

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR A GREEN CITY
MINUTES**

January 21, 2009

Gheens Academy Room 110

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Attendance: Marcelle Gianelloni, Brent Fryrear, Keith Mountain, Judy Gardner, Bill Kennedy, Kaki Robinson, Carol Gunderson, Jerry Durall, Barbara Clark, Natalie Abram, Jerrimica Lock, Julie Fried, Kandris Goodwin, Leslie Wuorinmas, Michelle Kamos, Kimberly Boyd, David Wicks, Donna Griffin, Teddie Phillipson, Layne Greenwell

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm by Teddie Phillipson-Mower and Donna Griffin. Introductions were made.

I. New Business:

1. Donna Griffin: Gave an overview of Environmental Education and JCPS. We will have 28 magnet programs in JCPS this year. Portland and Cane Run are designated as elementary environmental education magnets. Lassiter Middle School is now an official environmental education magnet. This is a planning year for the magnet schools. If you are interested in looking at the plan, Donna Griffin will email an electronic version to you. You may contact her at Donna.Griffin@Jefferson.kyschools.us. The JCPS Center for Environmental Education is working on developing environmental extensions for the science modules that are used in the schools. Donna is in the process of developing a matrix that identifies programs that environmental education organizations offer that would connect with science module.
2. Julie Shinton Fried: Gave an overview of the Youth Summit. The Environmental Youth Summit will be on March 19, 2009. It is a great opportunity for students to be engaged in and explore environmental issues. One of the new concepts we will be implementing in this Summit is the “Showcase of Schools” which will facilitate student to student interaction about their environmental projects. If you have students that would be interested in showcasing their work at the Summit please contact Julie Fried at: Julie.ShintonFried@louisvilleky.gov. We are limited on substitute funding and space for schools, so you are encouraged to sign up before the deadline (Feb. 19). Also, we are looking for more mentors that can go into schools and act as resources and support teachers. We do have a small group of experts available. If you are a teacher needing assistance with the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools inventories or action projects, please contact Judy Gardner. Judy has joined the Youth Summit

Planning Committee to facilitate communication between teachers, mentors, and the committee. She will be contacting all teachers and mentors in the near future. Her e-mail address is Judithgardner@gmail.com. We are very fortunate to have her with us.

3. Teddie Phillipson-Mower: Gave an update on Environmental Education and UofL. Embedding environmental education through the pre-service teacher program has been a top priority. In addition to an introduction to environmental education workshop in the General Methods and Exploring Teaching courses, service learning experiences which include working with Donna Griffin at Blackacre Nature Preserve has also been successfully implemented. If you are aware of any service learning opportunities for the preservice teachers contact Teddie Phillipson at: t.phillipsonmower@louisville.edu. Courses that will apply to the Environmental Education Endorsement Program have been developed and revised and are consistent with both KTS-2008 and NAAEE standards. An Environmental Education Capstone course will be offered this summer. Those teachers that have taken the Introduction to Environmental Education and EE Teaching Methods courses can register for this course. We will work with the Planetarium to design, implement, and assess a new Earth Camp program to go along with their already successful Space Camp. Also, the University of Louisville has a new Sustainability Council chaired by our friend and colleague Barbara Burns. Since September, they have organized, documented what is happening on campus in the area of environment and sustainability, and started to develop a plan for the future. We are very fortunate to have an administration that supports these efforts. Thank you President Ramsey, Provost Willihnganz, and Barbara Burns!
4. Layne Greenwell: Gave a description of the National Teach-In for Global Warming. The National Teach-In is scheduled for February 5, 2009. The organization is hoping for numerous middle and high schools, universities, faith groups, and businesses to hold educational events regarding Global Warming. Anyone interested in organizing a teach-in at their school or just wanting to know more about the event can visit the website at: <http://www.nationalteachin.org/about.php>. The Sustainability Council at UofL is participating by organizing many events in the Planetarium and Ekstrom Library. See the UofL website for specific information.
5. Earth day is quickly approaching! We are interested in hearing everyone's plans and events for the day. If you have an event planned for Earth Day please email the event information to Layne Greenwell at: cenvired@louisville.edu and we will distribute this information to the committee. The Louisville Zoo will have their annual Earth Day celebration. Marcelle will give us more information as we approach that day.

II. Working Groups:

1. “What should Environmental Educators know about Jefferson County” document discussion. Using the tentative format that we agreed upon at the December meeting, individuals wrote out the questions that they have as environmental educators for each of the topics. This information should be helpful for authors to determine what type of information should be included. The results were word processed and are included in the attachment. We are still seeking authors that are interested in contributing to this document. Especially interesting would be Louisville data sets that might result in K-20 inquiries and content expert pieces. To guide the writing process, we are looking for pieces that are between 2 and 5 pages double spaced that communicate relevant information about the local environment in a easy and enjoyable way. The audience is environmental educators that would like a resource that outlines specifics about our area that will help them integrate the local environment into their messages and help them expand their knowledge.

Keith “volunteered” to write the introductory piece on climate change that will serve to connect all of the pieces in the document. He offered his data sets to be included in this project. Thank you Keith!

III. Announcements:

1. Darleen Horton: Science Night at Chenoweth will be held on February 24th. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. for families (5:30 for volunteer workers - we need lots); and the hall of science activities will begin around 6:30 and will end at 8 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering or in just coming by to see what is going on, just let me know. Darleen Horton (darleen.horton@jefferson.kyschools.us) or 551-9907. This is a wonderful event. Please consider participating.
2. Emily Goldstein: There is a new network called the Mother Nature Network starting this year. Emily has been asked to be the local correspondent, writing stories on what is being done to help the environment in the Louisville area. Also, I wanted to share with everyone that I filmed a program with Dr. Berman on polar bears and their conservation. It is on "Inside JCPS" right now on channel 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. by Teddie Phillipson-Mower and Donna Griffin.