

## REACH Parent Group MINUTES

11:30am-1:00pm, Friday **NOVEMBER 13, 2020**

Virtual via [Zoom](#) - ID: 891 6572 8919, Passcode: 168417 [note new ID/PC EACH MTG!]

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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 3 of 9)

**Approximately 36 guests were in attendance.**

**The meeting started at 11:30 am and concluded at approximately 12:30 pm**

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

Leslie shared about the Program Review {Note - no changes in identification at this time} and next steps, along with fielding questions regarding CogAT and MAP testing. There's a Program Review Steering Committee meeting next Tuesday. The REACH Program Review & Analysis (findings) that was presented to the BOE in May should be on the REACH or D205 website. If not, it will be shortly. Plans are to give BOE another update in January, of work and review by Northwestern. The REACH PG may get a snippet of that report at our December meeting. In addition, we may also hold a special, Parent Info Night to learn more specifics and provide a Q&A opportunity. Historically our group provides four (4) Parent Info Nights a year, fall and spring for "New to the Program", early November 8th grade parents-YHS Math Pathways (as course selection and advisor meetings occur in early December, and finally we offer an "Appeals" night in January to learn more in order to successfully pursue and potentially complete the application (usually due mid-February.)

### **Meeting topic(s) - possible; and in no particular order:**

- REACH Teacher Donations - total amount is under \$1400. With a couple exceptions (digital media requests), Leslie (and D205) have approved the purchases. Teachers are to purchase themselves and seek reimbursement through the PTA Council request form. (REACH Reps - if you need this, contact our treasurer, Carrie.)
- Kids adapting to "new normal" - no specific dialogue
- Q&A with REACH parents - see items below
- Additional Topics - none

### **Officer and Chair/Team Reports (updates)**

*Respectfully prepared by 2018-2020 REACH Parent Group Chairman, [Patti Berner](#)*

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Treasurer - Carrie Kaufman - Patti reported on Carrie's behalf; reminded Reps of IML (Illinois Math League) virtual participation. We only have had 1 of 3 middle schools request reimbursement. Are the others not participating? We've budgeted \$120 per school.

**New!** Website Administrator - Anna Wick, (reserve, Erik Krietsch) - thank you Anna for being our new Web Admin! Thank you for your service, Erik. (We appreciate you remaining as our backup.

**New!** Social/Social Media - Ioana Fernandez, [Social Media Strategy](#) - parents gave a "thumbs up" for pursuing a dedicated RPG FB page and other media, as Ioana directs us (as she's the expert!) Patti and the group thank her for seeing a need and rising to the occasion to help us. Stay tuned for developments in the upcoming weeks.

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

Gina reported that this has been a school supported effort. Since we're not in school, this is harder. Plus, parents (including Gina) are reluctant to have students spend any more time online, especially with an elective!

President - Patti Berner

- REACH Teacher Donations - [Consolidated Requests](#), \$1312.86 (budget - \$1400) - as noted above, ALL requests are approved (with the digital media exceptions.) A parent inquired as to why we give money to our teachers. Just like many of the PTA's give back a nominal amount e.g. "\$50-\$100" per teacher, the REACH PG has historically supported our REACH Teachers directly. We did not give out any amount last year as the pandemic had just hit and all purchases were on hold.
- This [link](#) will take you to "all things REACH Parent Group" - this is a resource for Reps to use and manage the year.
- [Rep Role Description](#) - share REACH Newsletter with PTA's for News/Web updates
- REACH Reps - additional details [FORM](#) & [RESULTS](#); optional, helpful. Patti briefly mentioned that information regarding our REACH Reps may help us in creating parent panels for info nights and/or assisting in special projects our group wishes to initiate.
- Freshmen Readiness Workshop - Amy Kehoe - no report.
- [PTA Council updates](#) (Naoko Ostermann) - Moyer and a BOE guest are usually present at these meetings. Our update of activities since the last PTA Council meeting was shared with the council. (We are a committee within the council. The council includes all the PTA Presidents, and several committees including SERG (Special Education Resource Group) and RPG (REACH Parent Group.) As a committee, we try and communicate and support any/all efforts of the council.

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- **New!** YHS-NHS Tutors - Patti reported that the group is student-led and WILL happen! This is a support to all the middle schoolers. It will likely operate similarly to the elem-middle school music buddy system. Parents receive a list of students with contact info, feeder school, area of expertise. The onus is then on the parent to contact the student and arrange for a recurring time and date for instruction. In the past, music buddies have charged \$7/hour or logged service hours. The MS tutoring (formerly Homework Club) was free and daily, after school at Sandburg MS (and likely the same at Churchville & Bryan.) Patti suggested that if this is as successful as anticipated, perhaps our group may have parents to kick-start something similar for our elementary students? (Although... the "music buddy" program was/is available to grades 4-8, we think...) Perhaps they could extend it to this age group...? Patti will follow up with the NHS program advisors.

### ALL Reps

- **New! please welcome** Pragna Dave, Edison, Anna Wick, Website
- Elem, math kits (for Math Nights) - no need yet. Jefferson is considering a virtual math night. If another elementary school wishes to collaborate and/or learn more details he/she should contact Jefferson PTA directly.
- MS Math Leagues (Churchville, Bryan?, Sandburg?) - no updates. We'd like to reimburse for entry fees as we budget for this each year.
- Other topics?

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

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

### **\*PAST ITEMS - FEEDBACK please\***

- 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.

The presentation is posted to our website. No recording was made. Going forward, this is an option if we would like to record meetings. Parent feedback was positive. We will continue to do "8th grade parent - Math nights" (understanding YHS Math Pathways.)

Patti raised the question to learn of interest of a possible dedicated meeting with solely a parent and student panel (min. 3 each, so total of 6 speakers.) There seemed to be interest, although, we were, as a group, unsuccessful in having a panel for this past 11/5 info night. There were, however, approximately 75 people

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at the meeting that lasted just shy of 90 minutes. There was no shortage of questions and direct answers from our speakers. We will definitely run this type of meeting again in the future.

### **UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS**

#### **November**

- 11/17 Tue BOE, 7:00 pm, virtual
- 11/18 Wed NO SCHOOL - Teachers - Remote Learning Planning Professional Day
- 11/24 Tue Elementary PTC - NO SCHOOL, elementary students ONLY
- 11/25-27 Wed-Fri, Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL

#### **December**

- 12/2 Wed 7 pm Commission on Youth - Anxiety in Kids During COVID, Elmhurst TV
  - 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)
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### **Helpful Links**

#### **DISTRICT**

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

#### **REACH Parent Group**

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