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Graduation to Stay Inside the Gym Again

The USD 480 Board of Education met Monday night at the Education Service Center for a regularly scheduled meeting.

The hot topic of the night was graduation as the board agreed to add to the agenda an action item that if approved would move Liberal High School's graduation to Redskin Field with the date and time staying the same.

Principal Keith Adams was at the meeting to explain why he chose to keep graduation in the gym. He said nothing has made him change his mind on the issue.

Cecilia Medina who is a secretary at Southlawn Elementary was at the meeting and asked to speak about the issue. Medina got emotional at times and talked about how she has 60 family members who will be coming from all over including El Paso and Mexico and how if graduation is kept inside with a ten ticket limit that she will have to pick and choose who gets to attend and how hard that will be and how it is not fair that a good part of her family will be making such a long trip and yet won't get to go to the graduation despite the fact that the district has the facilities to hold it outside.

Board member Stacy Johnson said he still doesn't understand why another student survey wasn't done since the last one was skewed. Tammy Sutherland-Abbott said the best interest of the kids is not being done by keeping it in the gym and having a ten ticket limit.

Board member Jim Jury stressed that the board shouldn't get into micromanaging. Board member Reid Petty responded by saying the board sides with administration 99% of the time and that if the board is just going to rubber stamp everything administration decides that there is no reason to even have a Board of Education.

Board member Tammy Sutherland-Abbott made a motion to move graduation outside with Petty seconding the motion. The attempt failed though in a 4-3 vote with Dan Diepenbrock, Jim Jury, Nick Hatcher, and Cheryl Louderback voting to keep graduation in the gym, while Tammy Sutherland-Abbott, Reid Petty, and Stacy Johnson voted to move it outside.

For more information on Monday's meeting stay tuned to kscbnews.net on Wednesday.

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