The administrative team consists of principal Troy Holmberg, left, and superintendent Randy Geier.

By Sheri Hink

The Wauneta Breeze

School bells will be ringing again at Wauneta-Palisade Schools starting Tuesday, Aug. 14. Students, faculty, staff and parents will see two big changes this school year.

New grade assignments

The first change will be reassignment of grades between the two attendance centers. Late last

school year the school board voted to change the division between the two attendance centers.

Starting this year, pre-kindergarten through fourth grade will report to the Palisade Attendance Center and fifth grade through 12th grade will report to the Wauneta Attendance Center.

The rationale behind this switch is to create a greater sense of stability for students and teachers. In May, school board and staff indicated a feeling that the switch would lead to better stability and learning opportunities for all students.

New W-P Superintendent Randy Geier said another benefit of the new grade assignments is that it will allow teachers to work together on curriculum more efficiently.

Additionally, the school board is aware of needed upgrades to the Palisade Attendance Center. Board members have stated this move will allow the board to address those needs.

The board is optimistic the switch will save the district financially as well as it allows them to consolidate the elementary library into one and eliminates the need to update both playgrounds.

Geier returns to W-P

Randy Geier has been hired as the district superintendent. Geier is no stranger to Wauneta and Palisade. The Culbertson native is returning to W-P after spending the past four years away.

“I really feel like this is a great school district, that was the main reason I came back,” he said. “I

feel like this is a great school system and great communities. I really enjoy working with the staff and students."

After leaving W-P Geier taught at Ord and served as their head football coach. He then spent three years in Elm Creek as principal.

This year will mark Geier's 31st year in education. He has taught for 24 years and this will mark his seventh year in administration.

"I like the vision of the school board regarding their dedication to doing what's best for the students," he commented.

Geier received his bachelor's in physical education, social science and drivers education from Kearney State College and his master of administration from Doane College. He is currently finishing up his specialist's degree through the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Geier returns to Wauneta with his wife, Kathy, who works at the hospital in Imperial, where she was employed when they lived here previously.

They have three grown children. Jessica and Gina have followed their father's footsteps and are currently teaching. Brendan is a junior at UNK majoring in education.

Administrative changes

In addition to the addition of Geier this year, the school system will see two other administrative changes.

First, Geier and Troy Holmberg will share the role of athletics director in the upcoming year.

Second, Holmberg will assume the role of kindergarten through 12th grade principal. Previously, when Dr. Stan Sibley served as superintendent he also performed the duties of elementary school principal.

Geier and Holmberg wanted to have an increased administration presence at the Palisade Attendance Center. With Holmberg serving as principal of both attendance centers, administration's presence will be more equally shared.