

REACH Parent Group
February 8th, 2019
MINUTES

In attendance (17): Patti Berner, Brenda Gorman, Sarah Jensen, Vanessa Paoli, Bojana Carey, Becky Iacob, 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.