

**REACH PARENT GROUP
JANUARY 16, 2020 1:30PM (meeting 5 of 9)
MEETING MINUTES**

D205 Guests: Leslie Weber, Director of Curriculum and REACH Coordinator

Attendees: We had 15 parents in attendance.

Summer Programs and "Appeals" presentation follow up

- Overall feedback that appeals presentation was well attended and received (approx.. 75 people attended; standing room only).
- Good venue; round tables; lead to good group/table discussion and forum.
- Parents liked the information of the process being made available to them prior to REACH identification letters being sent home (ie, no surprises or scramble on how to appeal if desired).
- April will be the next evening REACH Parent Information night – focused on those families newly identified for the REACH program.

Officer and Chair/Team Reports (updates)

Treasurer - Patti Berner shared on Carrie Kaufman's behalf

- \$1,800 balance in our budget to spend.
- Patti to report back at Feb meeting following PTA Council meeting to determine school PTA funds/contributions to REACH budget and/or if we have our REACH reps reach out to their REACH teachers for wish list.
- Discussion centered around putting funds aside to hire speakers to continue momentum built (and funds spent) on developing MS/HS workshop transition (program; study skills; executive functioning) and 5th grade to 6th grade middle school transition.
 - o Discussion included having Dr. Robinson "train the trainer"; including parents, MS teachers, MS principals, MS Acceleration teachers.
 - o Leslie Weber to reach out to District (Dr. Grunz) to discuss options to train MS Acceleration teachers and explore this topic as part of Acceleration.

Website Administrator - Craig Grossardt

- If anyone has not received feedback from (and/or changes completed by) Craig, please let Patti know so they can be completed in the near future.

Social/Social Media - Carrie Kaufmann

- If anyone has an interest in helping to launch a REACH parent group Facebook page and/or coordinate a spring social; (we had a spring evening social at Elmhurst Brewing Company last year), please let Patti know.

Mathletes - 3 of 8 elementary schools: Gwen Reedy (Edison), Gina Padgett (Jefferson), & Sarah Jensen (Field)

- Jefferson will be rolling out Mathletes this Spring in grades 2, 3, and 4. Still lead by Gina with parent volunteers.
- Edison is doing with 4th grade. No updates this meeting.

- Field just completed their pilot in 2nd Grade. Sarah said it was extremely well received. 32 participants; 27 said they would want to do it again (even with giving up their lunch recess). The teachers loved being a part and leading this. Sarah is working with principal to see if it could be repeated this Spring. Will share results at the FIELD PTA meeting and determine interest for other grades for fall 2020.
- General feedback is that the EUREKA curriculum still needs to add tools to help the teachers 'enrich' and 'differentiate', particularly in the younger grades where REACH is not yet available and/or in the upper elementary grades where those students require more but don't qualify for REACH.
- Elementary reps are asked to touch base with their school principals and REACH teachers to gauge interest in rolling out in schools where this has yet to be done (e.g, Jackson, Lincoln, Hawthorne, Emerson, Conrad Fischer).
- Gina to share summary of work being done in this area at the Feb 4th PTA Council Meeting (7pm, District 205 offices).

MS-HS Transition (Workshop/Presentation) Team - Patricia Glosner, Desen Lu, Kelly Byrne, others?

- Lots of discussion around having this done in the Spring and Fall on a continuous basis.
- Need to hire speakers to continue momentum built (and funds spent) on developing MS/HS workshop transition (program; study skills; executive functioning) and 5th grade to 6th grade middle school transition.
 - Discussion included having Dr. Robinson "train the trainer"; including parents, MS teachers, MS principals, MS Acceleration teachers.
 - Leslie Weber to reach out to District (Dr. Grunz) to discuss options to train MS Acceleration teachers and explore this topic as part of Acceleration.
 - Parents are encouraged to get involved with York Academic Boosters to leverage the work and information they are doing/sharing (valuable resource to help parents and students navigate academic choices, pathways, etc.).
 - Need to reach out to MS principals to better help with this transition.
- There was also discussion about how we can help provide support for 5th graders transitioning to Middle School (study skills, transition, organization, etc). Andrea Gambill and Amy Kehoe to discuss and share a potential way forward on this.

REACH PROGRAM REVIEW UPDATE – Leslie Weber

- Leslie gave a brief overview of where things stand.
 - Steering committee meets again this week; parent group feedback happens on Monday 1/27, in addition to soliciting REACH teacher and District teacher feedback.
 - Steering Committee will take feedback into account and regroup in February to then present to BOD in March.
- A lot of other districts seem to find themselves in a similar situation where the work being done on gifted is good but always looking to improve.

Proving hard to benchmark against a strong "best practice". Still fact finding and gather best tools/best practices.

President – Patti Berner Update

- If anyone would like to attend the IAGC Annual Convention in Naperville on Sat 2/8 from 9am-1pm, please reach out to Patti. We will pay for your fee! (in exchange for you reporting back to our group)
- If anyone has an interest in developing a Facebook Page for the REACH parent group, please reach out to Patti.

Other:

- **This [link](#) will take you to "all things REACH Parent Group"**
- [PTA Council](#) updates
- [Thrive205](#)
- **Website updates!** - [signup here](#) - ALL selected! (All reviewed & content sent to Craig)
- D205 SERG - structure, lessons learned?

ALL Reps

- Math kits - updates, needs
- Hawthorne - 630Code winter programs (any feedback?)
- Other topics?

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

Next REACH Parent Group Meeting – Friday, FEBRUARY 14, 2020 (Sandburg's Maker Space) at 8:30-10:00 am. **Meeting topic(s) under consideration:** Math Pathways (possible guest speakers, Beedy &/or Zamora), REACH Program Review, EPL-MS Book Discussion response, and other topics presented at January's meeting.

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

January

- 1/7 Tue. 7:00 pm Superintendent's Coffee, Churchville
- 1/13 Mon. 7:00 pm, Parent Info Meeting, - "REACH Appeals" by Leslie Weber, Sandburg Library
- 1/16 Thur. 1:30-3:00 pm, REACH Parent Group monthly meeting, Sandburg Maker Space
- 1/19 Sun. (no school Mon!) 3:00 pm, Chicago Wolves Game – PTA Council Scholarship Fundraiser, click [here](#) for tickets. Contact [Dena Fasheh](#) with questions.
- 1/23 Thur. 7:00 pm, Book Discussion at Elmhurst Public Library - Middle School Matters: The 10 Key Skills Kids in Middle School Need to Survive Middle School and Beyond—and How Parents Can Help by Phyllis L. Fagell. Register by phone (630) 279-8696 or online.
- 1/27 Mon. 6:30 pm, REACH Program, "Structured Parent Feedback", D205 offices

February

- 2/4 Tue. 6-8 PM SROH, [Summer Recreation Open House](#), York
- 2/8 Sat. D205 Foundation Gala - [2020 Fundraising Gala: Within Reach](#).
- 2/8 Sat. 9-1pm, [IAGC Annual Convention, Parent Day](#), \$70 (registration limited), Naperville Marriott
- 2/14 Fri. 8:30 AM, REACH Parent Group monthly meeting, Sandburg Maker Space
- 2/21 DUE DATE for REACH Appeals Applications

Helpful Links

DISTRICT

- [D205 REACH](#)
- [D205 Math Curriculum](#)
- [Elmhurst Music Boosters](#)
- [D205 BOE Calendar](#)
- [District 205 Foundation](#)
- [PTA Council updates](#)
- [Thrive205](#) – A School & Community Wellness Partnership

REACH Parent Group

- [REACH Parent Group](#)
- [Freshman Course Selection - Parent to Parent Advice](#)
- [List of School Representatives](#) aka "REACH Rep"
- Patti Berner, Chair 2018-2020

Thank you to Sarah Jensen for taking our meeting notes!