

**REACH PARENT GROUP
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 2018**

Meeting held on Friday, September 14, 2018
9:15 a.m. Elmhurst Public Library

The Mission of the REACH PARENT GROUP

REACH PARENT RESOURCE GROUP 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.

REACH Parents in attendance (28 total)

X	Patti Berner (President)	X	Gwen Reedy (Edison)	X	Daphne Stepanich (Jackson)
X	Deb Lee (D205 REACH Coordinator)	X	Bojana Carey (Edison)		Cathy Dykes (Jefferson)
	Patricia Glosner (Past President/Bryan Rep)		Sarah Jensen (Field)	X	Becky Iacob (Lincoln)
X	Brenda Gorman (Treasurer/Sandburg)	X	Erin Hewitt (Field)		TBA (Churchville)
X	Carrie Kaufmann (Website/Newsletter/Emerson)		Craig Grossardt (Hawthorne)		
X	Vanessa Paoli (Conrad Fischer)	X	Andrea Redfearn (Hawthorne)		
	Additional Attendees: Monica Clark, Karen Flores, Jane Vlakos, Tarris Turek, Zivile Zemaitaitis, Alison Benson, Chris Petersen, Jeremy Wernick, Sharon Lower, Kelly McDermott, Ane Royal, Sarah Moore, Cindy Lovderback, Jay Sen, Janet Carson, Eiko Gallwas, Melissa Dorko, Choiva Dominguez and Renee Pas.				

Welcome & Introductions - Patti Berner

President's Report – Patti Berner

Treasurer's Report - Brenda Gormann

Communications (newsletter & website) – Carrie Kaufmann

D205 REACH Coordinator Updates – Deb Lee, Director of Curriculum

1. **Budget notes.** [Brenda Gorman](#). School reps can email her with any invoices/expenses that need to be paid or reimbursed. In the past the Reach parent group supports Reach teachers with needed tools, funds middle school math online program and if funds permit provides programs/speakers available to all.
2. **Discussion around presenting Race to Nowhere** movie to the public. The movie is a well-known documentary that the Reach group was interested in pursuing last year. [Andrea Redfearn](#), the Hawthorne rep, offered to look into the possibility of a screening.
3. **Reach Information Meetings.** Discussion around dates in the fall to offer more information to parents regarding the Reach program, particularly for new-to-Reach parents. Currently looking at dates. Any interested Reach

parents with a history with the program willing to participate in Q&A for other parents, please contact [Patti Berner](#).

4. **Standards-based report cards.** Some discussion around which grades were moving to number system vs. traditional letter grade system. The group agreed that it would be a great topic to have a D205 speaker come and discuss with the group.
5. **Family Math Night.** There is now Reach math kit that is available to any school to help facilitate a math night. Anyone who takes the kit should replenish any missing pieces before passing it on the next person. Contact [Patti Berner](#) for more information regarding specifics on the kit.
6. **Deb Lee, D205** Reach coordinator spoke in broad strokes about standards-based reporting. More information is available online through D205.

Adjournment

Please join us for our next Monthly Meeting!

FRIDAY, October 12, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Elmhurst Public Library
(always the **second Friday** of the month)

Topic(s): Review of REACH Parent Informational Meeting (10/3),
Movie Screenings, Standards Based Reporting and more.

Guest(s): TBA

REACH Parent Group AGENDA

9:15-10:15, FRIDAY, **October 12, 2018**

Elmhurst Public Library (The Kossmann Room)

D205 STEM PRESENTATION

Thank you to Dave Beedy, D205 Director of STEM Education who spoke to our parent group at our Friday, Oct. 12, 2018 monthly meeting. He shared ways as a district, we are beginning to use STEM ideas in K-8 to create interdisciplinary projects aligned with grade level (and above level) standards. You'll find his presentation [here](#).

REACH Parent Group AGENDA

9:15-10:15, FRIDAY, November 9, 2018

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.

ATTENDANCE: Patti Berner and School Representatives: Brenda Gorman, Gwen Reedy, Craig Grossardt, Patricia Glosner and Alison Benson (6); parent guests: Ann Crampton, Lynn Czapla Taub, Gina Padgett, Tricia Buhrfiend, Lori Harges, Naoko Ostermann, Faye Pam, Virginia Lee and Noreen Walsh (9), total 15

TODAY'S AGENDA (meeting 3 of 9)

Opening question(s):

1. **Craig G. Asked about having reach reps coordinate gifts to the reach teachers** similar to the way room parents coordinate gifts for other teachers

- the group discussed ways to coordinate with other parents – one suggestion was to send notes home in backpacks through the reach teachers; reach reps usually don't have a complete mailing list for all reach parents; this approach would probably only work at the elementary schools as the middle school system is different; the group thought we should be consistent across the different elementary schools – i.e. we should all do this or all not do it; we also discussed that some parents individually give gifts to the reach teacher without coordinating through the reach rep

- the group discussed providing gifts from the reach parent group rather than coordinating through parents/reps; Patricia wondered if this was allowed per PTA rules; Patti said she would reach out to PTA council to see if this was possible; this would address concerns about keeping a consistent approach across different buildings; group thought we should do something relatively small if we did it from the group (i.e. edible bouquet)

D205 Director of Curriculum & REACH Coordinator– Deb Lee

{Note, Deb was unable to attend, however, along with Dave Beedy, responses were provide to previously generated questions and appear in a separate Q&A document.}

- **Parent Information Meetings (1); Feedback, thoughts on Q&A panel**
- **Response to School Reps' questions**

Patti reviewed the school rep question Q&A document with the group and discussed some responses... various discussions ensued...

-Gwen thought that parents feel less connected with the math curriculum when there is no homework coming home; others noted that the philosophy of doing 30 min reading a night but 0 extra math work seems to be out of balance

- Several members noted that the reading curriculum provides for different levels at elementary school by dividing students into different reading groups, but there is no mechanism to provide for different math levels

- Patricia noted that teachers do receive some training on ways to challenge more advanced math students, but may not all be implementing; the group discussed the role of instruction coaches at the elementary schools and reach group leaders advised parents to contact school principals if teachers do not appear to be effectively taking advantage of the school instruction coaches

- Patricia discussed a potential math alternative used by the middle schools where students are given “optional” homework that is more challenging than class work. Although the homework is optional, it is graded. This allows teachers and parents to evaluate whether a student may be ready to move into a more advanced math class

- The group also discussed that the current reach program seems to address students who are “gifted”, but may have a gap in the math curriculum for a large number of students who are only “advanced” but not “gifted”; Patricia cautioned that the entry criteria for REACH had been altered in the past to allow “advanced” students to participate, but resulted in several of those students struggling in the program

- The group discussed some other ideas to help bridge the gap between the standard classroom curriculum and the abilities of students who may not qualify for reach math – ideas included supplemental math workbooks in the classroom or at home; math games at home (on paper or on computer), and adding math league competitions to encourage more math challenges across all student populations (see notes below re: Gina discussion of math leagues)

- REACH Teacher Bios and educational requirements are of interest to our parents (and was one of the seven questions asked of the district); Patricia will follow up with district and will share response/results with group

- Resources, book reviews, etc.

- Vanessa Paoli (Conrad Fischer) recommended the article written by Stephanie Tolan, Is It A Cheetah, found [here](#):

- Deb Lee recommends [Mindful Parenting](#), by Kristen Race, Ph.D.

Gina Padgett, Jefferson

- Continental Math League; <https://www.cmleague.com/product-category/cml/>

Gina discussed the rationale for math leagues and steps she has taken to implement a math league at Jefferson for 1st and 2nd grade in the 2018-19 school year, including details about working with the REACH teacher to develop plans for when the group will meet and how they will practice for the competition

Gina will send around additional information to the group with details of the program

Gina plans to expand the math league at Jefferson next year to cover more grades (1-5) and to compete in 2 different leagues rather than just one

Officer and Chair/Team Reports

Treasurer - Brenda Gorman

- Brenda reported that YTD expenditures were minimal so the group budget is still in good shape

President – Patti Berner

- Patti gave an update on the **PTA council meeting** and shared the summary document with the group, which is available on the REACH Parent Group shared drive

- Patti indicated she would send around a [link](#) to the district’s information on changes to **report cards** along with a “[voice over PPT](#)”

- Patti mentioned the [Glenbard Parent Series](#) and said she would provide details to the group {*The Glenbard Parent Series (GPS): Navigating Healthy Families is an educational consortium dedicated to presenting distinguished high-profile authors, clinicians, and educators who share their*

research -based knowledge and experiences. **Programs are offered free of charge, no registration is required and the public is welcome.**

GPS Upcoming events:

1. Dana Suskind, M.D., Thirty Million Words: Building a Child’s Brain, Tue, Nov 13 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
2. Dr. William R. Stixrud and Ned Johnson, Wed, Nov 14 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, The Self Driven Child: The Science and Sense of Giving Your Kids More Control Over Their Lives
3. Dr. Peter Hall, Wed, Dec 5 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, Self-Care to Foster Resilience in Yourself and Others

- Patti also reviewed with the group documents detailing the **functions of the REACH Parent Group representatives and detailing the purpose** of the REACH Parent Group overall; Patti asked for input from the group on these documents and noted they are in the group shared drive
- Patti advised that the school reps should ask the regular **PTA to tell parents to register for the reach group mailing list** if they are interested in getting updates from the REACH group
- Patti will communicate to PTA Council (David Moyer), REACH Parents’ frustration and concern over inconsistency through district, of challenging students (elementary) who “just missed” cut-off (REACH likely with appeal), and truly differentiating education, particularly in math

Website & Marketing – Carrie Kaufmann (*absent, hope to return in January!*)

- Patti indicated updates are likely and will assign sections to reps {Patricia will send rep, details from last year}

Movie Screenings – (Race to Nowhere); Andrea Redfearn & Patricia Glosner

- The group discussed the movie and was advised that additional details would be coming about the screening; Patricia is **looking into venue and dates (possibly Sandburg, Jan/Feb)**
- Patti also mentioned the **“screenagers” movie** and recommended it to parents to watch; local screenings found [here](#); Please try and attend if possible! Here are two screenings for next week:
Tues 11/13, 7 pm, Downers Grove Christian School and
Thurs 11/15 St. Michael, Wheaton
- Patti recommended the book **“Mindful parenting”** for REACH parents (originally shared by Deb Lee, see above)

All Participating School Reps
Other guests, representatives

Questions and/or Request from School REACH Reps?

- _____
- _____
- _____

Updates/Upcoming D205

EMB, Elmhurst Music Boosters - Join and support music and musicians in grades 5-8. Go to the link at emb205.org and join online today!
UCCA Food Drive through 11/16

Updates/Upcoming from D205 Foundation

Currito Eat & Earn (11/13)
2019 Foundation Gala: Saturday, February 9th 6:00 pm Hyatt Lodge Oak Brook

Next REACH Parent Group Meeting – December 14, 2018 (The Kossmann) at 9:15am (2nd Friday.)

Request for guest speaker? _____ Topic? _____

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

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 REACH PTA meeting notes

D205 Director of Curriculum & REACH Coordinator– Deb Lee

- Deb shared resources that are on the website. Never too early to think about summer and/or supplemental programs.
- Deb suggested the Mindful Parenting book as a great resource. The group were open to including book discussion time for this in regular REACH meetings monthly.

Gina Padgett, Jefferson. Elementary school piloting a math league program.

- Continental Math League; <https://www.cmleague.com/product-category/cml/>
Event will happen in January. This is a parent-driven effort.

Film Screenings

Film Screenings – (Race to Nowhere); Andrea Redfearn & Patricia Glosner (date(s) on hold). Working with the district and other related groups interested in screenings.

Upcoming meeting topics:

Jan--High school course selection options for honors/REACH level students

Feb--Middle school counselor/REACH options. Study skills sessions in 8th grade?

March--Elementary school options for REACH. Dr. Henderson? Kids at top end how to continue to support. How can we give them more. And those that miss reach.

Updates/Upcoming from D205 Foundation

2019 Foundation Gala: Saturday, February 9th 6:00 pm Hyatt Lodge Oak Brook

Next REACH Parent Group Meeting – January 11, 2019 (The Kossmann) at 9:15am (2nd Friday.)

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

REACH Parent Group AGENDA

9:15-10:15, FRIDAY, January 11, 2019

Elmhurst Public Library (The Kossmann Room)

In attendance (24): Patti Berner, Brenda Gorman, Sarah Jensen, Vanessa Paoli, Bojana Carey, Daphne Stepanich, Becky Iacob, Patricia Glosner, Pam Hamil, Deb Lee, Renee Pas, Beth Hosler, Jodi Pinkerton, Brian Mahoney, Glenn Melvin, Sharon Wangler, Rita Dianati, Cathy Devine, Naoko Ostermann, Jane James, Lisa Kloet, Laura Koukas, Abby Stuller and Ann Rimington

Friday, Jan. 11, 2019 REACH PTA Meeting Notes

Parent discussion on transitioning REACH students into high school.

Notes here were tracked as the discussion continued.

Notes from mom of current 9th grader and 8th grader:

- She has an, every other week tutor that helps whichever student needs help that week. One piece of advice: study skills. Didn't seem as necessary in middle school for her son. How to use flashcards and actually "study" and finish tests in time was a struggle.

Notes from Deb Lee,

D205 Director of Curriculum & REACH Coordinator:

- Enriched and advanced have the same weight, the difference comes in the computer programming piece. The enriched/advanced algebra trig honors (class) has more coding so it moves at a faster pace.

Notes from mom of current senior:

- Another mom says to consider your student's senior year. It's hard to change the pathway once you are on it. When you take biology honors as a freshman, on top of many other honors, her advice is that if your student is not excellent at study skills it will hit them like a ton of bricks by junior year. She says to count on one hour a night for every honors class. What she found was that the "executive functioning" skills of organization and time management were lacking for him---and this was a straight A smart kid that never had to study in middle school.

Notes from mom of current senior and freshman (and a retired school principal):

- Agrees that the executive functioning piece is huge in the transition to high school. She feels entering college world, she's finding her kids need at least 7 AP classes (selective college) and she feels like starting AP as a freshman in high school is a critical piece. She did comment that the transition to high school for her second kid was easier than her first, not sure if that's because of a change in the coursework or just different kids.

Notes from mom of current senior:

- Know that the AP classes are a higher-paced class. She feels like the rigor is important but not at the expense of the GPA.

Notes from mom of 4th and 6th grader:

- Commented that not having homework at the elementary level currently seems like it might make it harder for those kids as they go through the education system and then have to navigate high school without having ever had to juggle that.

Notes from Deb Lee:

- Pointed to research showing that homework at the elementary grades are not really that effective. Working at high school level to not add an extreme level of homework stress for kids. She does believe that executive functioning piece is a clear indicator for success — in life, beyond even honors classes.

Notes from mom of current senior:

- It's easy to be selective with high school honors when kids know exactly what they want to do in life by the time kids enter high school, but many do not know. Hard to reverse the trend once they start. If not sure, easier to start slow and then excel as high school continues.

Notes from dad with current freshman and junior:

- Summer programs, even just in band and orchestra, helped both his kids feel good and comfortable in the school. Being in the building prior was good for them. Know that the first week will be filled with anxiety. Also, look into the "growth mindset." That is hugely important as a success factor.

Questions on the difference between honors bio and regular bio:

Answer with input from 3 different moms: Kids in the honors bio do more learning at home, watching videos and reading at home and then apply that in the classroom. If you have a child that tends to get behind that is a tough class to catch up. Honors bio is more in-depth and at a faster pace. Regular bio is an overview, honors digs deeper. Honors bio tends to be deemed one of the toughest honors classes at York. Tons of memorization and new terminology, for example parts of the cell.

Questions on the difference between Adv/Algebra/Trig Honor vs. Enriched Adv/Algebra/Trig Honor:

Answer with input from 2 different moms: Kids that love math, already want to be actuaries, get excited about math club, go for it. Otherwise the non-enriched level is still very rigorous and some feel "less insane."

Recommendations from the group that can help with study skills and executive functioning:

Dr. Bozeday <http://rnbc.org/>. Has presented to REACH Parent Group in the past regarding [executive functioning](#).

Cornell Note-taking system a good one to learn. Some links regarding this tool:

<http://lsc.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Cornell-NoteTaking-System.pdf>

https://luc.edu/media/lucedu/advising/forms/Study_Smarter,_Not_Longer.pdf

<https://www.northwestern.edu/academic-support-learning/academic-strategies/find-strategies-for-successes/taking-great-notes.html>

Also, check out the COD summer catalogue for possible study classes:

http://www.cod.edu/academics/high_school_students.aspx

Updates/Upcoming District Events

- Jan 15, Sup. Coffee, 7 pm, Jefferson
- Jan 17, 7 pm SERG, Parent Panel for Navigating Transitions, D205 Offices
- Jan. 30, noon,-1:30 GPS (Glenbard Parent Series): Rachel Simmons, Enough as They Are: Helping Teens Move Beyond the Impossible Standards of Success, Free
- Feb 6, 6 pm SROH Summer Recreation Open House, York
- Feb 9, 6 pm, 2019 D205 Foundation Gala, Hyatt Lodge Oak Brook
- Feb. 13, 7 pm REACH #2 of 3 Parent Info. Mtgs., Math Pathways focus, Dave Beedy, STEM, Sandburg (**note date change**)
- Mar 13, 7 pm REACH #3 of 3 Parent Info. Mtgs., New to Reach, Deb Lee, Sandburg (**note date change**)

Helpful Links (from PTA Council):

- [Master Facilities Plan Update](#)
- [Summer Maintenance Plan](#)

Updates/Upcoming from D205 Foundation

2019 Foundation Gala: Saturday, February 9th 6:00 pm Hyatt Lodge Oak Brook

Next REACH Parent Group Meeting – February 8th (The Kossmann) at 9:15am (2nd Friday.)

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

Thank you to Renee Pas for taking meeting notes today!

REACH Parent Group

February 8th, 2019

MINUTES

In attendance (17): Patti Berner, Brenda Gorman, Sarah Jensen, Vanessa Paoli, Bojana Carey, Becky Jacob, Andrea Redfearn, Alison Benson, Patricia Glosner, Pam Hamil, Naoko Ostermann, Gina Padgett, Trupti Parikh, Kelly McDermott, Jackelyn Oviedo, Gwen Reedy and Carrie Opiela.

Deb Lee, D205 Director of Curriculum & REACH Coordinator - absent; contact her through the district office or see her at our March meeting.

Officer and Chair/Team Reports (updates)

Treasurer - Brenda Gorman

- To date we have spent \$360 for the Middle School Math League funds
- Since the Film screenings that we planned for the Spring has now moved to a district level roll out we still have money left in the budget to spend.
- We discussed saving a portion of the money (~\$500) to hold a Study Skill workshop
- Additional money will be offered to the REACH teachers for classroom resources. All requests will be reviewed at the March meeting

President - Patti Berner

Film Screening update:

- At the PTA council meeting the Film screenings proposed by the REACH Parent Group (Movies: Beyond Measure, Race to Nowhere, The Gatekeeper, Math in America). Because these movies address issues at a district level, Dr. Dave Moyer would like to discuss a district-wide roll out with the Board and include all interested parties.

New D205 PTA (REACH) websites (training, launch, revised content, images needed!)

- We need all the REACH representatives to review and update the content of the website with a special focus on including images and pictures.

Math kits

- Field & Edison completed math nights. Please update details in xlsx
- Jefferson needs to reschedule their Math Night due to the cold weather cancelation
- If anyone is holding an upcoming event, please update the group.

2019-2020 REACH Calendar draft

- In the upcoming year there are 2 meeting dates that need to be moved to the first Friday of the Month. All agreed.

Math League Pilot

- Jefferson has rolled out a Math League Pilot for 1st and 2nd graders with 4 parent volunteers per week.
- The roll out has been very successful with 29 students participating.
- The students have been extremely enthusiastic.
- During the week they work on practice problems and talk out their solutions.
- Field is interested in rolling out a pilot but there have been initial concerns that parents may view as a Math Tutoring session. Jefferson roll out explicitly explained that math league was for students in need of enrichment NOT tutoring.
- All forms around the pilot can be found on the REACH Group Google Doc share

Study Skills Workshop(s) -

- It has been identified that our students need help developing study skills especially as they enter high school.
- The group discussed a roll out of a Study Skills workshop with a focus at the middle school

- There are a lot of available resources online for study skills.
- A concern is holding a one and done workshop for students that may have little long-term value. Two workshops may help students with implementation of strategies.
- There was discussion about funding a program at the 3 middle schools that would be all year long however there is challenge with identifying a teacher volunteer and/or being able to provide a stipend. It was suggested that perhaps we could get retired teachers to help.
- As a group we may want to submit for a Theims grant next year to support study skills workshops
- Another suggestion would be develop a forum for High School students to share with 8th Graders their experiences in regards to high-level classes, studying and juggling extra curriculum activities. We could draw on National Honors Society Students.
- Some of the budget will be held aside for a workshop.

REACH Teacher Bios

- There is interested to have a section on the REACH Parent Group called "Meet the REACH Teachers". This would be a one stop shop to learn about the REACH teachers, their experience and training in the Gifted Education
- After a review of all the current REACH teacher websites several things were noted 1) The school faculty lists do not make it easy to find out who the REACH teacher is. Often faculty is listed by grades and not by specials; and 2) Many of the REACH teachers do not have a bio and/or do not include any information about their Gifted Education training.
- We will be requesting a short bio and picture from each REACH teacher to include on our website.

General Discussion

Math Enrichment at the Elementary School Level

- There continues to be parent concern regarding advanced learner students (especially at K-2 and 3rd grade level) who are not getting the proper differentiation and enrichment in Math.
- During K-2 and 3rd grade, there is a wide gap in knowledge between students so it is difficult for teachers to assist all students. Most often the help goes to those students struggling with math and the needs of the advanced learners are left unaddressed.
- In the past the Pearson Math Curriculum had a toolkit that helped to enrich and differentiate between students however the Eureka curriculum does not have this.
- The REACH Parent Group will request a meeting with Dr. Henderson, Dave Beedy, Deb Lee and Dr. Moyer to discuss this ongoing concern.

Advanced Learners vs. Gifted Learners

- There continues to be a lot of discussion regarding the advanced learners need at the REACH group meetings.
- There was a question regarding lowering the criteria to enter REACH. This actually has been done in the past with several negative consequences. At this time the REACH Parent Group does not support this approach.
- A suggestion was made that the needs of the advanced learner would be better addressed at the school PTA meetings. Others pointed to the focus of the REACH Parent Group which is 'providing parent and student resources for gifted and advanced learners.'

REACH Identification

- There is some concerns that information on the REACH District website does not remain consistent with regards to identification. There needs to clarification and transparency. Concerns will be shared with Deb Lee.

REACH Parent Group
Friday March 8th, 2019

Attendees (14): Patti Berner, Deb Lee, Patricia Glosner, Brenda Gorman, Pam Hamil, Becky Iacob, Alison Benson, Craig Grossardt, Sarah Jensen, Carrie Kaufmann, Gwen Reedy, Lori Harges, Monica Clark, Lihua Zhu.

NOTES:

Study Skills Workshop- will be offered at the jr high level (early) May 2019.

Goal: to help students transition into High School with good study habits & higher executive function.

Curriculum for the workshop is being designed by Dr. Robinson & Dr. White (Elmhurst College) for a fee.

Topics that may be addressed in 1st skills workshop:

Transition into High School-Q&A session with current high school students.

Top 10 study skills.

Things to know & executive "thinking".

This is a pilot program that will be offered to the REACH students in the fall with 2 Sessions, one for ELA & one for MATH, plus resources.

If the program is successful, it could be opened up to a larger group of students- but would then need the additional support of the PTA @ the individual schools.

Reach Teacher Bios- Intention is to easily access the REACH teachers bios & highlight any formal training or certification they may have. Currently REACH teacher bios are not streamlined, and individual school websites range in quality. Teacher bios / credentials are available, just difficult to find. Often, parents of students in the REACH program have access to more information about the teaches via Google Classroom or other private message boards for the students. Deb Lee expressed a change is to be expected in the Dist 205 website in the very near future. Deb Lee also pointed out that while our teachers are more than qualified & certified to teacher REACH, it is important to take into consideration that the state removed "gifted certification" in the 80's. Many teachers have been grandfathered in & currently only one gifted certification program remains. NorthEastern Illinois offers an 18 hr accreditation, but it will be CLOSING with the retirement of the school President. Other universities (Concordia was the example) are looking into it, but no other accreditation programs like this one exist.

Budget-We currently have roughly \$1900 remaining for the year. REACH teacher requests list was presented and will account for approximately \$1100. Deb Lee requested a copy of the document for review, and indicated she could have a response before spring break. This will leave approximately \$800 for the Study SKills. The question was raised if a stipend can be offered to teachers who help with study skills workshop-Dee Lee will look into.

Deb Lee touched on the pyramid and diamond model for schools & what we are capable of supporting as a Dist. What is our goal for the students? How can we supplement them? Can parents wait? Open Position for any parent to take this to the State level-volunteers?

REACH program may undergo a name change? Is the name appropriate? How is the name interpreted by parents?

Patti, President updates - no update on film screenings (more next month), more opportunity for REACH reps and active parents to get involved in group roles (rep survey being shared this week), # 3 of 3 evening Parent Info Mtgs moved to library for better discussion, April evening group social (open to all parents) - time/date tba, and two more meetings for this year remain. Many thanks to all our school REACH reps and parents!

Thank you to Alison Benson for taking this month's meeting notes!

Reach Parent Group Meeting

Notes

April 12, 2019

1. 17 parents in attendance: Patti Berner, Gwen Reedy, Hilary Reiff, Andrea Redfearn, Daphne Stepanich, Alison Benson, Becky Jacob, Patricia Glosner, Erica Popilek, Diane Lans-Kautz, Lynne Feeney, Maria Karanutosos, Monica Clark, Shelly Nicholson, Renee Pas and Naoko Osterman.
2. **Dr. Mark Cohen, D205 Assistant Superintendent Innovation & Growth.** He updated the group on the forthcoming reach program analysis as reach will be under review in the 2109-2020 school year. Term to know is MTSS: multitiered systems of support. As students are above or behind grade level, it means either supporting them or accelerating them. The review will look at how the district identifies and delivers Reach programs from grade school through York. It will look at best practices around the program, as well as how the district is serving students that fall just outside of the cutoff. Parents will have an opportunity to participate through online surveys and focus groups. It will be a comprehensive look at the program during the academic year with no exact determination on when implementation of any proposed changes would happen. SERG program analysis happened this year and the Reach program will review will fall in line with how that program review was executed.
3. **REACH Parent Group Social April 18 at 7:00 p.m.** Please join us for our first ever social event. This is a casual event. You'll find us upstairs at Elmhurst Brewing Company.
4. **Study Skills Workshop.** The first related event will happen on Sat. May 4th from 10-noon in the district office. The program is intended for current 8th grade students. More information and available on the [REACH Parent Group website](#).

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

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- 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),**
- **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?

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.