

REACH Parent Group MINUTES

Thursday, October 14, 2021

7pm via ZOOM

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.

Participants: 38

MEETING TOPICS:

Kerry Leuschel ~ D205 Director of Curriculum & Instructional Supports (5 mins)

- Provide any updates to REACH PG
- REACH Proposal - put on pause, no projected changes for now.
- Rubric update for new to REACH - MAP testing will be part of the assessments; updates in November. There will be 3 MAP testings (fall/winter/spring) this year for students.
- French - still working on hiring new teachers

President Report ~ Sarah Jensen (10 mins)

- District / PTA Council Updates
- Dr. Campbell and Faith Behr (D205 Communications) attended PTA Council. Dr. Campbell celebrated success in the following three areas:
 1. Getting students back in school, full time, 5 days a week
 2. Maintaining health and safety standards to keep students in school. Was happy to report they are not seeing transmission within the schools and are keeping healthy kids IN school (vs quarantining healthy kids). Teams are now focused on protocols for colder/winter months to maintain these standards/results.
 3. SEL - (social emotional learning) trying to find a common language around what it means; shared the CASEL 5 competencies: (1) self awareness, (2) self management, (3) social awareness, (4) relationship skills and; (5) responsible decision making.
- Dr. Campbell reiterated the importance of using MAP scores and data to monitor student progress and academic outcome; this was a big focus at the teachers institute day. She also discussed the importance of creating and cultivating a community culture in D205 (morale, energy, celebration).
- Focus on the portrait of a graduate, what person we want to model that would be a D205 graduate.

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- The REACH Parent Group is here to support teachers by offering funds and bringing attention to what happens in the classroom and celebrating that.
- Review key actions from prior meeting
- Volunteer to attend Illinois Association for Gifted Children Conference and share learning to group (Sat 10/14/21 (8am-4pm)
- Review key actions from September REACH PG Meeting

Share & Celebrate REACH Enrichment Work ~ REACH Teachers (30 mins)

- Elementary School Math & ELA (20 mins)
- Leanne Rider - shared a REACH Math & ELA Enrichment [presentation](#) - what makes the REACH classrooms an engaging experience. This was a collaboration across schools, some schools may have similar or different projects. These projects are also often shared with general ed class teachers as enrichment opportunities.
- Positive feedback on evening meetings from both Mrs. Rider and Mrs. Sorrentino. They were happy to be included.

Review of REACH PG Website and Resources ~ Anna Wick (5 mins)

- The website update started last year. Anna reviewed all the pages of the RPG [website](#) and where to find information.

Elementary school mathletes:

- There is a need to fill in the gaps in enrichment. Feedback - the REACH teachers across the district would like to have all their 4th and 5th grade classes participate in the Noetic contest.
- How do we ensure that all students (not just REACH students) have access to enrichment?
- Gina Padgett - tricky; Jefferson PTA has funding set aside for Mathletes. No need to add more work for the REACH teachers.
- Kerry - each building is different and some already have a working system. What are the models that work across schools? Can some of them work at other schools?
- Sarah suggests applying for a grant from Foundation 205 to fund Noetic for all schools if budget becomes a concern.
- Classroom teachers can use the Noetic packages in the workshop models for enrichment.
- Sarah to organize a smaller committee to figure out implementation.
- Volunteers - Geri Sorrentino; teachers willing to use their REACH resource funds to make this happen.
- Conrad Fisher cannot afford Mathletes - REACH Parent Group to figure out funding for CF as well as any other schools that need more budget.

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- School reps to find out how many grades will participate from each school. What are the specific needs from each school? What school PTAs budgeted funds for that?

Questions

- A question was raised over subs when REACH teachers are absent. Each building is handling the situation differently. Parents should reach out to their school's principal to understand how this is being handled at their school if there are questions/concerns.

REACH School Representatives ~ Share Feedback

- Teacher Resource Wish List (\$100/elementary and \$200/middle school)
- School Interest in Elementary School Family Math Nights
- School Interest in Elementary 2nd Grade Mathletes
- School Learning and Interest in Middle School IML Mathletes
- Explore ELA enrichment interest
 - Jr Great Books / Book Clubs / Battle of the Books / Spelling B's

Upcoming Meetings:

- Thursday, November 11th, 7pm with Dave Beedy (District 205 Director of STEM Education) and Eric Westerburg (York HS Math Department Chair)
 - focus: Math Pathways, parent and student experiences (high school and/or college)
- Thursday, December 9th ZOOM, 7-8 pm.
 - focus: teachers to share enrichment work; best practices
 - Middle School Passion Project (10 mins)
- Thursday, January 13th, in-person, 1-2 pm.
 - focus: appeals process; summer programming
- Thursday, February 10th
- Thursday, March 10th
- Thursday, April 14th
- Thursday, May 12th