating from it. The ground floor learning resource center serves grades K-1 while the second floor serves grades 2-5. Both levels of the media and technology center are connected vertically by the Great Learning Stairs and the Learning Tree (refer to Slide 7: Shared Media Resource)

A secondary focus of the educational program will be food and nutrition. This initiative is supported by the inclusion of courtyard garden spaces that allow for students to grow their own food and to utilize the facility prep spaces to prepare the food themselves (farm to table learning).

shared media resource





LEARNING ENVIRONMENT The school is designed to support two specific grade-grouping structures in a “school within a school” format: K-1 in an Early Learning Center, and 2-5 as an Elementary School. The building design accommodates both by creating an environment in which every space in the facility is essentially a learning space. Learning studios, small group instruction areas and large group instruction areas provide spaces for individual, small-, medium- and large-group learning. Spaces traditionally used as corridors or hallways are designed to function as additional learning spaces, and even stairs are intended to be used as learning steps and to provide a dynamic instruction area. Learning spaces are divided with folding glass partitions that promote transparency as well as flexibility.



**non-traditional
instructional spaces**



residential scale facades

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT The design of the facility minimizes disruption to the existing site and retains much of the existing grading. The new facility is sited away from the adjacent road to allow for green space between the building and the roadway. The design maintains old growth trees on site where possible and the facility will use the nearby creek and watershed for hands-on learning within the riparian buffer.

Striving for a smaller scale that is more residential than institutional, the exterior design incorporates elements suggestive of the latter, which include use of stone on the façade in combination with cementitious siding, and pitched roofs.

multi-scale learning environment



The Design Committee of teachers, administrators, and design professionals modeled the learning environment portion of the layout after the Springfield Literacy Center, designed by Burt Hill a Stantec Company. Every two instructional spaces share a break out space used for specialist push-in instruction, group work, and collaboration.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT Users of the facility will not enter into a lobby, but will instead immediately find themselves in the media and technology center, also thought of as the building's "living room." The learning resource center works as the heart of the facility with all other functions radiating from it, and its centralized position reinforces the Vision and Goal of the focus on literacy.

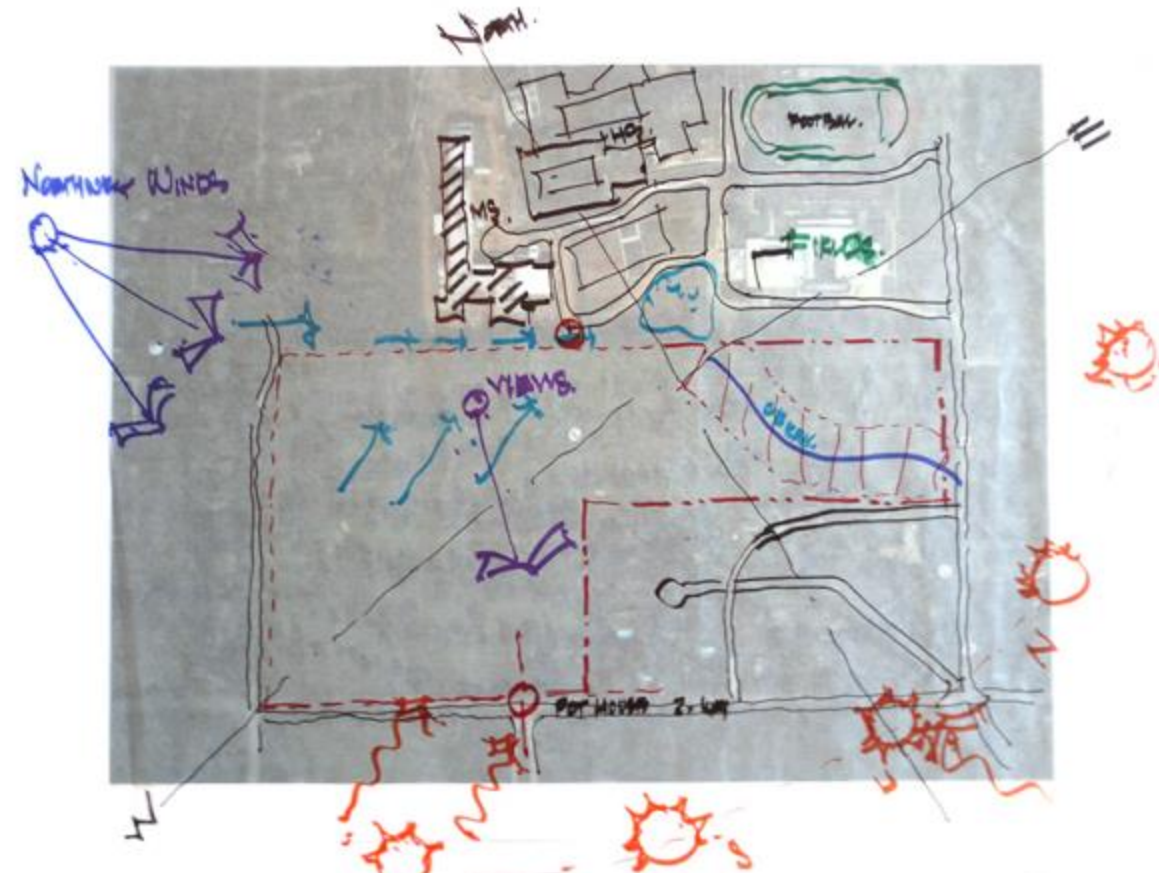
The design includes a combination of learning spaces allowing for individual, small, medium and large group instruction in a highly-flexible, open structure that supports another Vision and Goal of creating a non-standard learning environment.

Although utilizing sustainable methods and materials, the District is electing not to seek LEED certification for the building, but is opting to follow LEED guidelines

The image shows a bright, modern interior space designed for learning. The room features a grid ceiling with recessed lighting and long, horizontal light fixtures. The walls are a mix of blue and light grey. In the foreground and middle ground, there are several round, light-colored wooden tables, each surrounded by matching wooden chairs with metal legs. In the background, there is a kitchen-like area with wooden cabinets, a sink, and a countertop. Large windows in the background provide natural light. The floor is covered in a light-colored, patterned carpet. The overall atmosphere is clean, bright, and functional.

multi-scale learning
environment

tours and workshops

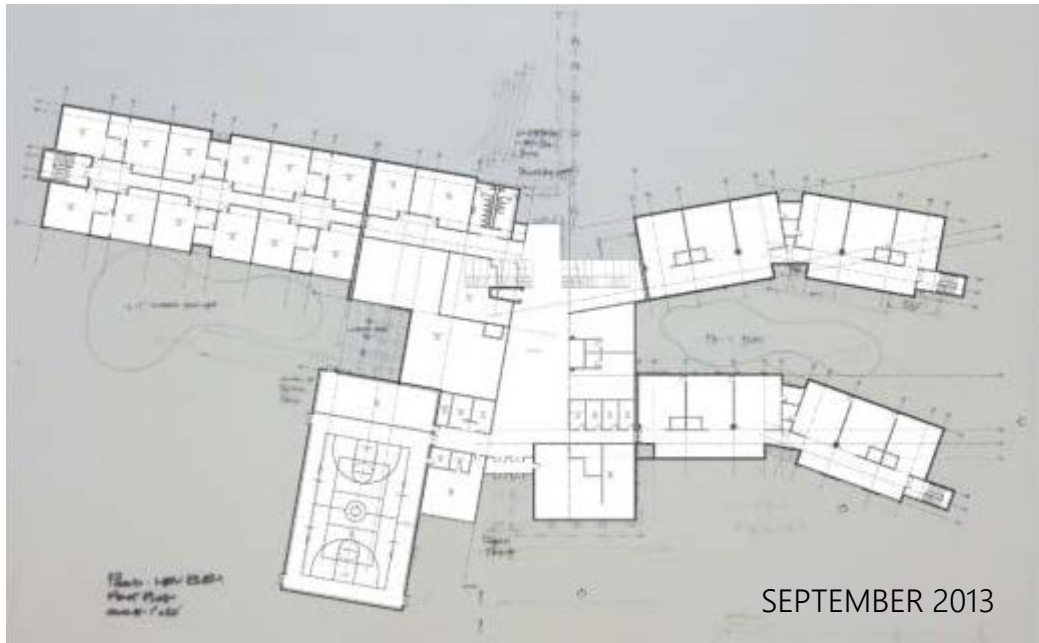
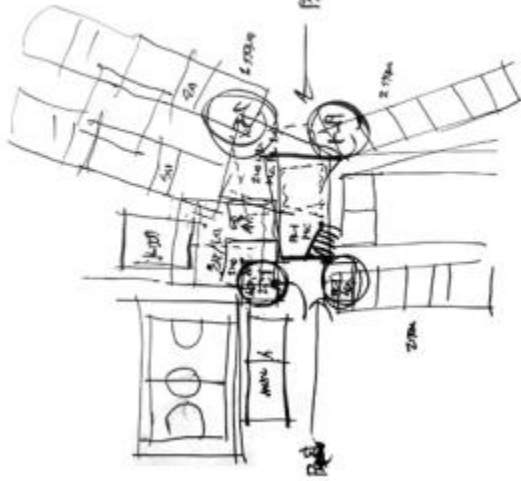


PLANNING PROCESS The Design Team and the School District conducted a series of monthly half-day planning workshops and design sessions involving a Design Committee that included: administrators from all elementary schools in the District, teachers, reading specialists, food facility consultants, and District administration. The process began with the Committee examining two progressive educational facilities and using what they learned as a springboard for the visioning process for their own facility. Planning was largely driven by deciding how the District wished to educate and then determining a facility design that best responds to the desired educational program and site. The group then met on multiple occasions with local community-based sports organizations to develop the playing field configurations. Meetings were held with municipal and county library systems to determine how best to utilize the learning resource center as an evening and weekend community-based resource.

our job is not to convince people of a solution, rather to
REACH CONSENSUS ON A SHARED VISION
developed with and through interaction with
the client and community



AUGUST 2013 : The result of the Community Design Workshop



SEPTEMBER 2013

PLANNING PROCESS The timeline for the planning process had programming, planning and conceptualizing being conducted from May through December of 2013. Schematic design took place through February of 2014, and the project presently is in the design documentation phase. Construction documents are expected to be completed by January 2015 with construction beginning in April 2015. Targeted construction completion date is Spring 2017.

timeline

first floor plan

- 1 GYMNASIUM
- 2 ADMINISTRATION
- 3 LEARNING SPACES*
EACH LEARNING SPACE AREA IS COMPRISED OF GROUP
LEARNING AREAS AND LEARNING STUDIOS (SEE INSET)
- 4 GROUP LEARNING AREA
- 5 LEARNING STUDIO
- 6 LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER
- 7 MUSIC
- 8 NURSE
- 9 SUPPORT
- 10 DINING



second floor plan



- 1 GYMNASIUM
- 2 ADMINISTRATION
- 3 LEARNING SPACES*
EACH LEARNING SPACE AREA IS COMPRISED OF GROUP
LEARNING AREAS AND LEARNING STUDIOS
(SEE INSET ON FIRST FLOOR PLAN)
- 4 LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER
- 5 ART
- 6 SUPPORT



Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

PROJECT DATA

submitting firm

SCHRADERGROUP architecture

joint partner firm

n/a

project role

Architectural design

other firm

n/a

project contact

David L. Schrader, AIA, LEED AP

construction firm

not yet bid

title

Managing Partner / Lead Designer

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PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name	Early Learning Center + Elementary School
City	Phoenixville
State	Pennsylvania
District Name	Phoenixville Area School District
Supt/President	Dr. Alan Fegley
Occupancy Date	Spring 2017 anticipated
Grades Housed	K-1 and 2-5
Capacity(Students)	1050 students
Site Size (acres)	50 acres
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	152,000 SF
Per Occupant(pupil) gross/net please indicate	145 SF per occupant gross
Design and Build?	no
If yes, Total Cost: Includes:	n/a
If no,	
Site Development:	\$12.4 million estimated
Building Construction:	\$37.3 million estimated
Fixed Equipment:	\$1.9 million estimated
Other:	\$2.4 million estimated
Total:	\$54 million estimated