

By RACHEL COLEMAN • Leader & Times The academic year is winding down but work continues for members of the USD 480 school board, which meets at 6:30 p.m. tonight at the Education Service Center. Tonight's agenda includes 19 "new business items" along with the usual reports from directors and departments.

Long-range planning appears on the agenda again, this time as an action item. The board will vote on whether to approve a proposed schedule for possible expansion and construction projects. The community would be part of every step of the process, which proposes a target date of spring 2014 for final decisions about what to do about the district's increasingly crowded classrooms. New business tonight also includes a vote on two potential bond underwriting agencies, which have presented proposals to the board for ways to help the district re-fund existing bonds and possibly issue new ones. Smaller matters include the proposed removal of the now-obsolete photography darkroom at Liberal High School in order to make room for a bigger journalism computer lab, the addition of a district-wide writing program for elementary- and middle-school students, and approval of employment of nine teachers.

Complete information about the meeting is available on the district's website, where the "USD 480 School Board" tab posts the meeting's agenda and reports from various directors. The website is www.usd480.net.

