

REACH Parent Group
Friday March 8th, 2019

Attendees (14): Patti Berner, Deb Lee, Patricia Glosner, Brenda Gorman, Pam Hamil, Becky Jacob, 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 teachers 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 teach 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!