

It's 6-man football for the next 2 years for the Broncos

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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By Tina Kitt

The Wauneta Breeze

Low enrollment numbers and dwindling options left Wauneta-Palisade School officials little choice in setting a direction for the high school football team.

School board members voted last week to notify the Nebraska School's Activities Association (NSAA) of the district's intent to play 6-man football during the 2012 and 2013 biennium. The action was taken Thursday night during the school board's regular monthly meeting.

"We are looking forward to the opportunities that 6-man competition will provide," said WP Superintendent Stan Sibley during an interview Monday afternoon. "While we will embrace 6-man, we are still committed to getting back to 8-man, or even 11-man in the future," through expanding enrollment or cooping programs during a subsequent biennium.

The board also approved a change in the school calendar coming up quickly, with Nov. 28 no longer slated for a late start. It will instead be a full day of school. There will be no classes at WP on Nov. 30 as the school hosts the District One-Act Play Contest on that day.

After reviewing the annual audit report from Bentley and Kisker the board voted to approve the report.

The board approved the first reading of Board Policy 5011, which if approved on second reading next month will change the age of admission to kindergarten at WP from being 5 on or before Oct. 15 to being 5 on or before July 31, in line with the state. An evaluation process

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which could make exceptions for children born between July 31 and Oct. 15 who prove ready for school is included in the policy.

The board also discussed an amendment to Board Policy 5103 relating to periods of ineligibility from extracurricular activities for students who commit offenses specific to drugs, alcoholic beverages, smoking, theft and tobacco.

After lengthy discussion the board recommended changes to the policy, but will re-evaluate the suggestions at their next meeting before voting whether or not to approve the first reading.

Suggested changes include shortening the period of ineligibility from 25 calendar days to 12 school days for a first offense if it is self-reported and from 40 calendar days to 25 school days if not self-reported. Second offense ineligibility periods would change from 60 calendar days to 30 school days if self-reported and from 90 calendar days to 60 school days if not self-reported.

Provisions are being considered that would further reduce the periods of ineligibility if the student enrolls in drug and alcohol counseling/education, with the cost of the counseling/education to be paid for by the student.

For each subsequent offense the student would be suspended from activities for one calendar year. Before being allowed to return to practice the student would be required to complete a district approved drug/alcohol program at their own expense.

In discussion items the board considered proposals from two firms to evaluate and make energy efficiency improvements in Wauneta. The board also discussed a proposal to move forward with a public-private partnership for a new weight room and conditioning equipment.