

Ground to be broken

Board approves \$5.8 million bid for new elementary

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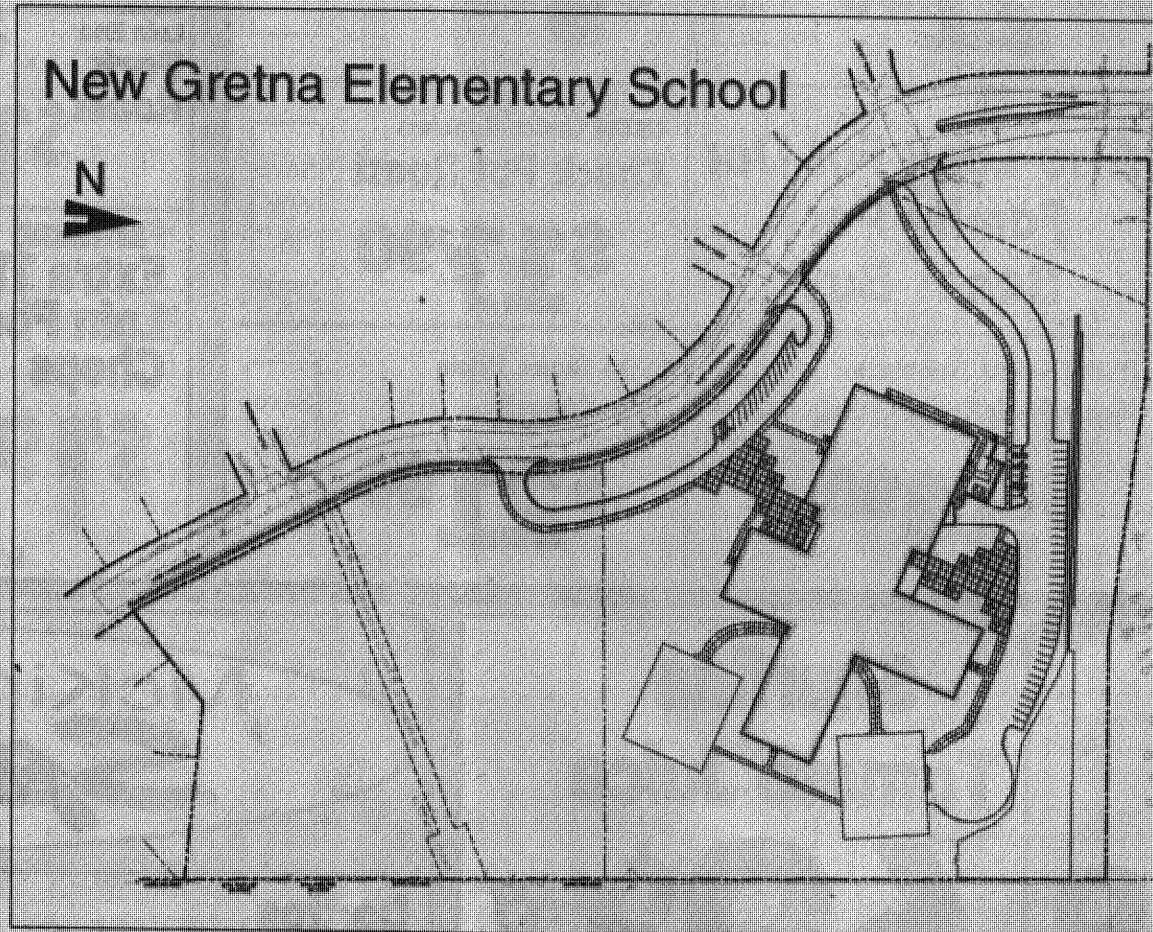
A total of 13 bids for the new elementary school in Gretna were reviewed by the Board of Education at its Tuesday, May 27 meeting.

The board decided to go with the bid of Omaha construction company Overland Constructors, which submitted a bid of \$5,854,400 to build the new school that will house students in grades 3-5 beginning in the fall of 2004. Groundbreaking for the new school will begin with a formal ceremony Monday at 6 p.m.

The bid was almost \$1 million below the \$6.8 million estimate for the new building, which will be located in the Northridge Estates subdivision and allows the school district some wiggle room for the remainder of its building projects.

"It really allows us, at this point and time, some breathing room if we need to add more classroom space or if there are other issues that might come up with the other three buildings," superintendent Dr. Kevin Riley told the Guide and News. "That was a great thing for us."

All of the bids came in under the budgeted amount, with bid totals ranging from Overland's low bid to a high of \$6,491,545 by Juds Brothers Construction of Lincoln. The average bid was just over \$6.25 million,



An overhead view of what the new elementary school, scheduled to be built in Northridge Estates, will look like. Groundbreaking for the new building will begin with a Monday ceremony at 6 p.m.

Courtesy D

92.28 percent of the \$6.8 million estimate.

"We were hoping for the bids to come in at around 95 percent," Riley said. "The other thing that can hap-

pen is that the bids are way above, but things are so competitive in the construction industry right now and we're the beneficiaries of that."

With the low bid coming in below

budget, it leaves open the possibility of building more classroom space should the need arise, without additional funding.

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SilverRidge facility