

By RACHEL COLEMAN

• Leader & Times

The biggest action at the 6:30 p.m. USD 480 school board meeting tonight will likely be the adoption of a resolution calling for a bond election. Even so, the board's agenda contains a long list of reports, approvals and new business items.

In his report, superintendent of schools Paul Larkin noted that if the board adopts a bond-issue resolution, the action will set in motion the other legal steps that must be taken in advance of an election. These include filing an application with the state board of education and adoption of an interlocal agreement with the City of Liberal.

As part of the process, district officials have continued to research various aspects of a facility expansion project.



“Mr. Burkey and I continue to explore options for potential sites for new schools,” Larkin wrote, noting, “the City of Liberal has been very helpful in identifying the pros and cons with all of the property.”

School board to call for bond election tonight

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Even as the board discusses the upcoming bond issue with its daunting price tag, an anonymous donor has offered the district a \$200,000 gift. Tonight, the board will also vote on whether or not to accept an anonymous donation in the amount of \$215,697 for the following reasons: AVID, \$75,000; Capturing Kids Hearts, \$50,000; LHS Scholarships, \$30,000; Sound Field Systems, \$38,323; Football Equipment, \$16,374; Talk & Listen, \$ 6,000.

In other business, the board will hear a variety of requests, including a long roster of proposals for staff travel, 10 in all. These include:

- Annual Business Teachers Conference in Emporia, one person
- ASCA National Conference (for school counselors) in Orlando, Fla., four people
- CPI Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training, Wichita, two people
- CTE Annual Conference (career pathways for students), Manhattan, 11 people
- Kansas Children's Service League board of directors quarterly meeting, Topeka, no cost for one person
- Behavior Team meeting, Garden City, two people, cost picked up by KSDE grant
- Winter Leadership Conference for Special Education Administrators, Wichita, one person
- ESOL Praxis Test, in one of three locations, one-day leave granted to 15 teachers who have studied to earn ESL endorsement. No cost to the district for their travel or meals.

- Kansas Music Educators' Workshop, Wichita, seven people

- Wichita State recruiting fair, Wichita, two people

More details about each trip, its purpose, and those planning to attend, may be viewed on the district website.

Liberal High School principal Keith Adams has submitted a request to host a rare Sunday event at the school. College Goal Sunday, traditionally held at Seward County Community College each year, aims to help students and their parents fill out the FAFSA (federal financial aid form for college).

Although counselors from LHS have always gone to help with the event, stated Adams, "it isn't well attended. We would like to have it at LHS where the students are more comfortable. This may increase attendance."

If approved, College Goal Sunday will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 23.