

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

September 19, 2007

Gheens Room 202

Meeting: 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Donna Griffin (JCPS), Teddie Phillipson-Mower (UofL), Emily Conn (UofL), Barbara Burns (UofL), David Wicks (JCPS), Jerry Durall (Lassiter Middle School), Tim Baker (Meyzeek Middle School), Beth Inman (Ballard High School), Russ Barnett (UofL), Ruby Backert (UofL), Darleen Horton (Chenoweth Elementary), Andrew Crocker (Metro Parks), Jason Sanchez (Louisville Science Center)

The meeting was called to order at 4:42 pm by Teddie Phillipson-Mower and Donna Griffin. Introductions were made.

I. Presentations

1. UofL Honors Program (Dr. Barbara Burns) – This fall, the UofL Honors Program, in cooperation with The Partnership for a Green City, is offering courses with “Green”, or environmental subjects at their core. Dr. Barbara Burns, Chair of the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences is teaching one of these courses, *Reading, Writing and Toxics: Children’s Health and Environmental Justice*. Her students are currently working on three projects:
 - Integrating environmental issues into the *Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies, Healthy World* curriculum developed by the Kentucky Psychological Association. This well-tested curriculum is currently for second and third grade students and includes five 1-hour lessons. Dr. Burns is meeting with 85 principals tomorrow (September 20th) and hopes to launch the environmentally-enhanced curriculum in 25 elementary schools. Her honors class in the spring will assess the curriculum based on responses from the elementary school students and their parents.
 - Writing four environmental pieces for middle schools students to use in their classroom. This project is guided by the expertise of Donna Griffin.
 - Developing a 30-minute, interactive presentation on recognizing asthma triggers that will be given to parents of children in the Kentucky Head Start program. Dr. Burns and her students plan to present this important information at 52 different Head Start parent meetings during the month of October.

ACTION: If you are interested in collaborating with Dr. Burns on these projects, or if you have ideas about future projects you can contact her at bburns@louisville.edu. If you are interested in the broader topic of research in environmental education you are invited to join the Research working group (see below).

2. Brightside Youth Summit (Donna Griffin) – Spear-headed by Brightside’s community education manager, Julie Shinton-Fried, with collaborative efforts from all three entities of the Green Partnership, this year’s Summit will provide students with the opportunity to share their ideas and discuss ways they can improve their school’s environment using Kentucky’s new *Green and Healthy Schools* (GHS) initiative as a framework. Mayor Jerry Abramson and JCPS Superintendent Dr. Sheldon Berman, along with several other influential members from the community, are scheduled to speak to the 225 students registered for the event. The Summit will also include break-out sessions which will provide a venue for students to explore two of the eight GHS inventories – solid waste, indoor air quality, hazardous chemicals, green spaces, health & safety, energy, water, or transportation. During these sessions, students can ask questions, share ideas, and discuss ways to take action in their schools with their session facilitators who are experts in the particular inventory topic. While students are attending the break-out sessions, teachers are encouraged to attend a PD facilitated by Donna Griffin, Teddie Phillipson-Mower, Jane Eller, and Maria Zoretic. This PD will familiarize teachers with the *Green and Healthy Schools initiative* as well as provide them with the structure and know-how to support and motivate their students to take action in their schools. In addition to the GHS initiative, there is another program called *Earth Force* which includes a “steps to action” component that will provide teachers and students with a framework for action. The Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education (KUPEE) is advocating for the integration of both of these programs statewide. Jefferson County is leading this effort. The *Earth Force* program will be available to schools once the necessary training is completed.

ACTION: If anyone is interested in following up with schools after the Youth Summit and providing assistance or encouragement for them to take action, you can contact Julie Shinton-Fried at julie.shintonfried@louisvilleky.gov. Another way to participate is to join the *Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools* working group (see below).

3. District “Cutting” Policies and Outdoor Classrooms (Darleen Horton) – Recently, a grounds maintenance crew came to Chenoweth Elementary and cut up Darleen Horton’s outdoor classroom vegetable garden. She wrote a letter to the district supervisor who agreed that this was a mistake. According to David Wicks, this has been a problem in the past. The bottom line is that the school district has decided to contract out mowing again. They pay various ground maintenance crews \$20 per acre which is extremely cheap. As a result, the various crews cut the grounds as quickly as possible, taking little care to preserve outdoor classrooms, trees, and other plants on the school grounds. Metro Parks resolved a similar issue by establishing a district mowing policy using GIS mapping to identify how often different areas in the park system should be cut or if they needed to be cut at all.

ACTION: Darleen Horton would like to work with others to devise a district mowing policy for JCPS similar to that of Metro Parks. If you have ideas or are interested in this issue you can contact Darleen at Darleen.horton@jefferson.kyschools.us. This issue will also be a focus of the Outdoor Classrooms working group (see below).

4. Lassiter Middle School Pilot Project (Jerry Durall & Donna Griffin) – In collaboration with JCPS (Donna Griffin and Bryan Thompson), UofL (Teddie Phillipson-Mower), and Metro Government (Julie Shinton-Fried of Brightside and Tonya Swan of Jefferson Memorial Forest), Lassiter Middle School has developed a plan for integrating EE into every classroom and the school culture. Jerry Durall, a teacher at Lassiter, expressed his excitement about his school’s commitment to EE. He detailed several environmental happenings at his school and offered his gratitude for the constant support offered by the Green Partnership. A key member of this support-system, Donna Griffin, has visited Lassiter every week since the beginning of school. During her visits, she reinforces to faculty members that incorporating an EE curriculum is not in addition to everything else that a teacher has to do but instead a connector that will help give life to routine classroom learning experiences. Donna and Teddie are documenting the progress of this pilot program and hope to implement similar programs in other JCPS middle schools.
 - Farmers Market at Lassiter Middle School – Once a month, Lassiter, along with several other JCPS schools, conducts a Market Day fund-raiser. During these Market Days the school sells canned and pre-packaged food to parents and community members. Donna Griffin and Angelique Perez (Community Farm Alliance) suggested adding a farmers market outside of the school during one of the next Market Days that would not only allow local farmers to sell their produce to the community, but also educate the community on the importance of buying locally. Lassiter’s Principal, Mr. Roberts was open to the idea.

ACTION: If you are interested in contributing to or learning more about this pilot project you can contact Donna Griffin at donna.griffin@jefferson.kyschools.us or join the Middle School Pilot Project working group (see below).

II. Working Groups – Teddie Phillipson-Mower encouraged committee members to join existing working groups or create new working groups pertaining to issues that interest them. She reminded everyone that there are other members of the committee who were not present that will want to collaborate on these issues as well, especially in the area of food. She also emphasized the need for working groups to meet before the next EEC meeting so that they can report their plan for the year to the entire committee. Below is the list of working groups that the Committee decided to implement this year. If you are interested in starting a working group that is not already listed, contact Teddie Phillipson-Mower at t.phillipsonmower@louisville.edu

1. **Outdoor Classrooms** – Last year the outdoor classroom working group was divided between education and landscaping restoration policy. The committee agreed that it is difficult to separate between the two and still have a viable working group. Thus, the committee unanimously decided to join them together. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Darleen Horton at Darleen.horton@jefferson.kyschools.us. Tim Baker from Meyzeek Middle School and Ruby Backert from UofL are also members.

2. **Food Group** – Though not present at the meeting, Angelique Perez is interested in continuing this working group. If you would like to join, email Angelique at acpere01@gwise.louisville.edu
3. **Research Group** – Dr. Barbara Burns has agreed to continue leading this working group. If you are interested in joining you may email Dr. Burns at bburns@louisville.edu
4. **Middle School EE Pilot Project** – If you are interested in taking part in the Lassiter Pilot Project working group, you can email Donna Griffin at donna.griffin@jefferson.kyschools.us or Jerry Durall at jerry.durall@jefferson.kyschools.us. The duration of the project is estimated to last 2 to 3 years before it is implemented in other middle schools.
5. **Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools Initiative** – This working group will provide assistance to schools who attend Brightside’s Youth Summit. This will include recruiting local business or organizations that are willing to provide the resources necessary for students to evaluate and implement major environmental improvement projects at their schools. If you are interested in joining this group you can contact Julie Shinton-Fried at julie.shintonfried@louisvilleky.gov or David Wicks at david.wicks@jefferson.kyschools.us
6. **Alternative Energy Source Education** – The State of Kentucky has committed to increase our use of biofuels to 25% of the total fuels used in Kentucky by the year 2025. In addition, President Ramsey is committed to reducing UofL’s carbon footprint to 0 by the year 2050. Beth Inman is a stakeholder in the biofuel market and would like to work with other committee members to educate the community on alternative energy sources. If you would like to join this group, contact Beth at beth.inman@jefferson.kyschools.us

ACTION: All working groups will meet once prior to next month’s EEC meeting to identify at least three goals for this year. In addition, they will also draft a couple of indicators of success for each goal. To this document, they will add all members of the working group along with e-mails and forward a copy to Emily Conn at Cenvired@louisville.edu. The members will choose a spokesperson to report on the working group at the next EE meeting.

III. Housekeeping Issue – The November meeting, originally scheduled for November 21st, has been changed to November 14th due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Furthermore, there will be no meeting during the month of December; however there will be an EEC Holiday Party on December 12th. Dr. Barbara Burns is in charge of organizing the party and will provide the details at a later date. If you would like to help plan the party, contact Barbara Burns.

IV. Announcements

1. **The next EEC meeting will be October 17th from 4:30-5:30 pm at Gheens Academy. Please be sure that you contact the person above that has agreed to organize the working group you are most interested in and meet with your working group prior to this meeting.** (A list of EEC member contact information is attached).
2. Upcoming PDs
 - On **October 3 from 4:30 to 7:30**, a PD session, **Food and Agriculture** will be held at Oxmoor Farm. This session will expose teachers to the inquiry-based programs of the Food Literacy Project at Oxmoor Farm, a non-profit education

agency partnering with a working farm, to demonstrate the viability and positive impact of urban agriculture. JCPS employees may register on PDcentral. If you would like to attend and are not a JCPS employee, call Carol Gunderson for more information at 413-5989.

- Register to attend the professional development workshop **“Open Air Marketplaces: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Understanding the World.”** It will be held on **October 18 from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm** at the JCPS Gheens Academy and is worth 3 credit hours. Through a guided tour of a photo exhibit, this workshop explores interdisciplinary approaches to the study of open-air marketplaces around the world, and their relationship to various aspects of human communities. K-12 teacher guides and CDs will be available to participate. It is open to classified and certified employees. Register through PDcentral using the session code #07-0810924 or the keyword “marketplaces”. The workshop is a collaborative effort of the JCPS Diversity/Multicultural Education Office, the JCPS Center for Environmental Education, and the JCPS Curriculum Resource Center. For additional information, please visit <http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Programs/oam/index.html>
3. **Brightside’s Youth Summit, Tuesday, September 25th from 9-1:30 pm at the Louisville Science Center.** If you have students who would like to participate in the Summit or if you would like to volunteer throughout the day, contact Julie Shinton-Fried at julie.shintonfried@louisvilleky.gov
 4. **Conversation on Climate Action, Thursday October 4, 2007, Vogt Hall Room 311, University of Louisville, 5:30-7:30 pm.** Local government leaders across the U.S. will convene meetings to discuss the science and what actions are needed to solve global warming. The meetings are being held as part of the first annual National Conversation on Climate Action (see <http://www.climateconversation.org/>). What impacts will our community see from climate change? What will be the effects on our economy? What are public agencies and businesses doing to address this issue? What can an individual do? Louisville is a signatory community to the U.S. Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement. This conversation is sponsored by the Partnership for a Green City.
 5. **The Food Literacy Project is seeking volunteers to help reconnect Louisville residents with the source of their food at a Family Farm Day event on Saturday, October 13th.** Family Farm Day will be held at our partner working vegetable farm at 9001 Limehouse Lane in Louisville. We need volunteers who can help facilitate engaging activities for families including making pumpkin ice cream or pumpkin bread, leaf prints/rubbings, garden scavenger hunt, participatory cooking demo with fall greens and root crops and/or salad harvest, wash, dry and toss activity, face painting, rye seed threshing, grinding, and bread baking, live music, etc. If you have never been to one of our Family Farm Day events, see pictures at our website: www.foodliteracyproject.org. Contact Carol Gunderson if you are interested in volunteering, farmercarol@gmail.com or (502) 413-5989. Many thanks!
 6. **Kentucky History Day at Chenoweth Elementary, October 19, 2007 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm.** The celebration will take place in Chenoweth’s Outdoor Classroom. Chenoweth students and staff will participate in several hands-on activities that celebrate the way our state has grown and developed. If you would like to volunteer to help out

with any part of the day or have questions, please call Darleen Horton, Science Lab Teacher at 485-8227 or 551-9907.

The meeting concluded at 5:40 PM.

UofL Center for Environmental Education e-mail: cenvired@louisville.edu

Environmental Education Committee website page:

<http://louisville.edu/education/research/centers/environmental-ed/environmental-education-committee.html>