

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Starting July 1, an interim superintendent at Perkins County Schools will replace Tobin Buchanan, who is beginning a career in the private sector after serving the district for six years.

Retired superintendent William L. Hakonson (pronounced 'Hawk'-onson) of Cheyenne, Wyo., will take the helm of the district on a one-year contract. Hakonson's most recent position was in Nebraska at Leyton School District which serves the communities of Gurley and Dalton.

Hakonson received his Bachelor of Arts in biological sciences from Wayne State College in 1966. In 1980 he received a Master of Science in educational administration from Wayne State, followed by an Educational Specialist Degree in 1983 from the college.

He began his career in the Gurley Public Schools as principal, science teacher and coach in 1967. Eight years later he became the guidance counselor at Creighton Community Schools where he also taught science and coached.

From 1980-81 Hakonson served the Auburn Public Schools as administrator assistant and guidance counselor, becoming the secondary principal from 1981-1985 at Wisner-Pilger Public Schools. He then served as superintendent of the Wisner-Pilger Schools until 2001 when he moved to Lander, Wyo., to become superintendent of the Fremont County School District until his retirement in 2005.

Hakonson has several honors to his credit, including being named Superintendent of the Year Region 3, being the recipient of the Northeast Community College Distinguished Service Award, and being named Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska.

Personnel and quality control are indicated as Hakonson's major strengths—areas he will target in his new position with Perkins County Schools.