Dewberry School Parent Council Meeting

May 1, 2024

Members in Attendance: Tyler Comeau, Tyson Lancaster, Tatiana Lidstone, Lisa Bensmiller, Darlene Bensmiller, August Bensmiller, Darlene Goldsmith, Stacey Nelson and Lindsey Smyth.

Called to order at 6:30pm by Lisa Bensmiller.

Minutes of last meeting read and reviewed by Tyler Comeau, adopted by consensus.

Current agenda read by Tyler Comeau, adopted by consensus.

August Bensmiller delivered the Student Report. Over the past month, student council consulted with students on likes and wants and all ages agree that staff is all loved and a lot of fun. They are very excited to learn more about the agriculture program. Students want rocks replaced with rubber in the playground, more lunch tables and better track upkeep.

Tyler gave his principal report. The ABSC Grant paid for radio ads to run through April and were very well received by the public; central office also loved the ads and referred to Dewberry as a model school. Social media campaigning for the school is beginning through Facebook and Instagram. Tyler reminded parents that the school calendar is on the school website and is kept up to date. Budget and timetable work for 2024/2025 is continuing and should be finished May 6/24; a functional, balanced budget has been submitted to central office. Land based agricultural programming for grades 7-9 was excitedly introduced by Tyler, to start in 2024/2025; it includes regular curriculum for ½ the day and agriculturally based schooling for the other ½. This has been designed to meet kids where they are at, which is a farming community, to help them connect and embrace local surroundings. Many grants- totalling $100,000- will be applied for to help with the challenge of finding the funding for the upcoming program change; community engagement will be extremely important for the success of it. This program hits 100+ more blocks of subject dedication than district regulations. The greenhouse certificate and chicken program will continue to be offered. Tyler asked for help with putting an ad for the school in the local newsletter and Tatiana has offered to do so. The conversation was referred to Tyson Lancaster regarding the Superintendent Speech Contest held April 11- see teachers report. End of principal report.

Tyson Lancaster delivered the teachers report. Tyson was pleased with the superintendent speech contest held in the school April 11, that featured local judges and had prizes sponsored by Dewberry Theater. Tyson fully backs and supports the land-based program and lent his expertise to help develop it. End of teacher report.

There was no trustee report for this meeting.

Stacey Nelson provided an update on the school clothing order, and it should arrive May 6.

Year end trips: Elementary students will be going to Lloydminster Museum June 14. JR/SR high students will be getting a personalized tour of the Vermilion Lakeland campus. Last day of school is still being discussed.

New Business: Darlene Goldsmith brought up ear end award inclusivity and elementary kids getting academic awards but has agreed that further exploration of the topic be tabled until June meeting.

The next meeting has been set for June 5, 2024, at 6:30PM at Dewberry School.

Meeting adjourned by Lisa Bensmiller at 7:50pm.