

Atchison's Central School set to close

(KAIR)--Atchison's Central School will close at the end of the current school year.

That long-discussed possibility was realized with a unanimous vote of the USD 409 Board of Education during Monday evening's regular meeting of the School Board.

The school serves approximately 45 to 50 students in grades K-12, with the closure meaning those students will be relocated to the Roosevelt Building, located at the Atchison Middle School, for the next school year.

The Board, following the decision to close the building, approved declaring it as surplus property. Superintendent Dr. Renee Scott said that decision will give the school district options regarding the sale of the facility. Those options will be presented during the Board's regular April meeting.

Following discussion of the possible sale of the school at past board meetings, a public hearing was held last month to allow patron input into the decision. Although no public comments were voiced, the February 18 meeting was used to outline the deteriorating condition of the school, located at 215 North 8th Street.

Excessive operating costs, costly, needed upgrades, and a fewer educational opportunities due to the building's condition, were all cited as reasons for the closure.

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