

REACH Parent Group MINUTES

11:30am-1:00pm, Friday **OCTOBER 16, 2020**

Virtual via Zoom - Meeting ID: 885 9939 2406 & Passcode: 821722

REACH Parent Group (a committee of the PTA Council) 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 2 of 9)

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

Meeting topic(s): Appeals Testing, Program Updates, Donations for REACH Teachers, Kids adapting to "new normal", Remote vs In Person, Q&A with REACH parents
Appeals Testing – The process is closed for this year. They are reviewing the process for next year. When they have more information, they will post it on the website. Next testing cycle should be in April and parents will find out in June.

Program Updates – They have a steering committee that is reviewing the current program for any future changes. They are working with the NorthWestern Center for Talent Development to identify gaps, identify purpose, etc. A parent information night will come later in the process.

Teacher Donations – Need to review the requests and see if teachers want to modify their requests due to the current teaching arrangements. Some of the current items may not be as beneficial since there is so much remote teaching going on.

Kids adapting to "new normal" – How are kids doing socially and mentally? Do we want to provide tools to help manage this new stress? Ask older students to help tutor younger students? Ask peers to help each other? Have an informational night with an expert? All things to consider. We still want them to be independent, to be "brave," ask questions, etc. We want to make sure they still advocate for themselves and provide help when needed. How do we also deal with kids who speed through their work in Zoom and then sit there bored and unengaged? The district is trying to work with teachers so that teachers don't always have to visually see a student if they are doing work off camera. It is OK if they are done with their tasks to not see them constantly. Or possibly suggest that they work on other items if they complete the task(s) the rest

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of the class is still working on.

Questions/Comments:

How much are teachers encouraged to try to give remote learners a similar experience to those in class?

They try very hard to accommodate both and it is OK for the teachers to work with the remote learners while the kids in class work independently. It is not a perfect system, but they are doing the best they can to keep those experiences similar.

Photomath free application to download to help kids with math work. Let's you scan problem with your phone and tells you how to solve the issue. As a tool for parents to help students.

District Policy: No homework for elementary students. Middle school has purposeful homework. They want to be able to monitor the homework better so that the kids don't have multiple large projects at one time. They want to be able to find balance. We still want them to have good study skills, but we want to also review the associated stress related to that homework.

Officer and Chair/Team Reports (updates)

Treasurer - Carrie Kaufman – No update other than we have \$2000 budget approved from PTA.

Website Administrator - Erik Krietsch – No update

Social/Social Media - Carrie Kaufmann – No update

Mathletes - (participating elementary schools): Gwen Reedy (Edison), Gina Padgett (Jefferson) & Lynnea Brown (Field) – No updates

President – Patti Berner

- REACH Teacher Donations - 2019-20 [Consolidated Requests](#)
- This [link](#) will take you to "all things REACH Parent Group"
- [Reminder](#) to share REACH Newsletter content with PTA's for News/Web updates
- Help with recruiting York parents for 11/5 Math Night panel (1-2 8th, 1-2 9th)
- [PTA Council updates](#) (Foundation205, Dr. Moyer, BOE-Collins, School Collaboration)

ALL Reps

- Elem, math kits (for Math Nights), all in-person events "on hold"; plans for virtual? No real updates, other than still looking at options or programs family can do at home, instead of more Zoom meetings.
- MS Math Leagues; on hold?
- Other topics?

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

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Next REACH Parent Group Meeting – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020 (Virtual) at 11:30AM-1:00 PM. Meeting topic(s) under consideration: TBA. Zoom Link TBA

PAST ITEMS - FEEDBACK please

- 9/11 Fri 11:30am, REACH PG monthly meeting - 1st meeting of the year (100+!)
- 9/14 Mon 7:00pm, REACH Info Night (#1 of 4 planned) "New to REACH", Leslie Weber (60 attendees)

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

October

- 10/16 Fri 11:30am, REACH PG monthly meeting, Zoom
- 10/26 BOE, 7:00 pm, virtual
- **10/29 EMB, 4-8pm Panera Eat & Earn**

November

- 11/5 Thur 7:00 pm, **8th Grade Parents - MATH Informational Night, presented by the REACH Parent Group.** Dave Beedy, Director of STEM Educations & Erik Westerberg, York HS Math Dept Chair will be our guests. Plans are to have a Q&A with guest speakers and an experienced York parent panel, [Zoom](#), Meeting ID: 819 5594 8370 and Passcode: 114195.
- 11/13 Fri 11:30am, REACH PG monthly meeting, Zoom (link TBA)
- 11/17 Tue BOE, 7:00 pm, virtual

December

- 12/15 Tue BOE, 7:00 pm, virtual
- 12/11 Fri 11:30am, REACH PG monthly meeting, Zoom (link TBA)
- 12/23 Wed Winter Break starts - NO SCHOOL (classes resume Wed. 1/6/21)

Helpful Links

DISTRICT

- [OpenD205](#)
- [D205 REACH](#)
- [D205 BOE Calendar](#)
- [District 205 Foundation](#)
- [Elmhurst Music Boosters](#)
- [Thrive205](#) – A School & Community Wellness Partnership

REACH Parent Group

Agenda prepared by Patti Berner, Chair; Minutes prepared by Vanessa Krietsch, Secretary

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- [REACH Parent Group](#)
- [2020-21 List of School Representatives](#)
- [Patti Berner](#), Chair 2018-2020.