By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

New Superintendent Randy Geier presided over his first Wauneta-Palisade school board meeting Monday night.

A public hearing concerning board policy #1030, community relations/parental involvement, was held prior to the school board meeting. With out any comment from patrons the policy received its annual adoption.

The most heavily discussed item was the new Federal Lunch Meal Pattern Guidelines. Though there is not a penalty, schools are encouraged meet the new guidelines, which include requirements for fruits, vegetables, whole grains and milk.

Wauneta-Palisade currently meets the milk requirement of either fat-free or one percent milk.

The guidelines require at least one-half of all grains be whole grains this year and all whole grain by 2014. Wauneta-Palisade would like to serve one hundred percent whole grain this year.

School board members disagreed with the guidelines about minimum and maximum caloric requirements, specifically for grades nine through 12.

High school students will be served meals ranging between 750-850 calories with extra fruits and vegetables that will not count against the calorie requirement available in a separate serving area.

Jon Anderjaska, Bill Bischoff and Laurie Maris expressed concern that this would not be enough for hungry high school students.

School who comply with the guidelines receive a six cent reimbursement. After some fast math Sunni Nordhausen told the board the largest monthly reimburse--ment would have received in the past would be $200. John Jutten said this wouldn't begin to cover the expense of fruits and vegetables.

Board discussion shifted from meeting the guidelines to finding a company to manage the school cafeteria. Anderjaska hopes to have a representative from such a company at a future school board meeting.

High School principal Troy Holmberg updated board members about the upcoming parent/student handbook. Holmberg brought up nine possible changes that he and superintendent Geier are discussing. The variety of changes involve grading procedures, the prescription drug policy, health exams and immunizations, as well as, the dress code, the locker padlock policy and the use of backpacks.

During committee reports Allison Sandman briefed the board on negotiations with the WPEA. Sandman said the negotiations went well and a new two-year agreement was reached quickly. Teachers will receive an increase of $800 each of the next two years. Salaries of $29,800 and $30,600 were agreed upon for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years, respectively.

Bischoff informed members of the new plan for the second coach bus. The board accepted a bid from ABC Bus in Faribault, Minn., to paint the bus. Miller Signs will do the graphics again.

The building committee has also met to discuss the new ceiling in the small gym. Installed by Einspahr Construction, the new drop ceiling will provide a much needed barrier between the

current asbestos ceiling and the student. With an asbestos inspection upcoming, the board was pleased to have the issue taken care of.

An updated schedule for outside construction, an off street driveway at the Palisade Attendance Center and the sale of two lots were also discussed.

The board moved on to approve the hiring of Mark Holder as new custodian for both attendance centers.

The annual adoption of the bully prevention policy, parental involvement policy and student policy were approved.

The meeting wrapped up with reports from Geier and Holmberg.

In hopes of playing junior high volleyball in Palisade, Holmberg and high school volleyball coach Michelle Harchelroad are looking into new volleyball systems for the high school, with the old ones to move to Palisade.

Geier said the process of refinishing the gym floor began Monday with hopes of being finished Wednesday. The floor will then need ten days to two weeks to dry.

He also brought up personnel matters and said the school nurse has resigned, applications are being accepted for the para position and candidates have been identified for the math position.

The board will hold a special meeting Tuesday, July 23, at noon.