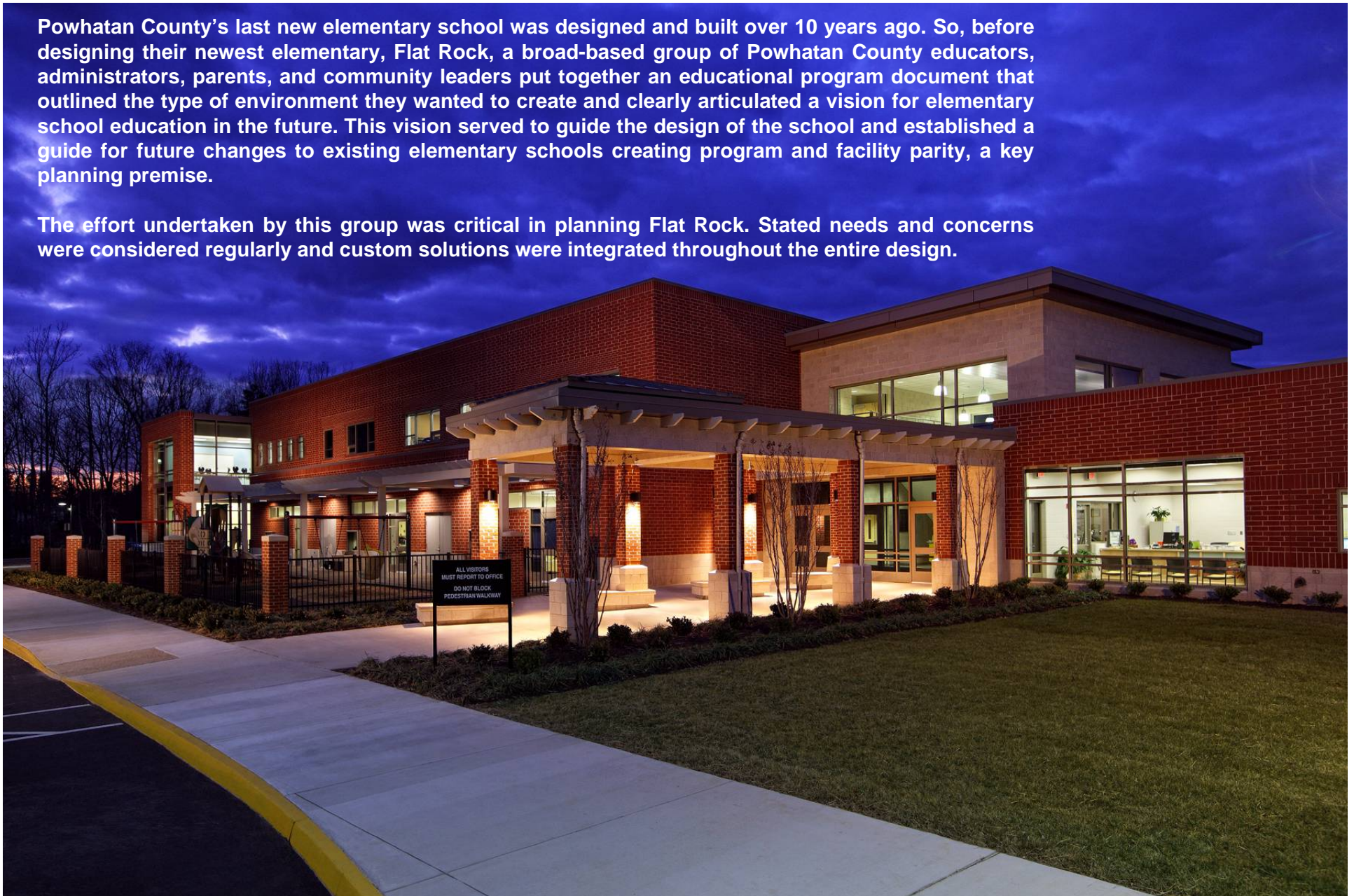


PROGRAMMING RESPONSE

Flat Rock Elementary

Powhatan County's last new elementary school was designed and built over 10 years ago. So, before designing their newest elementary, Flat Rock, a broad-based group of Powhatan County educators, administrators, parents, and community leaders put together an educational program document that outlined the type of environment they wanted to create and clearly articulated a vision for elementary school education in the future. This vision served to guide the design of the school and established a guide for future changes to existing elementary schools creating program and facility parity, a key planning premise.

The effort undertaken by this group was critical in planning Flat Rock. Stated needs and concerns were considered regularly and custom solutions were integrated throughout the entire design.



The New Flat Rock Elementary School design serves students enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten through fourth grade and is located in the eastern region of Powhatan County. The 2-story design of the new 96,000 SF, 900-student Flat Rock Elementary School helped reduce impact on a resource rich, limited site.

EXPANSION CAPABILITY

Expansion is intentionally limited based on the determination by the community that 900 students is the right size for their elementary school. The completion of Flat Rock provides space for growth within each of the county's three elementary schools as current enrollment is approximately 75% of design capacity.





DESIGN EFFICIENCY



The mission of Powhatan County Public Schools is to provide an environment where each student is able to reach his or her fullest potential. Classrooms are clustered into four distinct houses to facilitate team teaching and interactive learning experiences.

The building design is composed of public and private sides divided by a central corridor and instructional areas are arranged by grade levels with each wing owning a collaborative group area nearby. These 'clusters' promote collaboration, provide for security, and accessibility and allow children to move independently in accessing the many available resources.



INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS

Each classroom space is flexible and allows for individual, small group, and whole group instruction with more than one teacher in the room. Interconnectivity between classrooms provides each teacher access to shared equipment and materials while encouraging team teaching and collaboration. These combined / shared classrooms can also allow for blending of grade levels promoting effective transitions between grade levels and allowing student progress at each child's own pace.



There is an emphasis on the outdoors as an educational element with a large courtyard used as an outdoor classroom and connections to the natural features retained in the wooded site.

A Pre-Kindergarten area was designed to allow a separation of these younger children from the other students in the school. Each Pre-K classroom has direct access to an age appropriate secured play area.



SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

With daily before and after school care, summer programs, space for community meetings and social events for clubs and groups, and Parks and Recreation athletic teams, there is an overwhelming amount of community use of Powhatan's educational facilities. To accommodate this, the academic side of the school can be locked allowing access only to the public spaces, including Gymnasium, Cafetorium, Media Center, Art, Music, and the Courtyard.





TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

The wireless environment of Flat Rock provides unencumbered access for the integrated instructional technology. Students are provided 1:1 computer access and daily instruction incorporates United Streaming, digital projectors, digital cameras, smartboards, classroom response systems and an abundance of instructionally-based software. Assistive technology is used extensively for students with special needs.





SUBTLE SECURITY

The general office controls the main entry to the building providing enhanced security measures and giving the public a clear point of arrival and direction. The school resource officer and general office have complete visual and physical control of the main entry. The main vestibule is designed to funnel access through the general office during the school day. The Principal's office has a full view of the entrance while the school resource officer is positioned for a clear presence at the entry vestibule.





SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

There is an abundance of natural light within Flat Rock Elementary and many views and connections to the outside. The trellis in front of the Pre-K area reduces glare inside the classroom and creates diffused light while scaling the building exterior to the community's youngest children. Storm water management systems were provided that improve water quality and carefully manage the impact on the active stream and tributaries on the site.



SITE SIZE: 25 Acres

STUDENT CAPACITY: 900 students

AREA OF BUILDING: 96,428 SF

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$20,057,260 (site development cost was \$3,109,635)

COST PER SQFT: \$176 Building (+\$32 site = \$208)

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

COST PER STUDENT: \$22,285

SPACE PER STUDENT: 107 SF

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Flat Rock Elementary School

Powhatan County ,VA

Dr. Margaret Meara, Superintendent

Powhatan County Public Schools

BCWH Architects

Principal–In-Charge: **Roger D. Richardson, AIA, REFP**

Project Manager: **Charles Tilley, AIA, REFP, LEED^{AP}**

Project Architect: **C. Michael Gibson, AIA**

Interior Designer: **Kristina Pudner, CID**

Consultants

MEP Engineer: **Hurd & Obenchain**

Structural Engineer: **Stroud Pence & Associates**

Civil Engineer: **Draper Aden**

Landscape Architect: **William Almond**

Educational Planning: **Eperitus**

Contractor: **Branch & Associates**

Photographer: **Chris Cunningham Photography**



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