Teacher Advisory Committee Minutes

November 12, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm. Members present: Toni Moore, Angie Paprocki, Bonnie Lartz, Karen Anderson, Debbie Mueller, Diane New, and Sheryl Solomonson.

Minutes from Last Meeting were approved, seconded and passed.

Sheryl went through some details in the coordinator report for June-October. Discussion among the group included how to get more kits loaned out. It was suggested to physically get into more schools at lunch time. Sit in the lounge with some materials on display and answer questions. Doing the same thing before school was also suggested. Sheryl will contact schools after Thanksgiving to get a list of lunch times in schools-and work on setting up visit dates.

Old Business

* IAITC Grant-receiving $7900 (not $2900 as listed on agenda) for 2014-15.
* SAI had 14 teachers participate
* Learn & Play Day at the John Deere Pavilion-3100 people came through the doors (925 kids) the baseball charm station was constantly busy
* River Bandits Game-75 charms made.
* 450 Back-to-school packets were delivered in the first weeks of school
* AgXPerience~1100 students attended. It was suggested to check with teachers one week out to make sure their transportation needs are set. We had a couple of issues this year with late bus requests, etc. It was also suggested that we MAIL postcards or reminders to escorts. DeAnne and Sheryl are trying to streamline the volunteer list and want to find someone (adult and responsible) to take over the volunteer responsibilities so people don’t fall through the cracks. 2015 will have second or third grade students only. Because of specific teacher interests we do not feel it’s appropriate to limit it only to second grade or third grade. It was mentioned that the new JA curriculum for second grade has a farm focus. Sheryl will look into that and hopefully use that information to find “new” AgXPerience classrooms.

New Business

* Sheryl met with the Manager/Owner of Culver’s. We are going to work on a AITC day in the spring-make & takes, possibly farm animals, and maybe a 10% deal. It was suggested to contact Chick-fil-A (Violet) and Silvis Dairy Queen (Mark) to see about activities with them as well.
* 2015 SAI-1 or SAI-2. SAI-1 will likely be the week of July 6-10. SAI-2 will be around July 20th. SAI-1 will function as normal. SAI-2 will have an agri-tourism theme (Fair Oaks Dairy, U of I campus, Amish country, Morton pumpkin farm). Sheryl will send out interest emails to teachers after Thanksgiving to see if she should move forward with SAI-2 plans.
* Earth Week Fair has been cancelled in 2015. The coalition is going to have a strategic planning session in December to determine how to proceed.
* The Rock Island County Fair will be July 15-19. Sheryl is working on a number of displays and activities for Copeland Center (per a request from Ginny Wray-Fairboard). The hope is that we will get display material from state commodity groups and will have activities that don’t need to be constantly monitored.
* Classroom Readers program will continue in 2015. Sheryl will send a message to the Farm Bureau membership in December looking for volunteers. The number of volunteers will determine the number of classrooms to visit.

Other Business

* None was presented.

The next meeting will be held in January (specific date to be determined) at 5 pm at the Farm Bureau Office.

Adjourned at 6:26 pm.