



# Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

## Minutes

### REACS Board Meeting

---

#### **Date and Time**

Monday March 27, 2023 at 6:30 PM

#### **Location**

Via Zoom Online Meeting Platform

---

#### **Directors Present**

C. Williams-Hagins (remote), L. Hamer (remote), R. Wilson (remote), K. Sandiford (remote), L. Stephens (remote), M. Anglin (remote), S. Brown (remote), D. Barron (remote)

#### **Directors Absent**

#### **Ex Officio Members Present**

C. Rice (remote)

#### **Guests Present**

Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie (remote), Tawanna Muniz (remote)

---

### **I. Opening Items**

#### **A. Record Attendance**

#### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

L. Hamer called a meeting of the board of directors of Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School to order on March 27, 2023 at 6:35 PM

R. Wilson made a motion to Approve Agenda.

C. Rice seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### **C. Approve Minutes**

C. Rice made a motion to Approve Minutes from February 27, 2023

C. Williams-Hagins seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

## **C. Business & Operations Report**

### **a. Mrs. Tawana Muniz**

#### **STUDENT DATA DASHBOARD:**

- i. UNIVERSAL PRE-K STUDENTS – 34
- ii. K-8 STUDENTS – 431
- iii. SPED STUDENTS – 52
- iv. ELL – 4
- v. ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS – 69%

#### **ENROLLMENT: 2022 - 2023**

- Pre-K – 2 seats to be filled
- K – 0 seats to be filled
- Grade 1 – 6 seats to be filled
- Grade 2 – 0 seat to be filled
- Grade 3 – 2 seats to be filled
- Grade 4 – 0 seats to be filled
- Grade 5 – 0 seats to be filled
- Grade 6 – 3 seats to be filled
- Grade 7 – 3 seats to be filled
- Grade 8 – 5 seats to be filled
  
- 201 applicants on the waitlist

#### **ENROLLMENT: 2023 - 2024**

- Received 395 applications; Portal opened 1/3/23
- Deadline to submit applications: 4/1/23
- Lottery scheduled for 4/25/23

#### **COMPLIANCE/FINANCE:**

- Summer boost applications and school food authority documents
- Financial Snapshot, budget vs. actual and cash disbursement reports sent to the board

## **CI. School Leader Report**

**Mrs. Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie/Dr. Claytisha Walden/**

**Ms. Kimylene Hover**

### **Data Review and On-going Instructional Support**

We have administered the ANET A3 assessment to Grades 3-8. This assessment is part of the series of ANET assessments given throughout the school year to mirror the rigors of the NYS English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics exams.

The instructional coaches (K -5) continue to conduct data workshops for teachers. The coaches review the iReady data from the Middle of the Year assessment (MOY). Teachers learned how to differentiate and create small groups to address student gaps.

Report Cards were distributed March 10, 2023 and virtual Parent Teacher Conferences were conducted on March 16, 2023. There were 247 families signed up and attended conferences.

Teachers are becoming more acclimated to the implementation of PowerSchool, our Learning Management System. We revised the Grading Policy, Instructional Leadership, Instructional coaching and the Instructional Technology tools to streamline the categories for the teaching and learning. There will be ongoing meetings to review the policy for next school year.

Reading Initiatives continue each month rewarding students who are top readers. PTO sponsor February.

Legacy Math is fully implemented in grades 3-8. Weekly Math Labs are in place. A Legacy Pathways consultant is also working with identified staff who need extra support.

Summer Boost Grant was submitted last week. This week they requested an adjustment to the budget to specify that only 33% of K-8 scholars can attend which is 148 students using the base funding of \$272,000. But we could request additional funding, which we did for an additional

\$30,000. Fully submitted as 3/24/23.

Summer Boost PD for teachers will take place in June. Classes will run from July 5-August 4. We began recruiting teachers for summer boost and have 19 teachers from REACS who wish to work with our scholars.

### **Preparing for the NYS Assessments**

We are all diligently preparing for the NYS assessments. Students have been provided with past exam questions and test-released questions as practice. Teachers have been provided the NYS Educator Guide and Teacher Directions to begin familiarizing themselves with the expectations for test days. Testing schedules and testing modifications will also be provided to the staff.

A Mock exam day schedule is prepared to familiarize the entire school community for scheduling on test days. We use the entire building to separate groups according to modifications.

### **School Culture**

The Black History all-school celebration was a tremendous success! It was well-attended by the families. It was a collaboration of grades Kindergarten through eighth grade. PreK scholars recorded a Black History Presentation and sent it home to families.

The students have been enjoying various outings. Students have had trips to bowling, Ground Zero, Liberty Science Center, movies, Math Museum, Green Meadow Farm, etc. Additional trips are planned through the end of the year including on testing days for K-2 scholars.

Students volunteered to assist with the Pop-Up Food Pantry as a community service project. This helps students to gain an awareness of giving back to the community.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade attended the Senior Trip to Washington, DC visiting Howard University and the African American History Museum. Our PTO celebrated the Seniors with special snacks and monogrammed messenger bags that they used on the trip.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade High School Acceptances**

Our 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students have received their High School Admission/Placements. We are excited to announce that some scholars were accepted into some of NYC's prestigious high schools – LaGuardia High School of Music, Art & Performing Arts. Some other strong programs are Bayside, Flushing High School, etc. There are some students waited-listed for Brooklyn Tech and York Early College Academy.

### **Student Recruitment**

Some 7<sup>th</sup>-grade students whose scores were at Levels 3 and 4 were being recruited into the Hunter College Campus School (Grades 7-12).

### **2023-24**

We would like to request funding from the board to plan for incoming K students as the Summer Boost grant did not include our youngest scholars transitioning from the Annex to the Main building. This will give the Pre-K scholars additional academic support to get them used to the new setting.

Teacher Preferences for next year began with individual meetings to allow staff to voice the grade they would like to teach in 2023-24.

School Foods for next year is a major concern. SFA is in process.

### **Personnel**

Interventionist Vacancy – Position filled  
Custodian resigned effective 3/24/23

## CII. PTO Report Shinequa Brown

- Meeting held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023
- Theme: Navigating Life with Life Coach, Evelyce Diaz
- School Leadership addressed questions/concerns
- National Read Across America Day
  - Grades K through 5 received \$5 gift cards
    - \$5 McDonald Arch cards for the top readers
    - \$5 Carvel cards to the most improved readers
  - Both Pre-K classes also received \$5 McDonald Arch cards and \$5 Carvel cards
  - Middle School received \$10 Amazon gift cards for both top and most improved reader
- NYS Test Prep Resources
  - Khan Academy(Khanacademy.org)
  - NYSED(nysedregents.org)
  - IXL(ixl.com)
  - I-ready
- Financial Literacy Seminar with Mr. Dauphin and Friends was on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>
- Potential Workshop for 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade scholars/parents
  - Informational on different high schools and the high school application process
- Pizza Pop Up Fundraiser
  - Last one happened on March 10<sup>th</sup> & was successful
- PTO Bank Balance as of March 15<sup>th</sup>: \$8,433.91(cash flow statement attached)
- Volunteers
  - Must be prepared to show vaccination card
  - Volunteer form on PTO Linktree; info can also be found on REACS website
  - Contact Ms. Roxanne Phoenix, Volunteer Chair at [reacsvolunteerchairsperson@gmail.com](mailto:reacsvolunteerchairsperson@gmail.com)
  - Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> distribute lunch to 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades during ELA state tests
  - Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> distribute lunch to 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades during Math state tests
  - Field Day on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> Baisley Pond Park
- Happy Birthday to all March babies!
- Women's History Special Recognition
  - Ms. Boyd, Pre-K Teacher
  - Ms. Roxanne Phoenix, Parent & Volunteer Chair
  - \$25 gift card to each
- Upcoming Events
  - Scholar Shark Tank
    - REACS scholars mentored by Mr. Dauphin will present proposals
    - Best proposal will receive gift card from PTO to help buy business supplies
  - Half day on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Easter Egg Hunt at NJWC on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>
  - PTO sponsored Walk-a-thon on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 11am-2pm in Baisley Pond Park
    - Fundraiser to raise money for field day
    - Bring the community together
    - Registration will open on April 8<sup>th</sup> and close on April 26<sup>th</sup>
    - Still finalizing plans
  - Spring Recess: April 10<sup>th</sup> through April 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Next PTO meeting is on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm via zoom and the theme will be Open Your Eyes to Health with our guest speaker, Iridologist and Health Expert, Nancy Pierre.

### **CIII. CEO Report**

#### **a. Bishop Calvin Rice**

##### **Maintenance/Facility and new Construction:**

- Steel Construction for the second floor and roof is about 90% complete, expect to have roof base complete by mid-April.
- All the studding for the partition wall has been erected on the first floor.
- I will be traveling to Albany tomorrow to participate in **BLAAC**'s lobby for equity in funding and will remain until Wednesday to meet with Hope Knight to try to move forward the grant for the rooftop playground.
- Ms. Muniz and I met with Dan Pasack who is fostering an idea for a joint high school with REACS acting as the anchor.
- See the attached to view construction progress.

### **CIV. Finance Report**

#### **a. Mrs. Marcia Anglin – NO REPORT**

### **CV. Academic Accountability Report**

#### **a. Mrs. Chene Williams-Hagins**

The meeting opened at 6:30 PM with the Admin report given by Ms. Leslie, Ms. Hover, and Dr. Walden that contained the following information:

- ANET assessments have been given to Grades 3 -8; teachers and coaches continue to teach and test students using previous test materials, mock exams, and resources to prepare them for the NYS ELA and Math tests; Coaches are using modeling techniques and workshops are also being scheduled for teachers and parents to help support student progress.
- Student gaps are being addressed using the combination of I-Ready and ANET data collected to find the areas that need to be strengthened;
- Legacy Math is working well with the weekly math labs in use.
- Testing modifications are being put in place for students that require it, affecting locations, extended time, verbal assistance for directions, etc. Non-testing grades will be out of the building on trips.
- Report cards were distributed, and virtual parent conferences successfully scheduled and attended.
- The PowerSchool program is working well as a management system for staff; there will be ongoing meetings to ensure that everyone learns how to use it effectively. The parent portion is not currently open but will be available soon.
- The afterschool and Saturday sessions are doing well.
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders are receiving acceptance letters from LaGuardia, Bayside, York, Flushing and other highly regarded High Schools; A senior trip was planned for Washington, DC; and senior shirts and treats were distributed;
- Reading initiatives continue to be in place for top readers; suggestions were made to include awards for most improved also.
- The Summer Boost Grant program application was submitted which will impact K-8 scholars under a \$272,000 budget. Admin announced that they would like to have the preschoolers

benefit from the summer also and will be requesting additional funds through Boost to accommodate it.

- School culture included a K-8 Black History program which can be accessed on Facebook, and a preschool presentation that was recorded and sent home to parents. Some students volunteered for the POP-UP Pantry sponsored by the church. Other trips have been experienced by the school population as well.

- Other subjects discussed were: teacher preferences; school culture (students, teachers, parents, staff); PID (promotion in doubt) concerns.

There is a recommendation from Administration and the Academic Committee to the Board that funds be accommodated for establishing a summer boost program for preschoolers entering kindergarten in September 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2023 6:30 PM.

## **CVI. Personnel Committee Report**

### **a. Mrs. Kamala Sandiford**

- Meeting held 3/21/23 via zoom at 6:59.
- The position for Interventionist was filled. The committee requested copies of the candidates resume for review. School staff members have expressed their interest in working the summer school programs this year. We will have two programs this summer as we are offering an enrichment program for the scholars moving into Kindergarten in September as well as our summer program for the 1-8 students.
- Ms. Leslie has begun to meet with staff members to inquire about their preferences for next year. She reminded us that she will ultimately make the decision to put them in the position (grade) that best fits our school. Ms. Leslie expressed that the Board's increase in staff salaries seems to have helped us to retain staff; however, we won't really know until next school year.
- I inquired about staff morale. Ms. Leslie and Dr. Clay shared some of the activities afforded staff members such as:
  - Staff gets time off
  - Free lunch
  - Team building activities
  - Teacher appreciation week
  - Staff friendly competitions
  - Mental health team building planed by the staff
  - Use of new grading system PowerSchool
  - The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

### **Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM. Next board meeting will be held April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,  
R. Wilson

The meeting was adjourned for executive session.

In executive session:

- The summer boost program was discussed
- Potential non-material changes to the charter were discussed to accommodate school expansion