

school news

School Board Works to Streamline Bus Schedules

By Amy Dews

WSESU Intensive Services K-6 District Program coming to Dummerston School: In May, the Dummerston Town School Board voted to welcome the WSESU Intensive Services District Program for K-6 students to the Dummerston School beginning in fall 2007. This district program serves K-6 students identified as having severe to profound impairments, delayed adaptive behavior and social skills, and a lack of progress with significant intervention in less restrictive environments. At the elementary (K-6) level, the program's focus is to include the student in the school community and to help the student become as independent as possible. Each student has an individual paraeducator to enable him/her to participate in regular education activities as fully as is feasible. When not in a regular education setting, the Intensive Services students will work in their own classroom with their paraeducator and specialized services personnel (i.e. physical, occupational, speech therapists). For fall 2007, seven students are expected to participate in this program.

The Dummerston Town School Board is pleased that this district program is moving to the Dummerston School after eighteen years at Academy School. It allows Dummerston School to diversify its student population, to generate additional annual revenue and to showcase the Dummerston School within the WSESU community. While Intensive Services students at Dummerston School cannot be included in our student count (used to calculate per pupil cost), they can be included in Dummerston School's free and reduced lunch

program count as long as they qualify for this federal program (used to determine eligibility for federal funds). While the intensive services program will increase the number of personnel and cars at the Dummerston School, please remember that this program is funded by the WSESU, not by the Dummerston School.

Summer Meeting Schedule: With no meetings scheduled in July, the Dummerston Town School Board will meet on August 7th and August 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Dummerston School library. Your thoughts and ideas are welcome. If you can't attend a meeting, please contact any board member. Contact and agenda information is available at dummerstonschool.org and at the town hall. The board will resume its regular meeting schedule in September (second and fourth Tuesdays of each month).

School Bus Schedule 2007-2008: In July, board members will be working with WSESU central office staff and Laidlaw Transportation to streamline bus schedules and pick up/drop off points for the 2007-2008 school year. Thank you in advance for your support as we make Dummerston School's bus schedule more efficient.

Good Byes and Thanks!: At the end of this school year, the Dummerston Town School Board bid farewell to several outstanding Dummerston School staff members. After over 30 years of mathematics instruction to Dummerston students, Linda Ives retired from teaching. Lavon Butts and Patty Walior have left the Dummerston School for other opportunities. The board wishes Linda, Lavon and Patty the very best as they pursue other interests and thanks them for their years of

dedication and commitment to Dummerston children and our community. Finally, the board thanks the students and their families, the staff and the many volunteers who support the Dummerston school and the greater Dummerston community for a successful 2006-2007 school year.

PTFO Sponsors Field Days, Appreciation Breakfast

By Patty Walior

Happy summer!! Before you know it we will be back in school, ready for another year of work and fun. The new bleachers at the softball field look great. It was nice to drive by and see them full of spectators this spring. At this time we are researching prices for a new picnic table to put out front for teachers and students to enjoy picnic lunches this fall. This year at Dummerston's eighth grade graduation, the three PTFO high school scholarships were awarded to Tessa Short, Jenny Forrister, and Cailey Biles. We wish these three girls, as well as all Dummerston BUHS graduates, our congratulations and the best in the future. The PTFO appreciation breakfast on Monday June 18th for all Dummerston school staff was a huge success and enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone who brought in food for this much-anticipated event. PTFO also sponsored the end of year field days for all students in kindergarten through sixth grade. This year there was an Iditarod theme, where students were grouped in sled teams with a "lead dog and musher". The students participated in nine dog-related stations, complete with a vet check on a real dog! It was a great experience and everyone had a fantastic morning on the last day of school. Many parents and recent eighth grade graduates volunteered to help man the stations and we thank them all.

On the agenda for next fall will be the annual Scholastic bookfair (dates to be announced), fall fling, and our fall fundraiser will be selling sweatshirts and possibly long-sleeved tee shirts with a Dummerston School logo. We will start our meetings in September on the third Wednesday of the month in the library. If anyone is interested please show up or call Patty Walior (254-9191) for ways that you can be involved either on a regular basis or for an event. I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer!

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