



Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

Minutes

REACS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday November 24, 2025, at 6:30 PM

Location

Via Zoom Online Platform and In-Person

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

Ex Officio Members Present

C. Rice

Guests Present

Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie, Ms. Kimylene Hover (remote), T. 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 November 24, 2025 at 6:36 PM

C. Williams-Hagins made a motion to Approve Agenda.

D. Barron seconded the motion.

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

C. Approve Minutes

R. Wilson made a motion to Approve Minutes from October 27, 2025

D. Barron seconded the motion.

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

II. Business & Operations Report

A. Mrs. Tawana Muniz

STUDENT DATA DASHBOARD:

- UNIVERSAL PRE-K STUDENTS – 36
- K-8 STUDENTS (Pre-Enrolled) – 437
- SPED STUDENTS – 68
- ELL – 8
- ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS – 67%
- Temp. Housing – 0

ENROLLMENT: 2025 – 2026

- 210 applications on the '25-'26 waitlist
- Student seats available: Grade K=3, Grade 3=1, Grade 4=5, Grade 6=2, Grade 8=2

COMPLIANCE/FINANCE:

- Audit is complete, no finding or deficiencies
- Submitted annual compliance report documents that were due 11/3/25
- The 365 migration is complete. The entire school is not cloud-based.
- There are cameras in the main building that need to be replaced.

OPERATIONS:

- Good news! We have full enrichments for all classes

ATTACHMENTS

- Budget vs. Actual, profit and loss and cash disbursement reports were given to the board

III. School Leader Report

Mrs. Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie/ Ms. Kimylene Hover/Ms. LaShona Chapman

- **School-wide Goal 25/26 School Year**
 - “To strengthen core instruction by ensuring all students engage daily in rigorous, grade-level tasks that promote critical thinking, academic discourse, and written expression.”
 - In strengthening the core instruction, the goal is to improve proficiency in ELA from 60% to 70% and in Math from 65% to 70%
 -
 - Instructional focus: Ensuring Rigorous Instruction through Standards Alignment, Engaging in Academic Discourse, and Increasing opportunities for Written Expression.
 -
 - To promote high-quality, standards-aligned instruction that prepares all students for success, our school will prioritize the following instructional focus areas. These “Look-Fors” will be used during informal walkthroughs conducted by coaches and Aps to support alignment, provide feedback, and celebrate best practices.

Our beginning-of-year comparison of the 2024–25 and 2025–26 i-Ready and A-Net assessments shows mixed performance across grades 3–8. The data reveal a slight improvement in Reading and significant declines in Math across nearly all grades, making Mathematics an urgent instructional priority.

Reading – i-Ready

Strengths

- **Improvement in Grades 3, 4, and 8**, with Grade 3 showing the largest gain (+25% on grade level).

Growth

- **Declines in Grades 5, 6, and 7**, with Grade 6 experiencing the largest decline (–33%).
- Reading performance is inconsistent across the school, indicating uneven foundational skill development and varying instructional impact by grade level.

Math – i-Ready

Strength

- **Only Grade 3 showed a significant improvement (+13%).**

Growth

- **All other grades declined**, with Grades 5 and 6 showing the greatest drops (–22% and –29%).
- This pattern mirrors our classroom observations: students are struggling with foundational math skills, problem-solving, and multi-step reasoning.

ELA – A-Net

Strength

- **Small gains** in Grades 3, 4, 5, and 8 (between +1 and +3).

Growth

- **Declines** in Grades 6,7, and 8
- Students demonstrate partial understanding of standards but struggle to transfer skills to complex texts and written responses.

Math – A-Net

- Declines were shown in every grade.
- Drops range from **–1 to –13**, with Grade 3 (–13%) and Grade 4 (–9%) showing the most significant decreases.
- This confirms a schoolwide issue with math mastery and retention.

Overall Trend

- **Strength:** Reading shows growth in Grades 3, 4, and 8, which demonstrates that early literacy and comprehension routines are beginning to show.
- **Concern:** Math is declining across nearly the entire school, in both diagnostic (i-Ready) and standards-based assessments (A-Net).
- **ELA/ writing** remains a moderate concern across grades, with only slight movement upward.

The data show that we are making gains in Reading; however, **math needs immediate and targeted schoolwide intervention**. Strengthening foundational math skills, problem-solving routines. Consistent instructional practices will be essential to reversing current trends.

ELA Instructional Priority Domains based on the data

- Vocabulary
- Comprehension: Literature
- Comprehension: Informational Text

Math Instructional Priority Domains based on the data

- Geometry
- Algebra and Algebraic Thinking

Next Steps

- Document and share early grade instructional strategies (guided reading, phonics routines, math fluency drills) with upper grades for vertical alignment.
- Continue to pair teachers with instructional coaches for short-cycle data analysis and reteaching planning every 2–3 weeks.
- Conduct walkthroughs and modeling on vocabulary instruction, questioning techniques, throughout all content.

- Provide a spiral review of foundational algebra concepts for 6th–8th graders to ensure vertical coherence.
- High-Dosage Varsity Tutoring: Tutoring for our emerging and developing 5th and 6th-grade scholars (students who scored Level 1 or 2 on the 2025 NYS End-of-Year assessments) will take place during the school day, starting October 20, 2025, twice a week, with a 5:1 student-to-tutor ratio.
- Investigating an additional high-dosage tutoring program for grades 3 & 4
- ADDING SATARDAY ACADEMY in January
- Afterschool Program: Our Afterschool Program began on October 8th and is focused on Grades 3–8. The program supports Level 2 scholars and lower Level 3 scholars to help them attain or maintain Levels 3 and 4 in ELA and Math.

Parent Teacher Conferences was held on 11/13 Virtual and in person to close out Term One

A current area of concern is also the 4th grade. 4th grade showed significant improvement in 3rd grade; however, we see a decline, and we are in the process shifting staff to reset the 4th grade.

Curriculum/Intervention: We are exploring the integration of Heggerty into our literacy instruction. The Interventionist has completed an initial professional development session to support implementation. AP Ms. Hover and Instructional Coach Ms. Holder will had a PD on Heggerty on November 19th.

All STEM and Science teachers and coaches received initial training on the A+ Mobile STEM Lab(s), which are resources to help teachers deliver robust, grade-appropriate, technology-driven STEM learning experiences through hands-on activities and experiments

Continued PD are in the process for ELA/Math for new and seasoned teachers to review individual deficits based on areas of need.

School Community Events + Update

1. **Enrichments Embedded in the School Day:** Include BooksAlive, Karate, Dance, Percussion, and Chess.
2. **Afterschool Enrichment Programs:**
 1. Basketball
 2. Cheerleading
 3. Arts & Media
 4. Boy Scouts
 5. Choir
 6. Lion's Den boys mentoring

Personnel Report

- We are assessing and grouping teachers based on their current level of practice to determine individualized professional development and coaching plans. These plans focus on both content knowledge and pedagogy. New teachers are participating in full coaching cycles with instructional coaches to ensure consistent support and growth.
- We are experiencing some push back from staff in appropriate planning using data to inform instruction
- Extended Probation for new teachers (Kim, Santos, Thorpe) Experiencing challenges in meeting expectations

Staff updates

- **Middle School Interventionist:** The Middle School Interventionist position has been filled by Star Layne, who accepted the role on 10/17 and is also being onboarded to start on 11/3.
- **Middle School Interventionist (Leave):** Middle School Interventionist remains out on leave due to pregnancy-related medical issues. Her most recent update on 10/8 indicated she would be out for approximately four weeks, returning around 11/5. We are concerned about the potential instructional impact if her leave is extended further into the pregnancy. We reached out for an update. Doctor placed her on an additional 6 week leave. **We are seeking a long-term sub to support scholars.**
- **4th grade Teacher resigned effective November 14, 2025:** Position filled with Ritu Roy

- Elementary School Interventionist position filled with Kawamie Rodney (Resume Attached)– This position became vacant when 1st grade teacher Ms. Tulloch resigned. Position filled with the Interventionist, leaving that position vacant.
- Middle School Science position filled with Katrina Caamano

Upcoming events

Schoolwide collection of Donations for Hurricane Melissa victims in Jamaica
Schoolwide Holiday Performance 12/17/25 @ 9:00 am
Staff Holiday Party @ REACS CAFÉ 12/18/25 @4pm

IV.CEO Report

A. Bishop Calvin Rice

- Finalizing paperwork for NYS grant (\$250K); grant will complete kitchen
- TCO (Temporary certificate of occupancy) will end in 3-4 weeks; will need one more temporary one for about 90 days. We do have a public assembly and gym certificate
- Need an additional sanitation pickup to reduce garbage collection

V. PTO Meeting

A. S. Francis/M. Palma-Drexler

PTO Board for 2025-2026:

- **President:** Shaena Francis
- **Vice President:** Maria Palma-Drexler
- **Treasurer:** Jennifer Steele
- **Secretary:** Carnelia Johnson
- **Communication Secretary:** Quana Richards
- **Volunteer Chair:** Marsha Granville-Pereira

Summary of the PTO Meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2025:

Attendance: 49 attendees

Theme: Thankful for You

President's Report:

- Expressed gratitude to the entire REACS community for ongoing support, participation, and engagement.
- Gave special thanks to all event volunteers who contributed time and effort at the Book Fair, Pizza Pop Up, and behind-the-scenes tasks.
- Reported improvements to Pizza Pop Up operations, including a new tracking and reconciliation system that resulted in zero missing items.
- Thanked families for pre-ordering and pre-paying, which helped reduce surplus spending and improved event accuracy and efficiency.
- Announced the Scholastic Book Fair was a success, with proceeds contributing to PTO fundraising goals.
- Highlighted upcoming school-year events and encouraged continued family involvement through volunteering, purchases, and community support.
- Closed with appreciation for the community's generosity and ongoing commitment to REACS scholars.

Treasurer's Report:

- Starting balance as of the September close: **\$6,351.31.**
- Total funds raised this cycle: **\$2,008.52.**
- Total expenses: **\$1,995.50** (pizza pop up and Trunk or Treat contributions).
- Ending balance: **\$7,207.92.**
- Additional pop ups and events remain for the year, including movie nights and other initiatives introduced at the start of the school year.
- Expressed gratitude to all families whose participation and donations continue to support PTO programming.

Parent Coordinator Report (Read on Behalf of Ms. Brown)

- Appreciation for PTO collaboration during the Scholastic Book Fair.
- Girl Scouts' Operation Christmas Child project successfully packed **177 boxes** for children ages 2 to 14.
- Friendsgiving Celebration scheduled for **Monday, November 24**, with specific food guidelines and allergy precautions shared with families.
- Gingerbread House activities for Pre-K to 4th grade will take place the week of **December 9**.
- Holiday Show scheduled for **Wednesday, December 17**. Costume and color guidance will be shared by classroom teachers.
- Need for Parent Reps in classes **402, 702, and 802**.
- High school applications due **December 3**; resources continue to be shared with 8th grade families.
- NYC Kids Rise Safe for College account activation urged for grades 1–4; goal is 50 percent activation by December.
- Reminder for families to keep contact information updated and check Class Dojo regularly.
- Seasonal reminders shared regarding appropriate winter clothing for students.

School Leadership Report (Ms. Leslie)

- School Spelling Bee held; champion is 8th grader **Nana**, with **Joseph** placing second. Both will advance to the Queens South Spelling Bee.
- New enrichment options added this year: percussion, hip hop, dance, keyboard, chess, Books Alive, and others.
- After-school programs continue on Wednesdays and Thursdays; families encouraged to enroll students needing academic support.
- Reinforced the importance of daily practice on IReady and IXL, especially for students with ones or twos on their report cards.
- Addressed behavioral concerns regarding vandalism in school bathrooms; families encouraged to speak with students about expectations and consequences.
- Honor Roll celebration coming soon for students with an 80 average or above.
- Partnership with The Door restaurant for donations supporting Hurricane Melissa relief efforts in Jamaica.
- Extended warm Thanksgiving wishes to all families.

Upcoming Events and PTO Activities

- Holiday Raffle: Ticket sales run from **November 19 to December 16**.
- Half Day: **November 21**.
- Thanksgiving Break: **November 27–28**.
- Santa Pictures: **December 5** (flyers forthcoming).
- Family Movie Night: **December 12**.
- Next PTO Meeting and Christmas Show: **December 17**.

Community Corner

- Launching a community vendor list to highlight local businesses and resources each month.
- Featured vendor: **Triple A Flooring**, offering installation, refinishing, polishing, repairs, and maintenance at affordable rates.

Special Presentation: NYC Benefits Program (Crystal Dixon)

- Overview of emergency assistance programs including Cash Assistance, One Shot Deals, SNAP, HEAP, Fair Fares, Reduced-Fare MetroCards, and the Energy Affordability Program (EAP).
- Guidance on eligibility, documentation, and how families can apply.
- Emphasized new and ongoing advocacy services for families who experience case closures or benefit reductions.
- Weekly walk-in hours available Thursdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for application support.
- Contact information provided to families for follow up.

Monthly Giveaway

- Winner: **Ryan (Class 502)**.
- Families and staff were encouraged to enter by sharing their name, scholar name, and class in the chat.

Closing Remarks

- Appreciation shared for every parent, staff member, and volunteer who contributes time, donations, and energy to PTO efforts.

- Acknowledgment that community involvement is essential to sustaining events, resources, and student enrichment opportunities.
- Wished all families a safe and restful Thanksgiving break.

VI. Academic Accountability Report – NO REPORT

A. Mrs. Chene Williams

- Met 11/18/25 via zoom
- Discussed admin report in detail via Vice Principal Hover

VII. Finance Committee Report – NO REPORT

A. Mrs. Marcia Anglin

VIII. Personal Report – NO REPORT

A. K. Sandiford

IX. Fundraising Committee Report – NO REPORT

A. J. Hurt

Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. Wilson