

Education Team
January 7, 2010

Members Present: Eric Brown, Iver Lofving, Bonnie Sammons, Autum Cater, Melinda Hood, Linda Woods

1. Eric explained that college students are saying that in their classes there is constant conversation about the impact of decisions on the environment. This led to a discussion about *Avatar*, which is a metaphor for environmental concerns. Another movie to see is *Wall-E*. If we can get 20 % of the population to “buy into” an idea, the others will follow.
2. Autum: We should create a slide show of a land area’s regression. We need to connect better to the kids today. Iver told about his Green Fest. Every class could come for 15 minutes to the court yard to see the exhibits.
3. Eric: The way we can get to kids is during the school day. Maybe Railroad Square would show a movie for \$1 with cheap popcorn? Linda could arrange this, but we need more support from the administration.
4. Bonnie: We need to get the kids outside to do hands-on activities. She recently led a snowshoe trek for her kids.
5. What can we do to get kids engaged?
Eric: LHS will have its fifth Earth Day Celebration this year.
Autum: Unfortunately, the kids walk through without caring/noticing.
Autum: suggested activities like: bring your own lunch or car pool to school with a reward for the students at the end of the week if there are fewer cars.
Bonnie: Make it a competition (like Homecoming).
Bonnie: question posted in the library. On Thursday there would be a discussion about the topic.
Eric: canvas bags given to parents during conferences. There was a video looping that showed the detriments of plastic. Eric would like to pass out canvas bags at tables in front of grocery stores.
Iver & students insulated three houses in Skowhegan. They also did “Trash for Cash.”
Autum: Community Clean-Up
Autum: need lots of visuals & loud music
Iver: Every day on the announcements issue a challenge: “This day you recycle three pieces of trash.” Etc.
Autum: What if we dumped a bunch of trash in the hallway and let kids walk through it? We could put the recycle bins around and see if kids will pick the trash up. Kids have to consciously engage to pick up the trash.
Iver: Green Person of the Season Award (Could this be a LHS PRIDE award?)
Eric: Reduce water consumption idea. PVP taped to walls with tinsel that looks like water. Fact about water consumption at each station.

6. Iver: Kids are less mobile. Plus teachers can't transport kids.
7. Eric: Get the kids to ask the principal for permission to do various things: no paper day; no electricity day.
8. Melinda: need to do an entire week of mandatory activities
9. Bonnie appreciated the convergence of schools and ideas. We can make this happen!
10. Autum: Maybe we could get the area school students together in the spring and do something public. The consensus is to aim for Earth Day. Eric: The Friday before April vacation. Call the *Sentinel* for publicity. Hopefully we can get Waterville & Winslow, too. Maybe this is the time for each community to do "Trash for Cash." Bonnie: We need an alternative activity in case there is a huge snowstorm. This could also be a "Lights Out Day." The kids want a competition for a week.

The next meeting is at **Lake George in Canaan on February 6**. There will be various activities happening. We can ski/snowshoe.

The meeting after that is **March 6 from 9 to 12 at Iver's Sugar House in Norridgewock**.

More specific details about these events will follow.