

School board reviews planning retreat

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 14 February 2013 18:44 -

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

After meeting two weeks ago for a board planning retreat, the Wauneta-Palisade school board met Monday night for its regular meeting.

The board presented former member Stuart Bartels with a watch to thank him for his “leadership and wisdom” through 12 years of service.

Approving minutes from the two previous meetings and the budget report, the board moved on to business.

The board accepted the Audit of the 2011-12 Annual Financial Report for the year ending August 30, 2012.

After a budget committee meeting with Lynette Kisker, the school’s accountant, committee members Laurie Maris, Allison Sandman and Bill Bischoff, along with Superintendent Randy Geier, reported that the meeting with Kisker had went well. With the transition of school income from state aid to tax receipts, Kisker spent a morning explaining the differences from past years and how the current budget is put together. Kisker addressed the committee’s questions from the board retreat and the committee was left with a positive feeling of how the school stands financially.

“The board and I are working very closely with our auditor regarding our financial status,” Geier said. “At this time we are on solid financial ground, but due to the lack of state aid, we need to

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be careful with our future spending. However, we will not sacrifice the quality of education for our students and we will take all measures necessary to assure our students are considered first when we discuss finances.”

Discussion was not held about the possibility of cooping athletics with Hayes Center. The Hayes Center school board also held its meeting Monday night, with committee meetings held before the regular board meeting.

Reviewing goals set at the retreat Jan. 29, Jon Anderjaska said he had talked to Craig Capels with the Nebraska Association of School Boards and scheduled a technology audit for the first half of March. The board would also like the ESU and Champa to review the schools existing equipment.

After the board approved dues of \$3,164 to the Nebraska Association of School Boards, Principal Troy Holmberg announced that the Palisade Attendance Center will host the Hayes and Hitchcock County Spelling Bee on Feb. 27. W-P elementary students will participate and junior high students will go to Imperial at a later date to participate in a spelling bee.

A late start will be held Monday. Elementary teachers will spend their morning with Mike Pruter of the ESU talking about a guaranteed and viable curriculum concerning the school's Saxon math program.

Holmberg said the school is planning an appreciation week for school support staff March 18-22 and for teachers the first week of April ahead of National Teacher Appreciation week in May.

Missing the January board meeting, Holmberg updated the board on the Implications of Common Core Standards that he attended in Omaha. Nebraska is one of five states not participating in a common core of subjects. Many states participate in a national set of standards, making curriculum consistent across the states.

Before going into executive session, Geier reported that teachers Joseph Frecks and Theresa Hayes had taken students to participate in the Mercy Meals program in Wauneta.

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The sweeping of the chimneys has been completed in Wauneta and Palisade. Mark Holder has told Geier that everything is working much more efficiently now. Further discussion of the building involved estimates Geier received for locks around the Wauneta and Palisade Attendance Centers. The board agreed to hold off on having work done, adding that if people using the weight room can request a key to the current lock rather than having a new number pad or card swipe lock installed.

Heading into executive session to discuss personnel issues including the superintendent's review, the board said it will have a special meeting on Monday, Feb. 25 at 5:00 p.m. MT in Wauneta. The next regular meeting of the school board will be held March 11. School board meetings are open to the public.