

Wauneta-Palisade School Board reelects officers, updates policies

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Wednesday, 15 January 2014 00:06 -



The Wauneta-Palisade school board includes, from left, John Jutten, President Jon Anderjaska, Secretary Allison Sandman, Treasurer Laurie Maris, Jason Hicks and Vice President Bill Bischoff. (Sheri Hink-Wagner | The Wauneta Breeze)

By Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauneta-Palisade School Board reelected officers at their January meeting, held Monday, Jan. 13 at the Wauneta Attendance Center.

Jon Anderjaska was reelected to serve another year as school board president. Bill Bischoff, Allison Sandman and Laurie Maris also remained in their previously elected positions of vice president, secretary and treasurer, respectively.

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Committee appointments also remained the same for 2014. Sandman, Jason Hicks and John Jutten serve on the negotiations committee. Bischoff and Hicks make up the board's transportation committee. Sandman and Maris sit on the budget committee. The board members serving on the instruction and Americanism committee include Sandman, Anderjaska and Maris. The building and grounds committee members are Bischoff, Anderjaska and Maris. The board's only ad hoc committee, personnel, consists of Sandman, Maris and Bischoff.

Policy updates

The board completed their annual review of the board member conflict of interest policy at the January meeting.

They also recognized the Wauneta-Palisade Educational Association (WPEA), the teacher's union, as the bargaining agent for the 2015-2016 contract year. It was noted at the meeting that approximately half the district's employees belong to the WPEA.

Board members also approved an assessment policy for the district which designates the district's plan for assessing student learning. It includes codes of conduct for administration of state assessment tests as well as district assessment of classroom learning. The last policy approved by the school board was a school board accountability policy.

Budget planning retreat

School board members decided to move their annual board retreat, where they discuss the

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schools' budget and goals for the upcoming year, from this Thursday, Jan. 16 in Wauneta to next Thursday, Jan. 23 in North Platte.

Board members made the date change due to schedule conflicts with the Jan. 16 meeting date.

School board members are traveling to a meeting in North Platte next Thursday and decided to move the retreat to the same location, prior to their meeting.

The board retreat is open to the public. Community members who would like to attend may contact the school for more information or see the public notice section of this paper.

Other business

While reviewing the financial reports and bills board members decided to hold back a \$32,164.50 check to Snell Services, Inc. The check was intended to be payment number two of three on the new boiler installed at the Palisade Attendance Center late last year.

School board members discussed the payment and decided to hold the next payment until all issues have been resolved with the boiler.

School officials reported there are still a few remaining issues with the boiler, which are expected to be rectified soon.

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Superintendent's report

W-P Superintendent Randy Geier provided board members with a report on the cyber bullying seminar W-P students in grades five through 12 attended at Hitchcock County Schools recently. Geier stated it was a very good training session and said he has heard very positive feedback from students who attended.

He also gave board members an update on W-P athletes who were chosen for academic allstate.

School board members also received an update on the redecoration done in the commons area outside the gym entrance. He said they are in process of hanging the schools' various plaques, which include 48 district championship plaques and 34 runner-up plaques. He noted the number of plaques is amazing, considering the school has only been in existence for 24 years as Wauneta-Palisade.

Geier also thanked the board members for their service to the school in regards to school board appreciation week, Jan. 26 to Feb. 1.

Principal's report

Principal Roger Reikofski told the board there were three main issues ongoing with the new boiler installed in Palisade last year.

First, the school experienced a problem when temperatures dropped into negative numbers. He explained the boiler received enough propane to light the pilots but not to light the boiler, resulting in cool, 55 degree, temperatures in the gym. Reikofski explained the problem rectified itself as soon as the sun hit the propane tanks, but that other measures are being taken to

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make sure the issue does not present itself in the future.

Second, he also told the board that he is in process of submitting paperwork to the State Fire Marshall concerning the emergency shut off for the boiler. He told board members the school had been written up by the Fire Marshall for the emergency shut off, but that repairs have been made and paperwork is on its way to the Fire Marshall's office to provide documentation.

The last issue mentioned in connection to the boiler was that of water leaks. He told board members water leaks are still occurring from boiler pipes and that he has been in contact with Snell Services, Inc., who has agreed to repair the leaks at a reasonable cost.

Reikofski also shared that the Nebraska Department of Education will visit W-P in April to conduct a Title I visit. He explained the visit is intended to make sure the district is providing correct services to Title I students.

"We're doing things right here so that's what matters," he said of the visit.

Reikofski reported to the board on the excellent attendance at the elementary Christmas concert last month. He told board members there were approximately 400-450 audience members at the concert.

The next regular meeting of the Wauneta-Palisade School Board will be Monday, Feb. 10 at 5 p.m. MT/6 p.m. CT at the Wauneta Attendance Center. School board meetings are open to the public.