

## **Summer one day longer for WP students**

Written by Wauneta Breeze  
Thursday, 17 July 2014 20:35 -

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**By Sheri Hink-Wagner**

**The Wauneta Breeze**

The Wauneta-Palisade school board extended the summer vacation by one day Monday at their regular July meeting. The board amended the 2014-2015 school calendar by shaving a day off the beginning of the year and the end.

Students will start back to school on Wednesday, August 20 instead of Tuesday, August 19. The last day of school was moved from Thursday, May 21 to Wednesday May 20, 2015.

WP Superintendent Randy Geier said the calendar change was made possible thanks to the board's decision to add 6 minutes to each school day throughout the year, which was done in a effort to streamline the school year.

Geier also added that the calendar change for students will allow teachers more in-service time at the beginning and end of the school year because the calendar for staff is unchanged.

Although not discussed in detail at Monday's meeting, the board's transportation committee is also working on ways to streamline the school bus routes with hopes of picking kids up later and getting them back home sooner. The bus routes will be discussed at a later school board meeting.

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### **New teachers hired**

The board approved full time teaching contracts for three teachers at the July meeting. Lisa Pomplin of Palisade will join the instructional staff. She will teach social sciences at the junior and senior high levels as well as language arts. Pomplin will also spend half her time serving as the district's media person in the library.

Denise Bales was also hired back as a full time teacher after Geier explained she had a "change of heart" and decided to teach for another year. Bales will teach the third grade.

A full time teaching contract was also approved for Dawn Doetker, who worked at the school as a .60 FTE last year. She will be teaching the second grade next year.

### **Activity pass price increase**

In order to keep up with what other conference schools are charging for activity passes, the school board voted to increase the family rate from \$60 to \$75. The student rate will increase to \$15 from \$10 and the adult pass will increase to \$40 from \$30.

Individual admission prices for WP home games are \$4 for adults and \$3 for students.

The board said their goal was to be more comparable to other area schools while still not creating a hardship for families.

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Activity passes will admit individuals or families into all home games for WP athletics. Funds raised through activity passes are put into the schools activity fund.

### **Meal price increase**

The school board also voted to increase meal prices across the board by \$0.10, with exception to the adult lunch price which will increase by \$0.25.

Lunch prices for the 2014-2015 school year will be \$2.25 for students in pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade, \$2.60 for junior and senior high students and \$3.50 for adults.

All ages will pay the same price for breakfast, \$1.60.

### **Other business**

Other business conducted at the meeting included transfers of funds to the school's activity and

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depreciation funds to finish out the 2013-2014 school year budget.

The board approved a \$30,000 transfer to the activities fund and \$36,000 to the depreciation fund.

A total of \$56,071 was budgeted to be placed into the depreciation fund during the 2013-2014 budget year. This transfer plus an additional transfer of \$20,071 planned for next month will satisfy the budget requirement.

The transfers were made from the school's general fund.

Board members revisited their policy regarding home schooled students during their monthly policy review. Board president Jon Anderjaska said there is a little more home school activity in the district this year than in years past.

The board discussed their current policy of not allowing home schooled students to participate in school-sponsored activities or classes. The said the policy is similar to that of other schools in the area and that it is in place to discourage "picking and choosing" school activities for participation.

## **Superintendent's report**

Geier reported to the board that the floor preparation expense for the new carpet in the hallways around the gym will be under \$200, according to Samway Floor Covering in McCook

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who will install the carpet. Installation is expected to begin around August 1 and to be completed before school begins.

Geier also reported that an inspector from Nebraska Fire and Safety visited the district recently. The inspector recommended replacing and adding fire extinguishers in various locations throughout the district. The new fire extinguishers have already been purchased and installed.

He also asked the board what they would like to do with an early 2000s school van with a chair lift. He said students can no longer be transported in the van. They discussed possibly moving the van into the school's surplus property, but ultimately decided to refer the decision to the transportation committee.

### **Principal's report**

Roger Reikofski told board members the grant application for the revamped playground at the Palisade Attendance Center had been submitted.

The next meeting of the WP school board is currently set for Monday, August 11 at 6 p.m. MT/7 p.m. CT at the Wauneta Attendance Center. School board meetings are open to the public.