

REACH Parent Group MEETING MINUTES

11:30am-1:00pm, Friday **APRIL 16, 2021**

Zoom. (Meeting ID: 830 8071 2382. Passcode: 568918.)

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 8 of 9)

Participants: 36

D205 Guests: Leslie Weber

Meeting topic(s) - Topic: Appeals, Update from 3/16 BOE Presentation and meet our 2021-2022 REACH PG Chairperson, Sarah Jensen

REACH Appeals update, by Leslie Weber

REACH Appeals applications are due at 5 PM today (4/16). Based on the data received, D205 team will see who needs to be reassessed and what assessments need to be taken. The assessments will be done at the schools, during school hours. Teacher rating skills and building recommendations are needed before deciding on the assessments (close to the end of the month).

The new superintendent approved this week: [Dr. Keisha Campbell](#). D205 Learning & Teaching team will meet with Dr. Campbell in July to discuss and get a direction on the REACH proposals.

All elementary schools will be provided with services for Gifted students. The magnet school is an additional layer, and it will be completely optional.

Q: What criteria is being used to identify and invite stakeholders to participate in the new gifted program proposal?

A: After July the D205 team will work with the new superintendent to set up stakeholder meetings for the next school year, depending on how they are going to move forward with the program.

Q: Is the magnet above and beyond current reach?

A: The Magnet is above and beyond the current REACH program.

For math, the program will transition from a double accelerated trajectory to a single accelerated trajectory (applies to REACH and Magnet).

Q: Will you have leveled math within a grade? If not, will some students be moved down a grade to meet their needs? Otherwise, how do you deal with the variation for all students within the grade?

A: No, students that are below grade level will be offered extra support in the classroom (small groups and such). We will not have leveled math within a grade level, beyond the

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REACH students being pulled out, but with Total School Cluster grouping as well as small group instruction for math, students will receive more differentiated and personalized instruction in math moving forward.

Q: Summer bridge program?

A: Just for math. There will be one or two teachers assigned for the elementary level and one for the middle school level. All identified students will be set up on Khan academy. Teachers will be available during office hours for consultations and support. The summer bridge program is not mandatory, but suggested.

Q: What would happen to the students that qualify for the magnet program but do not want to leave their neighborhood school? Would they default to the highest reach program at their own school or would any additional supports available?

A: Kids that qualify and do not want to attend the Magnet school will be supported in their school.

The rubrics will be changed based on program changes.

Students in middle school can pursue a single accelerate pathway instead of a double one, if they choose so (family decision).

Q: If a child has qualified for REACH via appeal and does not need to retest (the rubric numbers meet the REACH acceptance criteria), when will families receive official word from Dist that their child has qualified?

A: The goal is to notify all families by the end of the month, whether their child needs additional testing or not.

Q: What will be the first class of students that will be impacted by the new rubric, including the magnet school? For example, would the first grade class be under the existing program, or the new program?

A: Not sure, it depends on how the program develops.

Q: So the majority of reach students would lose the opportunity to attain the double acceleration for math unless they qualify for the magnet program by the new standard...?

A: The double accelerated pathway will not even be available for magnet students. D205 team is looking for opportunities for those families who would like to pursue a double accelerated pathway: partner with Elmhurst University so students have the opportunity to take those courses.

Retesting for REACH appeals will happen the first or second week of May after IAR testing is done. Testing will happen at school, during school hours.

D205 team will get more feedback on the location of the magnet program.

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Miena Hall volunteered to be a treasurer.

Meeting with Fischer parents?
Productive meeting.

Sarah Jensen introduction:

Looking forward to working with everyone - believes in constructive collaboration, listen, hear each other; serve as a bridge; help each other.

Survey? What more can we do as the group and what can we do to serve?

Officer and Chair/Team Reports (updates)

Treasurer - Carrie Kaufman

Miena Hall volunteered to be a treasurer for 2021 - 2022 school year.

- Budget of \$2150, Expenses <\$1563> = \$587 balance to carry over for 2021-22
- Use of \$587 balance - *teacher donations; please advise group of needs*
- Reps and/or teachers-submit [reimbursement form](#).

Mathletes funding for Elementary Schools was discussed. Illinois Math League is already funded by the REACH Parents Group for Middle Schools.

Sarah Jensen suggests that school reps talk to REACH teachers about math needs, differentiation. Involve principals and REACH teachers on the best way to offer this enrichment option.

Website Administrator - Anna Wick (most recent revision, [Parent Resources!](#))

Social/Social Media - Ioana Fernandez - subscriber counts, reminders

Middle School Facebook Group - 48 members

Elementary School Facebook Group - 68 members

Instagram Account - 19 followers

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

Board of Ed liaison?

School Reps to confirm if they want to continue, or if there are going to be new reps.

President – Patti Berner

- **Filled 2021-2022 Chairperson - please welcome Sarah Jensen!**
- **Open positions for 2021-22 - Reps, Finance, BOE Liaison, Other interests?**
- **(2) 2021 Parent Info Nights** (REACH sponsored) planned
 - May TBA "New to REACH"

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- Date TBD - REACH Program Proposal, (follow up to 3/16 presentation to BOE)
- (1) Monthly meetings (topics) - May (2021-22 Planning, **invite new Reps**)
- Teacher Donations - Reps make purchase for them (or get reimbursement)
- PTA Council updates

ALL Reps

- Elem, math kits (for Math Nights)
- MS Math Leagues (Churchville, Bryan, Sandburg - reimbursements requested?)
- **Teachers - not all receiving REACH Parent Group News!** (will add unless opt out)
- Other topics?

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

PAST ITEMS - Feedback?

- 3/12 Fri 11:30 am - REACH PG monthly meeting
- **3/16 Tues 7 pm - BOE Meeting, REACH Program Proposal**
- Late March - Notification of Identification for Program
- 3/19 deadline to [register](#) for 3/22 MEZ (for 7th/8th gr math enrichment)
- **4/5 - Appeals Open**
- **4/5 Mon 7 pm - REACH Appeals Process, Parent Info Night**
- 4/13 Tue 7 pm - BOE Meeting

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

April

- 4/16 Fri 11:30 am - REACH PG monthly meeting
- 4/27 Tue 7 pm - BOE Meeting

May

- Date TBD - REACH Program Proposal, Parent Info Night (follow up to 3/16 presentation to BOE)
- 5/14 Fri 11:30 am - REACH PG monthly meeting (last one of 2021!)
- 5/24 Mon 6 pm - **MEZ** (Math Enrichment Zooms)
- 5/24 Mon 7 pm - New to REACH, Parent Info Night