

## **District's expenditures for the ongoing year exceed the original budget adopted for 2012-13 by \$1.76 million**

By RACHEL COLEMAN • Leader & Times At their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. today, Liberal USD 480 school board members will tackle a full slate of business, starting with a public hearing to amend the budget for the school year in progress.

The district's expenditures for the ongoing year exceed the original budget adopted for 2012-13 by \$1.76 million. An amended budget directs additional funding to five categories — the general fund, bilingual, at-risk and special education services and food service.

New business for the evening will include a request for purchase of new technology, specifically iPads, for Garfield and Washington Elementary Schools, Sunflower Intermediate and West Middle School, using Title I funds. The iPads will be used for small group instruction in reading and math, with the goal of closing the achievement gaps in those schools' performances. The purchase totals \$107,791, drawn from funding specifically marked for that purpose.

Assistant superintendent Renae Hickert will present information about the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program, which aims to reduce dropout rates and improve academic achievement for at-risk students. The grant-funded program has been offered to Liberal High School, and the board must decide whether or not to approve a memorandum of understanding about the multi-year, "School-to-Career" program.

Board members will also attend to routine end-of-year matters such as employment, resignations and transfers, approval of overnight trips for science and art students at Liberal High School, as well as the Key Club, and staff travel for six training events. These include the Migrant Parent Advisory Council's trip to Dodge City, LHS year advisors' trip to San Francisco, tuition for an art instructor's conference in California (without travel expenses, as the teacher will already be in the area), an Early Learning Communities trip to Wichita, training for the AVID program in Dallas, and a new school board members' training workshop in Garden City.

Central Office Administration also plans to present information concerning the 2013-14 school year as a final agenda item.

The Liberal USD 480 board meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Education Service Center, 624 N. Grant Ave.