

REACH Parent Group MINUTES

(SEE UPDATES IN PURPLE)

9:15-10:45, Friday **May 10**, 2019

Elmhurst Public Library (The Kossmann Room)

REACH Parent Group (formerly REACH PTA) is a parent group dedicated to supporting gifted and talented programs in District 205 and encouraging higher level educational opportunities for ALL District 205 students. Our area of focus includes:

- Providing parent and student resources for gifted and advanced learners
- Organizing advocacy at local and national levels
- Sponsoring and/or promoting academic-based extra-curricular activities that are accessible to all students
- Collaborating with REACH teachers to provide additional resources and student opportunities.

TODAY'S AGENDA (meeting 9 of 9)

In attendance (23): Patti Berner, Dave Beedy, Deb Lee, Brenda Gorman, Carrie Kaufmann, Craig Grossardt, Vanessa Paoli, Andrea Redfearn, Daphne Stepanich, Alison Benson, Becky Iacob, Patricia Glosner, Lynn Czapla-Taub, Amy Kinsella, Michelle Morris, Maria Karamitsos, Lori Harges, Naoko Osterman, Brian Mahoney, Hilary Simonds, Dan Hall, Monica Shah and Diane Lans-Kautz

9:15-9:30 (and will resume after guests conclude) **Officer and Chair/Team Reports (updates)**

- Treasurer - Brenda Gorman (receipts in? balance? items to discuss?)

Approximately \$11 remain in our budget after providing materials directly to our elementary and middle school REACH teachers. All receipts have been received. Many teachers expressed their sincere appreciation for our donations. Thank you, reps, for making this happen!

- Study Skills Workshop(s), "[Freshman Readiness](#)" - Brenda Gorman, Renee Pas, Pam Hamil, Patricia Glosner **By all accounts, the workshop was a success! Patricia and Brenda delivered the presentation to 80 students and parents (approximately 75/25%). Nearly 20 students were waitlisted. Materials are on the website and can be adapted for use for elementary-middle school transition. Minimal cost occurred as our parents envisioned, crafted, and delivered the program.**

Plans are for a fall follow-up, led by a paid Elmhurst college professor, providing more of a hands-on workshop model. All materials would be available for our use going forward.

- President - Patti Berner

- Parent Night Social, 4/18 EBC **Approximately 30 parents attended the evening. It seems to meet a need. Some parents were new to the program, others more seasoned. We will likely offer this again, perhaps 1-2 a year as interest suggests.**
- [IAGC](#) Sprint Parent Coffee, 4/26 - anyone attend? **No attendance. Budget will include monies for a parent to attend the February annual conference and share information at our March meeting.**
- [PTA Council](#) updates (May 7 meeting): kick off to our behavioral health programming next year, [Julie Lythcott Haimes](#), keynote speaker, Sept. 23rd for an evening community presentation, a community book discussion following using her book, [How to Raise an Adult](#), is likely
- [New D205 PTA \(REACH\) website](#) (feedback and images needed)
- [EPL Meeting Rooms, policy change](#) - may be inconsistent with meeting space
- 2019-2020 Planning; ([see survey](#)) - please complete and see [Calendar draft](#) **The group seemed open and available to rotate or change meeting times, (perhaps quarterly),**

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- from our historic date/time of 2nd Fridays at 9:15 to a 1-2:30 Friday afternoon. Note, there are two dates that conflict with D205 days off and date will be moved to a first Friday. Meeting dates will be published soon.
- Additionally, Parent Informational Meeting (three evening) dates along with meeting themes will be somewhat dependent on the new D205 REACH Coordinator and his/her scheduling of REACH testing, identification, notification, appeals, etc. Patti will work with him/her this summer to try and confirm regular attendance at our meetings along with a draft as to what our 2019-2020 calendar will look like.
- Leadership is desired (needed) in a number of board type roles and you do NOT need to be a designated REACH School Rep to help! They are:
 - Finance Chair (formerly Treasurer) is a necessary role
 - Website Admin (updates with minutes, resources, etc.)
 - Secretary (or two co-secretaries) to take meeting minutes
 - Legislative (provide legal updates, as needed e.g. SB1189)
 - Chair-elect (formerly President) to serve as group leader in 2020-21 (preferably for a two-year term.)
 - Other(s) – let me know if you'd like to serve in another capacity!

9:30-10:00 GUESTS: D205 STEM Director, Dave Beedy and Deb Lee, D205 Director of Curriculum & REACH Coordinator

Dave Beedy provided an update to math pathways. The general theme of the message was that a) the change will not lock kids in to a track they cannot get off of and b) that it opens up opportunities for all students to grow and thus c) the end result is a better math pathway. He also mentioned MTSS, multi-tiered services of support. My (Patti's) understanding is that this will be integrated throughout our elementary (maybe middle?) schools and could be equated to a "guided math" program, meeting kids at their respective levels similar to our "guided or leveled reading program" now.

A concern was expressed by parents regarding a specific math course (and its impact on pathways.) Dave assured us that those who wish to be challenged will have that opportunity. Parents with questions regarding math and math pathways, should contact their math teacher, Ismael Zamora, York Math Chair, and/or Dave Beedy, STEM Director. Additional information and links are found on our website.

Deb Lee - We thank Deb Lee for her service to the district and to our parent group. We wish her well in all her new endeavors. Interviewing continues for her replacement.

ALL Reps

Budget spend, [\\$100 to REACH teachers](#) (items purchased, receipts in to treasurer?) **All set.**

Math kits - updates, needs – **Working well! Need bilingual, Spanish. Vanessa to investigate. Need to house kits somewhere over the summer. Whose Math Night is next?! (house the kit there once inventory/ordering for replacement materials is completed.)**

Other topics?

Questions and/or Request from School REACH Reps? Parents?

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Updates/Upcoming District Events

- Board of Education Meeting, Tues. May 14, 7:30-8:30 pm
- Board of Education Meeting, Tues. May 28, 7:30-8:30 pm
- Last day of school, Fri. May 31, 11:15 (elementary), 11:35 (middle school)
- SAVE THE DATE! Sept. 23, Evening Community Presentation, (kickoff to behavioral health programming), keynote speaker [Julie Lythcott Haimes](#)

Helpful Links (from PTA Council):

- [Master Facilities Plan Update](#)
- [Summer Maintenance Plan](#)
- Summer Recreation Open House (SROH) Database [HERE](#)

Next REACH Parent Group Meeting – September 13, 2019 (The Kossmann) at 9:15am (2nd Friday.)
New D205 REACH Coordinator will be our guest.

REACH INFORMATION - Can be found [here](#) at our D205 page.