



Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

Minutes

REACS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday June 26, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Location

Via Zoom Online Meeting Platform

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

Ex Officio Members Present

C. Rice (remote)

Guests Present

Dr. Claytisha Walden (remote), Ms. Kimylene Hover (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 June 26, 2023 at 6:35 PM

J. Hurt made a motion to Approve Agenda.

C. Rice seconded the motion.

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

C. Approve Minutes

D Barron made a motion to Approve Minutes from May 22, 2023

M. Anglin 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 – 32
- K-8 STUDENTS – 429
- SPED STUDENTS – 52
- ELL – 4
- ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS – 69%

ENROLLMENT: 2023 - 2024

- Total applications on waitlist: 440 (The Portal will close on 8/31/23)

COMPLIANCE/FINANCE:

- Working closely with our school food consultants (School Food Solutions). Red Rabbit has submitted the proposal to be our food vendor. On 6/22 a full walk-thru was done as to the items we will need in the kitchen: Milk cart, 2 warmers, and food bags. The application is due 6/30. Dr. Hamer has to sign a form; we will have DOE school food for summer school.
- Financial snap shot, detail and cash disbursement reports were given to the board.

III. School Leader Report

**Mrs. Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie/Dr. Claytisha Walden/
Ms. Kimylene Hover**

Teaching and Learning

- Grade 8 Science Exam completed
- Algebra Regents Completed for the first time. 11 8th graders participated
- Planning for Summer Boost continues.
 - Supplies are in the building.
 - Staff Training next week
- Additional seats were offered on a first-come, first-served basis to all parents who reached out once the offer was sent out.
- Final Student Data Reports will be shared at the July Meeting.
- A new ELA Curriculum was selected. Journeys was no longer being printed to promote the new version, INTO Reading, which we selected. A committee of teachers, coaches, and admin reviewed several curriculum options before selecting INTO Reading. Into Reading grades, K-5 encompasses various components of reading instruction
 - Phonemic awareness in connection with Wilson Foundations
 - Phonics
 - Fluency
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension
 - Writing
 - Knowledge building

The Into reading allows students to express themselves clearly. Reading and writing instruction should be delivered explicitly, with language and examples appropriate for students' ages, vocabularies, attention spans, and needs, and meaningful opportunities for practicing new skills must accompany instruction.

Into Reading consists of Assessments based on common core/next-generation standards and guided reading, whole group, and intervention materials. The program consists of differentiated reading instruction along with the capability of digitally monitoring the student's success.

Teachers can access more award-winning, high-interest texts for whole-class shared reading than any other core program. These titles help students to [build background knowledge](#) and are available in print and digitally.

Students have online practice to reinforce [foundational reading skills](#) and vocabulary learned during whole-group lessons. Students also benefit from culturally diverse texts.

- Envision has various features

Investigating- Lessons provide more opportunities for hands-on learning

The committee identified Math Curriculum- Envisions for an updated NEXT Gen option.

enVision®, our most effective math series, is used in classrooms everywhere. *enVision Mathematics* focuses on deep conceptual math understanding aided by visual models, personalized learning, and 3-act tasks. Family Engagement resources provide essential information for families to support their students at home. Comprehensive vertical alignment from Kindergarten through Algebra 2 helps schools address mathematical standards most effectively.

- Grammar workbook
- Student edition reading books
- Student writing components
- Family engagement- resources empower families at home
- Student-centered projects
- Act Task- students model the task given
- Personalized content for in-class and at-home practice
- Assessment tools
- Problem-based learning followed by visual learning
- Flexibility in implementing routines.

My Perspective Middle School ELA

- Grammar workbook
- Student edition reading books
- Student writing components
- Culture-diverse text throughout the curriculum

School Culture

- Staff End of Year Appreciation Boat Ride – June 16th.
- Father Daughter Dance was held on June 20th.
 - Over 50 Dads/Granddads, Big Brothers danced the evening away with their beautiful girls.
- PreK Dads & Donuts – June 15th
- Scholar Fun Day with a game truck, bouncy house, and treats- June 21st.
- Student Honor Roll Assembly – June 7th
- Class Awards & Report Cards were distributed in Class to every scholar – June 22nd

Personnel Report

- Resignation – One Teacher
- Contract Not Renewed – One Teacher
- Leave Request – One Teacher Assistant
- Trauma-Informed Pedagogy Staff Support Session 3 June 1 - 2, 2023
- (workshop on recognizing the signs and symptoms of compassion fatigue and burnout (as well as some ways to alleviate those symptoms))

Regarding a New HR position – We currently have Ms. Bandou, who replaced Ms. Christina since last August. She serves in the HR position. She is located at the PreK site four days per week and one at the main building. An added ARTS position would better serve the students at REACS. I do not understand why this position is deemed necessary and a disregard for what we continue to share from the school base.

IV. PTO Report Shinequa Brown

- Meeting held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023
- Congratulated Ms. Hover, Educator of the Year
- Pre-K, Kindergarten & 5th Grade graduation gifts
 - Pre-K: Picture magnets & large swirl lollipops
 - Kindergarten: custom red aluminum water bottles
 - 5th Grade: custom silver aluminum cups with spouts & 2023 Keychains
- Awards for Mr. Jean, Mr. Anthony & Mr. Wallace for dedication to REACS(Pictures attached)
- Urged 4th & 7th Grade parents to be prepared to form parent committees

when the 2023-24 school year begins

- Emailed 7th Grade parents links regarding high schools
- Class 301 received lunch on PTO because they raised the most money during the walk-a-thon fundraiser
- Classroom Parent role will be redefined after feedback from both parents & teachers
- First REACS Scholar Shark Tank took place on Tuesday, June 20th
 - Under the mentorship of Dean Dauphin
 - 1st Place winner: \$100 gift card
 - Kalyea(Class 601); Stardom Beadz is the business name; produces bracelets & waist beads with a space theme
 - 2nd Place winner: \$75 gift card
 - Charlie(Class 601); Décor by CMA is the name of the business; produces bracelets, necklaces, rings, earrings, chokers and waist beads
 - 3rd Place winner: \$50 gift card
 - Dior & Ayisha(Class 502); Beauty by Dior & Ayisha is the business name: produces bracelets
- Huge THANK YOU to School Leadership, staff, parent/grandparent volunteers, Ideal Supermarket, The Door Restaurant, Volunteer Chairperson & Executive Board
- 20 \$15 McDonald Arch cards were delivered to School Leadership on Wednesday, June 21st as agreed upon for the end of the year reward for top reader & most improved reader in each class
 - PTO presented the rewards at both 5th & 8th Grade graduations on June 22nd
- PTO end of the year bank balance: \$1,500.04(Cash Flow Statement Attached)
- Happy Birthday to all June, July & August babies!
- Meeting ended with us asking everyone to be kind to each other & wishing everyone a great summer

V. CEO Report

A. Bishop Calvin Rice

Maintenance/Facility and new Construction:

- Base roof is complete. Parapet and posts for roof fencing complete.
- Elevator shaft completed from basement to roof, mechanics for elevator to begin mid-July.
- All the studding for the partition wall has been erected on all floors and sheetrock installed in stairwells.
- I spent two days in Albany during budget negotiation lobbying Queens delegation to support Charter school (per pupil) increase and to finalize the grant requirements for rooftop playground.
- Basic Electrical wiring is completed on basement and first floor and second floor began Thursday.
- We will begin installation of HVAC system late July or August.
- Awaiting DOB energy rating approval.
- Will be hosting Speaker Adams Clergy breakfast in the Gym Thursday and at which time I hope to give her a tour of the construction site.

VI. Finance Report

A. Mrs. Marcia Anglin

- Finance committee met in June to discuss the revised budget
- Will meet in executive session to go over and approve budget for upcoming school year

VII. Academic Accountability Report

A. Mrs. Chene Williams

- The Committee met on June 20, 2023 at 6:30 pm. The following highlights are as follows:
- Both the remaining academic data and the June Instructional Report will be available for the July meeting;
- Summer Boost material orders; registered scholars; schedule for virtual training for teachers; 3 supervisors & coaches are in place;
- Staff placement sheet would be available tomorrow on Thursday or Friday and will be sent to the Board;
- Ms. Leslie will send out a summary of the new curriculum with the cost, reason why it was selected, and the components of it; we were reminded that the requested information had been presented by Mrs. Hover at the previous meeting.
- Ms. Leslie and Ms. Muniz presented their opinions that an HR person is not needed because Ms. Bandu is doing the work that Ms. Cotterell was doing before she left. Ms. Anglin was not aware of the job description of the HR person as compared to what Ms. Bandu does. However, Ms. Leslie and Ms. Muniz are available to discuss it with the Board if further clarification is needed.
- Ms. Muniz then will submit the budget without the request;
- Other concerns expressed by Ms. Leslie is that there is often a lack of communication between Admin and the Board over specific issues (salary increases to match rising DOE salaries, health benefits, incentives, etc.), and how excess money could be used to serve Staff better;
- Questions were raised as to how the teachers with 2's will be helped. Admin says it will be addressed through PD and Coach assistance. There was an opinion expressed that higher pay may bring more qualified teachers with certification and would also help to retain the qualified teachers that we already have.
- Ms Brown made a statement in support of giving more money to teachers because of their commitment to the education of scholars and the school itself. Ms. Anglin suggested using money already in the budget for staff incentives.
- In response to the suggestion that there be an end of the year incentives for selected scholars, the PTO has donated \$300 (20 x \$15 gift cards) for Class Top Reader and Class Most Improved; Ms. Leslie said that the school will match that donation on behalf of the Board/Admin.
- M. Anglin made the motion to accept the change in curriculum for Math and ELA for upcoming '23-'24 school year; S. Brown seconded; K. Sandiford abstained; vote was passed.

VIII. Personnel Committee Report – DID NOT MEET

A. Mrs. Kamala Sandiford

Adjourn Meeting

K. Sandiford made the motion to retain current board positions for the next two years; J. Hurt seconded; the vote was passed. L. Hamer thanked all staff and board for a great school year; there being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. Wilson

The meeting was adjourned for executive session.

In executive session:

- A staff issue was mentioned
- The '23-'24 School budget was discussed; L. Stephens made the motion to accept the '23-'24 budget as is with no changes any adjustments/changes that need to be made throughout the school year need to the budget will be brought to the board for approval before being changed; D. Barron seconded; the vote was passed.
- K. Sandiford made the motion to use the \$50K allocations in the '21-'22 budget be given to healthcare funding for the staff; C. Williams-Hagins seconded, the vote was passed.