

By ROBERT PIERCE

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USD No. 480 allocates a total of \$152,000 per year from its general fund to its high school and its two middle schools for extracurricular activities. How that money is used, according to the district's business and finance director, is up to administrators and faculty in each building.

Jerry Clay said records on how the money is distributed is available on the district's Web site, www.usd480.net, in the board of education's agenda packet.

"I put that report in every single month, which shows to the board of education and to the public what the district gives as a reimbursement back to the activity funds for the high school and middle schools," he said.

Liberal High School, Clay said, has a \$103,000 activities budget, and he said it does not matter how that is disbursed among the various activities.

"That's a request from the building, but it can't exceed that," he said.

South and West middle schools have budgets of \$24,500 allocated from the district's general fund.

"That's what the district pays towards activity funds," Clay said. "Everything else is done at the building level through their gate receipts. They have more money than that because it's through their gate receipts, fundraisers for those different sports. They pay out of that and go on. All of

those records are at each building, South, West and the high school.”

Activities such as band have a separate building budget and fundraisers, along with a line item in the district’s general fund budget. According to records, only South has shown any action from this year, with a total of \$1,023 used at that school.

Clay said the general fund comes from state and local taxes and is based on the number of students enrolled in the district.

One big fundraiser LHS has is the sale of Redskin Booster Cards at the beginning of the school year, and Clay said the money raised goes to the sport the athlete selling it participates in.

“Was it football? Was it volleyball, cross country?” he said. “The money they raise goes back into each of their budgets.”

Clay said the general fund money is used to offset what each program does not have to cover its expenses.

“It happens the same way at both South and West and the high school,” he said.

Clay said money from fundraisers such as ‘That’ Liberal Band’s fish fry goes back into the program’s activity account.

“That’s what they use to fund a lot of activities during the year,” he said. “The district does provide for the band line items to repair the band instruments. That’s our responsibility that the band instruments are repaired and in good shape. Line items for their music, uniforms. That doesn’t come out of their activities. That’s curriculum issues that we pay for.”

