

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120 (USPS 032480) SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS VOLUME 108, NUMBER 41

School Releases Initial Facility Design

Taking next steps leading up to community meetings

Effective at their regular meeting held on March 11, Arnold School District #89 board members decided on an initial facility design to release to the district patrons – paving the way for tours of the existing facility and community meetings.

The Board and administration had different ideas for the facility design based on proposals from the architect. Superintendent Joel Morgan said it came down to this final piece ready to put out to public. At this point, if there is a strong consensus from the community, then changes can be made.

“This is what we’re putting out there as our first choice. It’s just the starting point,” he said.

Once a construction manager is chosen at their May meeting, the Board will go to the public

with an estimate. Input from the public meetings – starting in May/June of this year – will give the school an idea of what the potential is of doing it. The superintendent said the more conversations that are had, the better.

The school has released the design not only to the newspaper, but on Facebook and Schoology as well. The design is also posted in the entryway of the school.

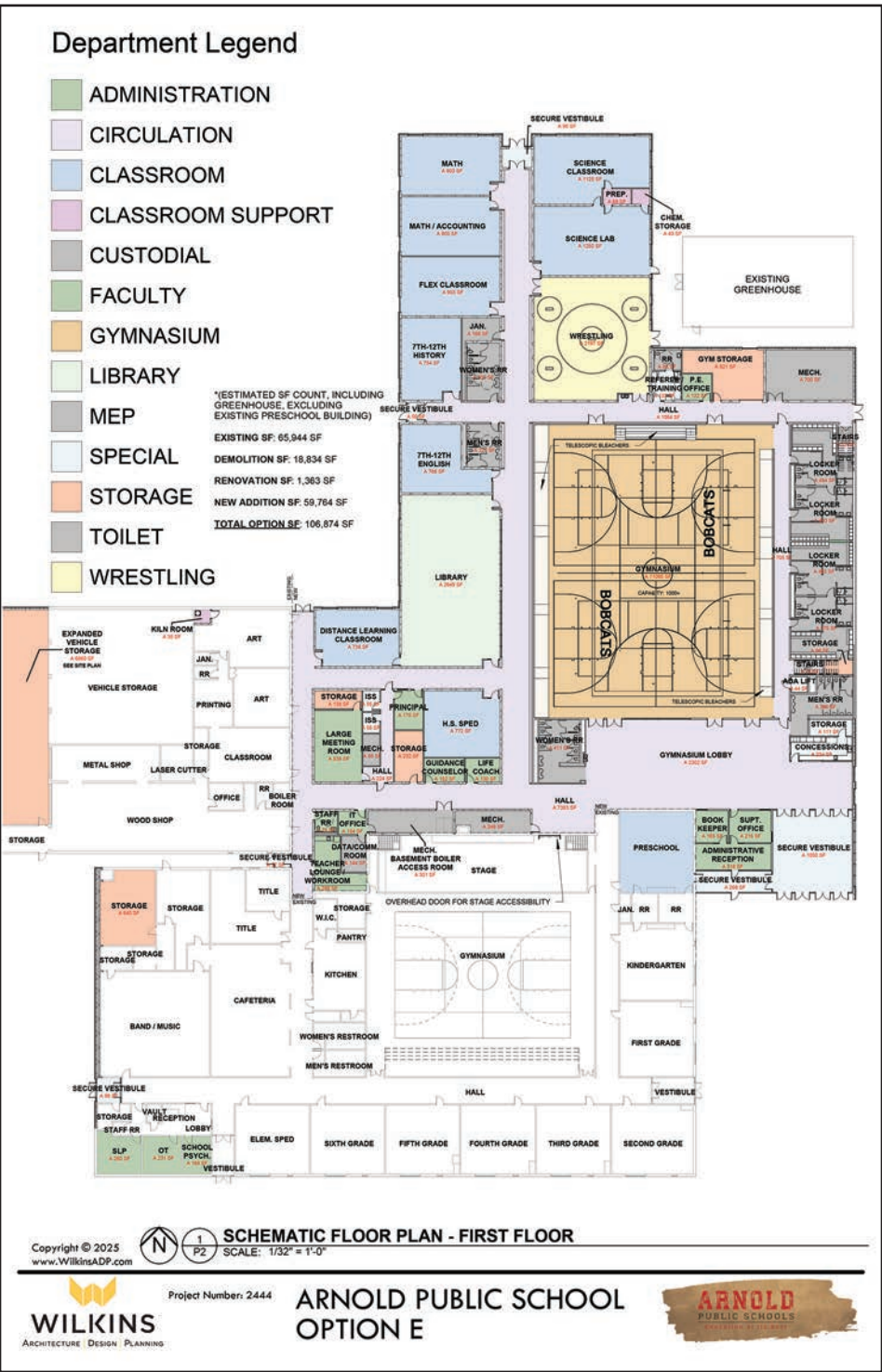
Between now and then, Mr. Morgan said they will be scheduling some tours of the school so that people can see what the 1925 and 1962 buildings look like, learn about issues that the school is running into now, and why it’s taking on this facility project. Some tours will be paired up with other events, giving everyone the chance for conversation. Be watching for a list

of tour dates in the Sentinel and on social media.

Other business:

In action items, the Board accepted the resignation of first grade teacher Molly Ryan with regrets.

Board members also gave the superintendent the go-ahead to purchase a new driver’s education vehicle – up to \$50,000.00. Mr. Morgan said the plan is to buy an all-wheel mini van, which can comfortably seat six or seven, can be used for smaller groups, and fill the void. He said that he has been told that Arnold Schools is one of the only remaining schools in the state that offers drivers education to its students during the school year, something parents continue to appreciate.



Pictured above is the initial facility design that has been released by Arnold Public Schools. This proposed plan calls for demolishing the 1925 building, keeping and renovating the 1962 building, and adding on. Residents will have the chance to give their input on the plan at upcoming community meetings.

Village Board Approves Funding for Projects

Village board members approved providing funds for improvements to three village-owned recreational areas at their regular meeting held on March 10.

Mary Becker attended the meeting regarding possible improvements to Carroll Street Courts. She presented a proposed budget to renovate and make the court larger to accommodate two basketball hoops, a pickleball court, and a tennis court. The material and labor costs included tearing out the old cement slab and the wood pilings, pouring a new slab and re-fencing all four sides using recycled fencing and some new. Other costs would include a tennis net system, basketball nets, a pickleball net, and painting the lines for all three sports.

She also mentioned that there are grants available for the project. By a vote of the members, Becker was given the go-ahead to apply for grants, with the Village providing up to \$20,000.00 in matching funds.

Justin Strasburg spoke to the Board about improvements to Old Mill Park. He said the estimated cost to build bathrooms, install four LED flood lights and to repair the fence is \$26,500.00. Board members voted to use up to \$20,000.00 from the Edna B. Peterson account for the project.

For the pool, the Board voted to order AD Easy Stair 6-Step from Recreation Supply for \$6,770.63. An estimate was also accepted from SG Concrete Pros Inc. to install concrete

steps and a sidewalk leading up to the pump house.

Pool Rates/Personnel

Consideration of pool rates was on the agenda. The clerk presented the costs for the pool in 2022 (\$31,872.38), 2023 (\$34,324.91), and 2024 (\$46,404.78. In 2024 Tilton Enterprises leveled the concrete and sealed joints at a cost of \$17,280.50. Salaries for the previous three years were 2023 - \$20,841.50, 2024 - \$22,901.26, and based on the 2024 hours and a \$1.50 increase in pay for lifeguards and managers, the estimated payroll for 2025 will be \$25,000.00. After discussion, Board members decided to leave the rates the same.

Shavonne Schacher, 2025 pool manager, reported

on who personnel will be, provided all the qualifications are met. Assistant managers will be Taylor Hanna Miles and Keegan Mehrens, and lifeguards will be Serenity Borah, Adalyn Carlson, Aliyah Carlson, Amayla Carlson, Adelena Hampton, and Tysen Schacher.

Code Ordinances/Enforcement

The clerk informed members that Arnold’s municipal code of ordinances is dated in the year 2000; an option is the Nebraska Basic Code of Ordinances (NBC). American Legal Publishing provides updates and supplements

to ensure the basic code remains current with relevant legal changes. The cost for five copies of the NBC and hosting NBC online in a fully searchable format was presented. The clerk said that the first year would be the most expensive because it would need to include all of the ordinances adopted beyond the NBC. Board members authorized the clerk to get an estimated cost for the Village’s ordinances beyond NBC.

Through correspondence, Village attorney Mike Borders said that he had met with Dan Osmond, Custer County

sheriff, to discuss training the code enforcement officers. Discussion was held on giving a warning before the citation.

Nuisance abatement was included in the clerk’s monthly update. Code enforcement officers Zach Hagler, Tory Edwards, and Eric Holmberg are in the process of compiling a list of properties that need to be cleaned up. After the list is compiled, they will talk with the owners to encourage them to clean up their property.

Arnold Cemetery Embraces the Digital Era



Sample of another cemetery using digital mapping. Each individual plot will be marked on the map and color coded to reflect its status, such as occupied, unoccupied, or for sale. It will also be able to generate a printable map.

This spring, the Arnold Cemetery will embark on a transformative journey into the digital age, thanks to the efforts of Ron Cool and Kristi Dvorak. Together, they have initiated an exciting project to digitize the cemetery’s records through advanced digital mapping technology.

Ron and Kristi began their collaborative efforts last fall, compiling research and meeting with potential professional cemetery mapping companies. A vendor was selected, and a formal proposal was presented to the newly appointed Arnold Cemetery Board. With the board’s approval, the project has officially launched, marking a significant milestone in the preservation and management of the cemetery’s records.

The digital mapping process employs GIS technology and satellite imagery to create an interactive digital representation of

the cemetery. This sophisticated map captures detailed data about the cemetery’s layout, including roads, buildings, and the precise location of each grave.

The mapping company will build the digital map, import spreadsheet data of over 2,700 burial plots compiled by David Leach, and create a public portal that allows access to cemetery records.

The public portal will be accessible through the Arnold Cemetery’s website at www.arnoldcemetery.com. Through this portal, visitors can interact with a digital map, allowing them to zoom in, pan around, and view or search for plots that are occupied or available for purchase.

A sign will be placed at the cemetery with the website address and a QR code. Upon scanning the QR code with your smartphone, you will be directed to the Arnold Cemetery, Page 2.