



USD 253 sets hearing on Logan Avenue Elementary closure; process outlined for public

By JESSIE WAGONER
The Emporia Gazette

Emporia Public Schools has scheduled a public hearing next month as part of the formal process required to consider closing a school building, with Logan Avenue Elementary identified in a current cost-containment proposal.

According to a public notice running in today's paper, the USD 253 Board of Education will hold a hearing at 6 p.m. April 15 at the Mary Herbert Education Center to receive input on the proposed closure.

The hearing is required under Kansas law before a school board can take action to close an attendance center. The process is designed to give district officials an opportunity to present their rationale and allow community members to provide feedback before any final decision is made.

What the process involves

Under state statute, school districts must publish notice of the hearing in advance and outline the reasons for the proposed closure. In this case, district officials have cited declining enrollment and overall financial considerations as key factors driving the recommendation.

At the hearing, district representatives will present information supporting the proposal, which may include enrollment data, financial projections and facility considerations. The board will then hear testimony from members of the public regarding

HEARING ON CLOSING LOGAN AVENUE SCHOOL

PUBLIC INPUT INVITED

Mary Herbert Education Center
Emporia, Kansas

LOGAN AVENUE SCHOOL

USD 253 Emporia Public Schools is considering closing Logan Avenue School due to declining enrollment & financial concerns.

DETAILS ON SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCESS & PUBLIC HEARING

the advisability of closing the school.

Community members may speak in favor of or against the proposal, and written comments may also be submitted depending on board procedures.

Following the hearing, the board is not required to take immediate action. Instead, members

may deliberate and schedule a vote at a later meeting.

What happens if a school is closed

If the board ultimately votes to approve the closure, students currently attending Logan Avenue Elementary would be reassigned to other district schools. The notice indicates those students would

move to Riverside Elementary and William Allen White Elementary.

District officials would then begin planning for the transition, including staff reassignments, transportation adjustments and classroom placements.

In past discussions, administrators have also noted potential future uses for the Logan Avenue building, including repurposing it for district offices.

Part of broader cost-containment plan

The proposed closure is part of a larger cost-containment strategy under consideration by USD 253, aimed at reducing district expenditures over the next two years.

The plan includes a combination of staffing adjustments, program changes and operational efficiencies, with the closure of Logan Avenue identified as one of the most significant potential savings measures.

District officials have previously stated the school was selected due to its relatively low enrollment and limited projected growth in the surrounding area.

Public input encouraged

Board members have emphasized that no final decision has been made and that public feedback will play an important role in the process.

The April 15 hearing is expected to draw community members, parents and staff as the district continues evaluating the proposal and its potential impact.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR THIS WEEK



The Emporia Gazette

Emporia City Commission

The Emporia City Commission will hold their regular action meeting at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the City Commission Room located at 518 Mechanic St. A study session will follow in the Evora Wheeler Conference Room.

Community Baby Shower

Expectant mothers and their family members are invited to attend the Community Baby Shower from 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Anderson building on the Lyon County Fairgrounds. Learn important health information and connect with community resources. All attendees receive a free Pack 'n' Play.

Lyon County Commission

The Lyon County Commission will meet at 9 a.m. Thursday in the commission chambers at the Lyon County Courthouse, 430 Commercial St.

LONG LINES, STRONG TURNOUT MARK 78TH ANNUAL KIWANIS PANCAKE DAY



JAN BUCKMAN/GAZETTE

One of three griddles constantly cooking to feed a large hungry crowd at the Kiwanis Pancake Feed on Saturday morning.

The Emporia Gazette

Long lines stretched throughout

the morning as community members packed the Anderson Building for the 78th annual Kiwanis Pan-

cake Day, a longtime local tradition that continues to draw strong support year after year.

Attendees were treated to a classic breakfast of pancakes, sausage links and beverages, served up by members of the Kiwanis Club and a large team of volunteers. The annual fundraiser remains a favorite for many residents, who return each year not only for the meal but to support the organization's efforts in the community.

Please see **Pancake**, Page 8

LIGHT THE WAY FOR HOPE WALK RAISES AWARENESS, CONNECTS COMMUNITY WITH RESOURCES



JAN BUCKMAN/GAZETTE

One of several vendors at the Light The Way for Hope Suicide Prevention Walk Saturday at the Flinthills Mall.

The Emporia Gazette

Community members gathered Saturday at the Flinthills Mall for the third annual Light The Way for Hope Suicide Prevention Walk, an event aimed at raising awareness and connecting residents with local mental health resources.

The walk was organized by Melissa Owen, founder and director of Beacon of Hope Suicide Prevention. In addition to the walk, the event featured vendors selling handmade goods and organizations sharing information about available services.

Please see **Walk**, Page 12



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