

NEWS RELEASE

KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS

912 S. Gay St., Knoxville, TN 37902



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 29, 2021
(21-016)**

Contact: Carly Harrington, 594-1902, Carly.Harrington@knoxschools.org
Josh Flory, 594-8021, joshua.flory@knoxschools.org

District Celebrates Groundbreaking For Lonsdale Elementary

Knox County Schools on Monday held a groundbreaking ceremony for a replacement school at Lonsdale Elementary.

The 94,400-square-foot building will have capacity for approximately 800 students and is expected to be completed prior to the fall semester of 2022. It will include:

- 36 classrooms;
- 4 teacher work areas;
- 2 special education classroom suites;
- a 7,100-square-foot gymnasium;
- a music room;
- an art room;
- a library;
- a storm shelter that will house approximately 935 occupants; and
- a 2,000-square-foot recreation center for the City of Knoxville.

“A replacement school for Lonsdale Elementary is an important investment in the community and I am grateful that we are able to begin this project,” said Superintendent Bob Thomas. “Ms. Partin, Ms. Laman and their teams do a tremendous job of caring for students, and a new building will help educators, students and staff continue the outstanding teaching and learning that is already taking place.”

“This project is much-needed in the Lonsdale community and I’m excited that it is underway,” said Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs.

“This new school – and complementary, coordinated public and private community investments – will transform lives and create new opportunities in Lonsdale,” said Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon. “This just goes to show the truly amazing things we can do as a community when we pull together as a team.”

The replacement school is estimated to cost \$19,950,000 and will be located on the park property adjacent to the existing Lonsdale Elementary School. This project will be constructed using a Design-Build delivery method with Rouse Construction Company as the contractor. McCarty, Holsaple, McCarty, Inc. is the architect.

The project represents a unique partnership between KCS, Knox County and the City of Knoxville. In October, 2019, the Knox County Board of Education approved a Memorandum of Understanding to transfer the Lonsdale Park property from the City of Knoxville to Knox County, for the purpose of building the new school.

Upon completion of the replacement school, students from Sam E. Hill Primary – which currently serves students in Grades Pre-K through 1st Grade – will attend Lonsdale Elementary. The replacement school will also include a 2,000-square-foot recreation center and office space for the City of Knoxville’s Parks and Recreation Department. Knox County will transfer the Sam E. Hill property to the City of Knoxville.

“Members of the Lonsdale community have been determined and persuasive in their advocacy for a new school building, and I’m grateful for their efforts,” said 1st District Board of Education representative Evetty Satterfield.

“Building a replacement school has been one of my top priorities on the Board, and I look forward to celebrating with the Bear Family when the replacement school opens in 2022.”

“The students of Lonsdale Elementary excel inside and outside the classroom, and a new school building will help them reach their full potential,” said Lonsdale principal April Partin. “I am grateful for this investment in our community, and I look forward to seeing our students, teachers and staff achieve even greater things in our new building.”

“Sam E. Hill is excited for the opportunity to be part of a brand-new building,” said Sam E. Hill principal Wendy Laman. “The new school provides such tremendous promise for our children, families, staff, and community. We are proud and privileged to support Lonsdale in this endeavor.”

[Lonsdale Elementary Rendering](#)

###