



# Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

## Minutes

### REACS Board Meeting

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#### **Date and Time**

Monday January 26, 2026, at 6:30 PM

#### **Location**

Via Zoom Online Platform and In-Person

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#### **Directors Present**

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

#### **Directors Absent**

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

C. Rice

#### **Guests Present**

Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie, Ms. Kimylene Hover (remote), Ms. LaShona Chapman, T. Muniz (remote)

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### **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 January 26, 2026 at 6:35 PM

R. Wilson made a motion to Approve Agenda.

C. Rice 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 – 35
- K-8 STUDENTS (Pre-Enrolled) – 440
- SPED STUDENTS – 68
- ELL – 7
- ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS – 67%
- Temp. Housing – 1

### **ENROLLMENT: 2025 – 2026**

- 180 applications on the '25-'26 waitlist
- Student seats available: Grade K=3, Grade 3=1, Grade 4=5, Grade 8=2
- 187 Applications received

### **COMPLIANCE/FINANCE:**

- Started pulling documents for ACR (Annual Comprehensive Report). Working closely with Dan Pasek group; new deadline 2/18/26.
- The cameras in the main building are 10 or more years old and new cameras are needed; estimated cost, \$7,000.00

### **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**

"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.

Additional Action Steps

High-dosage tutoring is provided for our emerging and developing 5th- and 6th-grade scholars and is currently underway. In addition, the Study Smart High-Dosage Tutoring Program began last week for scholars in Grades 3 and 4.

Saturday Academy launched on January 10th. We are actively reaching out to families to increase scholar attendance and participation.

Our Afterschool Program began on October 8th and serves scholars in Grades 3–8. The program targets Level 2 scholars and lower Level 3 scholars.

## **ELA Strengths**

- Overall upward trend across most grades
- Strong gains in the following grades:
  - The 2nd-grade students increased from 26% to 43% on/above grade level.
  - 3rd grade increased from 56% → 68% on/above grade level.
  - The 6th-grade percentage increased from 18% to 33% on/above grade level.
  - 8th grade increased from 51% → 64% on/above grade level, indicating readiness for high school literacy demands.
- Foundational literacy strengths
  - i-Ready domain data shows relative strength in:
    - Phonics
    - High-Frequency Words

## **ELA Areas of Growth**

- 4th Grade decline- Decrease from 36% → 31% on/above grade level (-5%).
- Comprehension remains a challenge schoolwide

## **Math Strengths**

- Consistent growth across ALL grades
- Improvement in number sense & algebraic thinking
  - Growth in Number & Operations and Algebraic Thinking suggests improved:
    - Conceptual understanding
    - Procedural fluency

## **Math Areas of Growth**

- Large percentages of students in the Approaching band, indicating a need for:
  - Strong Tier 1 differentiation
  - Targeted Tier 2 push-in supports across all grades
- Application & problem-solving: We are continuing to work with scholars on solving multi-step word problems and explaining mathematical reasoning

### ELA Priority Domains based on the data

- Phonological Awareness
- Comprehension: Overall
- Comprehension: Informational Text

### Math Priority Domains based on the data

- Geometry
- Measurement and Data

### Next Steps

- Continue ELA comprehension coaching cycles,
- Align interventionist schedules to target approaching students. K-1 Interventionist introducing Heggerty in small groups.
- **Use i-Ready domain reports in grade-team data meetings. Coaches have begun having data meetings with each grade team.**
- Monitor progress with monthly movement reports (Approaching → On Grade).

### Updates

- Staff received Science one-on and whole group training from HMH on Friday, January 16th
- PD's are in the process for ELA/Math for new and seasoned teachers to review individual needs.
- Cycle 1 of informal observations are completed.
- The process for Cycle 2: formal evaluations will begin this week. Teachers will be notified by the APs of their pre-observation meeting, observation window, and post-observation debrief.
  
- Term One Honor Roll awards were presented on 1/6/2026
- 2 Scholars represented REACS at the Queens South Spelling Bee. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade scholar is moving on to the Citywide Bee.
- Summer Boost Application Open. The deadline for application is **Friday, February 13 at 11:59p ET.**
- Spanish Plan

### School Community Events + Update

- **Enrichments Embedded in the School Day:** Include BooksAlive, Karate, Dance, Percussion, Hip-Hop Dance, Keyboarding, and Chess.
- **Afterschool Enrichment Programs:**
- Basketball began last week.

- Cheerleading starts today.
- Enrichments include Arts & Media, Boy Scouts, Choir, Lions Den, and Soccer.
- Scholars will have a Valentine's Social on Friday, February 13, 2026

### **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.

### **Staff updates**

- Mrs. Stewart is on medical Leave (Flowers sent)
- Ms. Ali (Kindergarten TA -Resigned to take care of her father)
- Mrs. Springer- resigned, (DOE)
- Ms. Roy - resigned
  - New staff
    - Ms. Brown (4<sup>th</sup> grade Math)
    - Mr. Manuel (4<sup>th</sup> grade ELA)
    - Ms. Thomas (First Grade)

### **IV.CEO Report**

#### **A. Bishop Calvin Rice**

- Coordinate parking lot snow cleanup
- Still working on permanent C of O (certificate of occupancy)
- Working on commercial kitchen (looking to be completed for upcoming school year) in the new building once permanent C of O is obtained
- Will be ending Red Rabbit school lunch service once kitchen is completed

### **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, January 21, 2026: Time: 6:30 PM Attendance: 38 attendees**

#### **Executive Updates**

- The February 6 social event has been postponed due to logistical constraints and will be rescheduled for a spring date. Additional details will be shared once confirmed.
- There will be **no PTO meeting in February**. The next general PTO meeting will take place in **March**.

#### **Fundraising Updates**

- Krispy Kreme Fundraiser Fundraiser is currently live and runs through **February 13**.
- Purchase link is available on the PTO Linktree. Flyers with QR codes have been distributed. <https://forms.gle/7ZP16MZ3xVMWQ1LW9>
- Sales goal: **200 orders from the 8th grade class**.
- If the goal is met, profits from 8th grade sales will be applied toward senior dues and activities.

- **Pickup dates:**
- February 26 during school pickup
- February 27 during drop-off and pickup
- February 28 during Saturday Academy
- World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser Launching in **March**.
- Proceeds will support the **K–4 elementary end-of-year trip**.

### **Events & Volunteer Needs**

- Pizza Pop-Up Scheduled for **Friday, January 23**.
- Volunteers needed from **10:30 AM to 2:00 PM**.
- Additional pizza pop-ups are planned later in the school year and will continue to require volunteer support.

### **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities Scholastic Book Fair (March 9–13)**

- Field Day and additional end-of-year activities

### **Community Engagement**

- The PTO continues to highlight and promote **local businesses**.
- Families and community members are encouraged to email the PTO to advertise their businesses.
- Participating businesses are acknowledged during meetings and listed on the PTO linktree

### **Special Guest Speaker**

- Ms. Loriann Andrews, a third-grade teacher, and her daughter, Tsyann Watts, were recognized for co-authoring the book *Who Will Keep Me Safe in School, Mommy?*
- The book is designed to help children feel emotionally safe at school by encouraging conversations around trust, safety, and support.
- The project was inspired by a real conversation between Ms. Andrews and her daughter following classroom discussion of a school safety video.
- The book is available for purchase on Amazon, with signed copies also available.

### **Communication & Contact**

- Questions may be directed to **reactptoone@yahoo.com**.
- Families are encouraged to regularly check the PTO Linktree for updates, links, and volunteer opportunities.

### **Closing**

- Continued communication, collaboration, and volunteer support remain critical to the success of PTO initiatives and scholar programming.

## **VI. Academic Accountability Report – NO REPORT**

### **A. Mrs. Chene Williams**

The AAC conducted their meeting on January 20, 2026 at 6:30 PM. The following was discussed:

- 2025 /2026 ELA /MATH 70% Goals along with the strategies and support for the students and teachers through the use of instructional focus, tutoring programs, and teacher supports;
- An in depth BOY/MOY comparison of scores across the grades to identify the areas of increases and deficits. The deficits are being targeted and paired with the appropriate strategies. (Thumbs up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA growth, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade MATH growth. Growth was attributed to a combination of coaching, workshops, small groups, modeling and professional development support;
- The requested SPED and ELL reports showed the ELA and Math strengths and growth areas which were reviewed along with the strategies in place;

- The tracking of attendance, lateness and behavior will be presented every 5 weeks- the next report to be generated February 13<sup>th</sup>;
- A suggested request was given to Admin to form a committee to research public, private or charter schools with Mandarin and/or Spanish programs elementary and middle school to view how their program is carried out and followed up.

At this time, there were no recommendations or requests made.

**Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7: PM. An executive session was held after the main meeting.

In executive session, staff issues were discussed and addressed. R. Wilson made a motion to continue with the board on track contract (increase of \$1K). D. Barron seconded; vote was passed. Spoke about a potential partnership with Forestdale, Inc. and attendance to caucus weekend in Albany in February.

Respectfully Submitted,  
R. Wilson