

Environmental education initiatives are supported by the Partnership for a Green City, a collaborative effort of the Jefferson County Public Schools, the University of Louisville, and Louisville Metro Government.



The Partnership for a Green City



Minutes

Partnership for a Green City: Environmental Education Committee

October 18, 2006

Room 202, Gheens Academy

4:30PM – 6:00PM

Members present:

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| Darleen Horton | Chenoweth Elem. |
| Kaki Robinson | Kennedy Montessori |
| Jerry Duvall | Lassiter Middle School |
| Matthew Edlin | UL (research-environmental education) |
| Daniel Bright | UL (research-environmental education) |
| Jenny Cundiff | UL (research-environmental education) |
| Rachel Knecht | UL (research-environmental education) |
| Angelique Perez | UL (public health – research) |
| Bernard Hamilton | Title I Office, JCPS Gheens Academy |
| Corey Shircliff | Brown High School student |
| Rebecca Sternbem | Brightside intern |
| Julie Shinton Fried | Brightside |
| Jean Anne Clyde | UL (faculty) |

Discussion on Indicators / Performance Measures for Working Group Outcomes:

The committee discussed to how measure goals and indicators. Several surveys were reviewed including the Roper Survey. The Roper Survey would be useful in examining an indicator such as environmental literacy and measuring how our community compares to nation-wide trends.

Darleen Horton proposed administering the Roper to grades 4 – 8, comparing student's environmental literacy to adults.

Committee members were encouraged to bring additional EE surveys to the next meeting.

Up-dates on established working groups:

- **Outdoor Classrooms-** This committee will focus on curriculum and instruction in outdoor classrooms. The group emphasized the validity of outdoor learning areas. Interest was expressed in developing a centrally located database of outdoor classrooms. A starting place for this could be the survey administered by Brightside (Julie Fried Shinton) which was piggybacked on the Fred Wiche Award materials.
- **Native Plant Educational Initiative-** This working group is still forming, but based on priorities set in the initial meeting this year, interest was expressed in developing native plant demonstration gardens, or using gardens already established, such as at the Louisville Zoo, for the purpose of educating the public about the benefits of using native plantings in landscaping.
- **Energy Fairs-** The equipment used in demonstrations at the Ky. State Fair Energy Exhibit was donated to the JCPS Center for Environmental Education. The first energy fair was held at Farnsley Middle School. The energy fair is correlated to the science curriculum at the 7th grade level. Work will be done to develop a program in which participating students can become energy watchdogs (reminding people to turn off lights, recycle, etc.) This working group also has plans to work with community groups. This group has access to 25 years of data on natural gas / electricity used along with the daily temperature. This data will enable the group to measure money saved through energy conservation.
- **EE Research-** Four projects have received approval through JCPS.
 1. A study of physical education will be done comparing classrooms that adhere to Housebill #172 recommendations of 30 minutes of exercise per day to classrooms that do not.
 2. Effects of canoeing field trips on attendance and motivation.
 3. Effects of EE on student achievement at Blackacre State Nature Preserve.
 4. Outdoor Classroom study at Kennedy Montessori using teacher interviews to see how science achievement is impacted by EE as compared to a school that does not have an outdoor classroom.
- **Reducing Exhaust Emissions through EE-**This working group will develop a plan to engage students in reducing vehicle exhaust emissions by training students to use tire pressure gauges to make sure tires are properly inflated, and raise consciousness about turning off idling cars (in car pool lines). This will be piloted at one school and then expanded to other schools and community sites.
- **Resource Use in Schools-**Corey Shircliff, Brown High School student, is working on a project to add organic food choices to food services in JCPS, find an alternative for Styrofoam trays.

Green Thumbs (a newly established student environmental club at UL)- Teddie Phillipson reported on a newly formed student environmental group at UL with 30 members. They will have a representative at the EE Committee meetings. Greta Landon is the facilitator of the Green Thumbs. They are interested in working on the lack of recycling at UL and are working with the student government. Other projects have been discussed including battery recycling and volunteering with other environmental organizations.

Lassiter Middle School –Jerry Durall reported on re-establishing the school as an active environmental education magnet school. They are starting an environmental club and are

prioritizing working on developing leadership skills in the students. The principal, Dwayne Roberts, wants environmental education to become systemic at Lassiter.

Youth Environmental Summit- Julie Shinton Fried and Rebecca Sterbem announced the Youth Summit on November 15, 2006, which is also America Recycles Day. Students must be nominated by November 8th by an adult sponsor and should be between the ages of 10 and 18 years old. Each adult sponsor can nominate between 3 and 6 students. For more information contact Jennifer Crask at Jennifer.Crask@jefferson.kyschools.us.

Julie also gave out information about the Keep-It-Clean Louisville Grant Program. The application consists of high schools identifying and reporting information about their anti-litter and beautification grant activities. A check for \$200.00 will be given to approved programs. In addition, schools may be eligible for a Grant of Distinction Award that will be given at the Brightside Annual Breakfast in the spring of 2007. These awards include a financial component. A new feature of these activities will be a “Call for Papers”. Students will send proposals in following the Youth Summit for presentations on Earth Day 2007.

Jean Anne Clyde noted this would be a wonderful way to connect to the transactive writing assignments that students are required to do since it offers a real world context. It was suggested that UL students act as reviewers.