

“As a member of the USD 480 Board of Education, I am just amazed at the way this district continues to not listen to its people. It has now trickled down to not listening to our own students. This district is supposed to be all about the kids, yet it isn't happening.

“In a recent survey organized by LHS Principal Keith Adams around 80 percent of the seniors at Liberal High School said they would like for graduation to be outdoors at Redskin Field. This is because holding graduation in the gym means there is a 10 ticket limit per graduate. This affects big families and divorced families.

“A senior shouldn't have to worry about which side of the family gets his/her tickets to graduation. Graduation is supposed to be one of the best days of their lives. Holding graduation at Redskin Field would allow everyone who wanted to attend the ability to do so without the hassle of tickets and having to choose which 10 members of their friends and family are more important. It would also be a great way to utilize the newly renovated stadium with such a great celebration of the hard work the seniors have accomplished.

“However, LHS Principal Keith Adams decided that despite around 80 percent of the seniors wanting it at Redskin Field to just keep it indoors at the gym with a 10 ticket limit per graduate. This simply makes no sense. This should be about the students and not the administration or the board. It is the seniors' graduation and they were led to believe that the results of the survey would have a big impact on the final decision. Instead our own students have now become the latest victim of the district saying, 'We don't care what you think.'

“This is a poor example to set for our seniors as they prepare to move on with the next step of their lives. As a member of the board I only have one vote and there is not a majority of the board who is willing to stand up for the students to overrule this decision.

Everyone else seems to have an advocate, but apparently our own students do not.

“So the question is what can be done? What I would encourage is for seniors, parents, and any member of the community who would like to stand up for this senior class to mark your calendars and attend our next board meeting and voice your displeasure on Monday, Jan. 4,

Petty issues statement

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2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Education Service Center.

“Even if you don’t want to talk, your presence alone will send a message loud and clear. It is time to pack the house and it is time this district starts listening to the people who elected them and the people who pay their salaries.”