

Education Committee Minutes
October 3rd, 2023
Yorkville, IL
4:00 pm

Members Present: Lucas Allen, Deanna Bazan, Alyse Olson, Julie Brown, Ariel Beauchamp

1. Review of Late Summer and Fall Activities
 - a. Ag Career Field Trip Series- 6 high school students participated in going to multiple agriculture related businesses and organizations to learn about various careers over 6 afternoons. They were given pre and post surveys for each of the days to reflect on the careers and why or why not those careers fit their interests. After the experience, all students indicated they would consider a career in agriculture.
 - b. SAI- 8 teachers joined in touring farms and businesses in Will, Kendall, La Salle, and Grundy counties over 4 days in July. Some teachers were repeats from the previous year and others new. All enjoyed the experience and wished they had more time to soak all the information in.
 - c. E.C. Substitute- Sandy Whaley was interviewed and hired in August to serve as the Education Coordinator Substitute from October 17th-December 31st to ensure AITC presentations are delivered to Kendall county students while Ariel is on maternity leave until January 2nd.
 - d. Presentations- Apples and Soybeans are the topics for the fall. Right now, for September and October we are doing the IAITC Browning Apple lesson. We reached 1,008 students in September and we are scheduled to reach another 1,000 students in October. November and December we will be doing IAITC lesson on Soybean Plastic.
 - e. Intern- We have extended the contract of our current intern, Keely Wixted, to help support the E.C. Substitute and she will finish at the of December. We are currently seeking an intern for the 2024 year. Interviews are to be done next week before Ariel goes on leave for maternity. Julie, AC, will coordinate hiring and onboarding paperwork for new intern to start on January 9th, 2024.
 - f. Volunteer Presenter Program- Right now the program has 2 volunteer presenters along with the intern and E.C. able to visit classrooms. For September, volunteer presenters served 13.5 hours and reached 584 students.
2. Professional Development- IAITC Coordinator Meeting was held of September 19th in the newly renovated Illinois Farm Bureau building. Ariel received a soil sieve and posters to use in classroom education. Deanna suggested that the soil sieve could be used at the Natural Resources Tour. Ariel also had choices of various workshops to attend. Ariel learned that she can stop creating Canva newsletters and just use Mailchimp emails with the information she give to teachers on the years programs, events, and opportunities instead. Ariel, also gained resources on how to better run Farm Safety Camp in the summer of 2024 this year by attending the Progressive Agriculture Foundations Safety Day program where one can utilize presentations on various safety topics that can be given to speakers to follow to make safety fun and engaging to kids. Ariel will make use of their program training and materials in the Spring of 2024.
3. Spring/Early Summer Programs

- a. Kendall County Natural Resources Tour- Dates for the 2024 NRT are May 2nd, 8th, and 9th. 3 days this year instead of 2 to accommodate Yorkville and Plano public schools as well as the private schools in the county.
 - b. Farm Safety Camp- Date TBA will be based around the schedule for SAI. SAI will be going through some changes and may break up some of the days normally in July to be in June when Farm Safety Camp is usually held.
4. Future Meeting Dates
- a. January 9th, April 9th, and June 4th at 4 pm

Meeting Adjourned at 4:44pm