



# Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

## Minutes

### REACS Board Meeting

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#### **Date and Time**

Monday January 24, 2022, at 6:30 PM

#### **Location**

Via Zoom Online Meeting Platform

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#### **Directors Present**

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

#### **Directors Absent**

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

C. Rice (remote)

#### **Guests Present**

Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie (remote), Dr. Julie Padilla (remote), C. Walden (remote), Tawanna 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 on January 24, 2022, at 6:36 PM

R. Wilson made a motion to Approve Agenda.

M. Anglin seconded the motion.

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

**C. Approve Minutes**

- D.** C. Williams made a motion to Approve Minutes from December 20, 2021.  
R. Wilson 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 – 431
- SPED STUDENTS – 54
- ELL – 5
- ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE STIDENTS – 66%

**ENROLLMENT: 2021 - 2022**

- Waitlist Total: 255
- 19 seats to be filled
  - K-6
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>-3
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>-2
  - 4<sup>th</sup>-2
  - 6<sup>th</sup>-1
  - 7<sup>th</sup>-3
  - 8<sup>th</sup>-2

**2022-2023 Applications:**

- As of 1/21/22 a total of 197 have been received
- Lottery applications are due on April 1, 2022
- Lottery will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022

**COVID-19 Testing:**

- As of 1/18/22 weekly testing for staff is on Tuesdays and Student testing is on Fridays.

**COMPLIANCE/FINANCE:**

- Accountability reporting due 1/31/22
- Financial and Cash disbursement reports were given to the board

**III. School Leader Report**

**A. Mrs. Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie/Dr. Julie Padilla  
Dr. Claytisha Walden**

**Renewal Next Steps**

- Recommendation to Board of Regents for a specific term of Renewal. Based Public Hearing notice the Action Type: Renewal - Full-Term Renewal
- Board of Regents Decision – anticipated March/April/May

**School COVID Update**

- To be proactive, during this holiday season, we were fully remote January 3<sup>rd</sup> through January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- COVID testing (from NYC DOE) starting on 1/21/21. It will be random for 20 % of scholars. As of 1/20/21, there are only 143 scholars where parents consented. They tested 88 scholars.
- As of 1/20/21 we also have a total of 155 scholars who are vaccinated.
- 20 staff members were randomly tested on 1/18.
- One new COVID positive in the school community. No closures because we were remote the previous week.

### **Teacher Development & Support**

- Teachers have received at least one Informal Observation Feedback from the Assistant Principals. Informal Observations consist of unannounced 20 - 30 minute observations where teachers receive feedback based on their executed lesson plan. Teachers receive commendations based on the strengths and effectiveness of the lesson and recommendations to improve pedagogy. The lesson elements that are noted are:
  - Lesson activities aligned to the measurable, standards-based learning target
  - Level of student engagement and interaction - collaborative student groups, turn and talks, think-write-pair-share
  - Instructional Math Framework - Fluency Sprints, Problem of the Day, Teach, Guided Practice, Exit tickets
  - Teachers were introduced to a teacher and student rubric which unpacked analyzing word problems for: reasoning and proof, connection, representation, problem solving, and communication
  - Teachers were introduced to the scale- Novice, Apprentice, Practitioner, Expert similar to our current scoring scale of 0, 1, 2, and 3.
  - The goal is to provide teachers with insight on the various ways students can communicate math when problem solving, norming expectations and adjusting teaching to allow students the opportunity to show their mathematical thinking using all they know and not just what is currently being taught.
  - Annotation strategies
  - Use of data decision-making
  - Formal Observations are finishing up as they took place between 12/13/21 - 1/28/22

### **High School Admission for 8th Graders**

- The high school application for students entering high school in fall 2022 will open in late January. Families and school staff will be notified when the application opens.
- The deadline for families to submit their high school application will be in early March (the week of February 28, 2022).

### **Assessment Timeline**

- ESL- Scholars were recently assessed and are now being serviced by the interventionists.
- i-Ready- Scholars were recently assessed for the Middle of the Year diagnosis. The assessment window is still open to accommodate those scholars that were remote/absent.
- ANET A2 will occur in late January.
- Grades 3-8 will take a MOCK ELA and Math Assessment this week.
- **MIDDLE OF THE YEAR ACADEMIC ANALYSIS** attached showcasing the various data trends for i-ready and progress reports by class.

### **Reading Initiatives**

- Implementing a REACS Reading Challenge in February/ in conjunction with Read Across America Day, March 2, 2022. Scholars will continue reading logs, which will be reviewed monthly, and prizes will be awarded based total minutes read, most books read (by class and by grade).
- Reading buddies will be facilitated between the Middle School grades and Elementary School grades (this will occur on Wednesdays during independent reading time).

### **PBIS Leadership Incentives**

- Continuing to be developed by the leadership team as well as the Leader in Me team. Surveying scholars to find incentives that are appropriate and relevant to them.

### **Enrichment Scholar Activities**

- Mondays - My Brother's Keeper - Male initiative being finalized.
- Wednesdays (1:00 - 3:00pm) - Chorus, Chess, Music Percussion, Visual Arts, REACS News, Music Production. Scholars auditioned for Chorus while other activities were assigned to specific classes.
- **Added Karate and Music for Pre-K**

### **Smile Mobile Dentists**

- January 20 - 28, 2022 182 scholars were signed up to see the dentist.

### **Black History Month**

- REACS will be having a Black History Month Celebration kick-off. The theme is "I am Black History." Further details include that 1 student from Pre-K, Elementary and Middle School will share a 3-to-4-minute speech, dance, poem etc. letting us know what Black History means to them. Additionally, prior to the Mid-Winter break there will be a Black History Showcase- the purpose will be to highlight Black excellence from the past all the way up to the present.

## Personnel Report

- It has been a challenge to fill vacancies.
- Current vacancies 8th Grade Math, 7th Grade ELA, Interventionist.
- New teacher hired to fill MS Social Studies role.
- New teacher hired to fill Kindergarten.
- TA who declined the vaccine continues to be on leave.
- Third Grade Teacher on Maternity sent a notice that she will continue to be on leave through May.
- **Dean of Culture Request - Awaiting Board Decision**

## IV. PTO Report

### A. Shinequa Brown

Good evening Executive board, School Leaders, staff, parents and guardians. Our January PTO meeting on Wednesday, January 19th via Zoom, attended by about 44 participants, and was led by our 1st VP, Ms. Holmes. As usual, our School Leaders addressed the questions and concerns of some parents which I attached to my report. Many of the questions surrounded Covid and they explained how scholars, whose parents consented, and staff will be tested on a weekly basis. School leaders also informed parents that if a scholar is exposed or tests positive, they can contact the teacher and access assignments via Google classroom. (Parent Questions/Concerns List is attached below). We started off the first meeting of the 2022 with a scholar mask giveaway and later had another mask giveaway to a parent. We want to help our community stay as safe as possible, which is why we also reduced the prices of the custom face masks fundraiser to \$3 for one and \$5 for two. Our Treasurer, Ms. Seabourne, gave the final update on our popcorn fundraiser. The overall highest sellers of the popcorn fundraiser were Jahane Townsend, Averi Brockington and Navaeh Earth, who will receive Visa gift cards in the amount of \$40, \$30 and \$25 respectively. The highest selling class was 201 and the teachers, Ms. Tulloch and Ms. Johnson, have each already received \$10 Amazon gift cards. We sold \$9,727.00 worth of popcorn, which means we have made a profit of \$4,863.50. The current PTO bank balance is \$6,980.50. (Please see Cash Flow Statement below) We also continued to remind families to encourage scholars to handle all devices with care. As for new business, PTO encouraged everyone to order their free at-home Covid tests and to dress their scholars appropriately for this weather. Lasts, but not least, during the meeting a motion was made to forego February's PTO meeting since it is a short month for us and this way, we can begin to gather ideas and information on what we would like to present for the upcoming Spring semester. We voted and the next PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16th.

## V. CEO Report

### A. Bishop Calvin Rice

- After much deliberation, a letter has been drafted to M&T Bank stating that ground will be broken next month on the new school building and with the money we already have in the bank construction of a foundation and walls can begin hence allowing any bank to grant REACS a loan to complete construction. A new commitment letter will be drafted with Northfield Bank. Meeting with foundation builders tomorrow; meeting with bonded construction workers for Iron structure. A new construction fence will be built and groundbreaking ceremony will commence soon (date TBD).

## VI. Finance Report

### A. Mrs. Marcia Anglin

- Met virtually January 18, 2022, via Zoom meeting platform to discuss current budget revision, upcoming budget, other upcoming financial issues affecting REACS and marketing strategy for REACS.

## **VII. Academic Accountability Report**

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

- Met January 12, 2022 via Zoom
- Discussed admin report (teacher observation, 8<sup>th</sup> grade guidelines, Feb activities)
- Discussed State assessment prep
- Discussed enrichment programs
- Want a format for data performing describing progress in classroom (iready, etc)
- Will continue to monitor progress of the school

## **VIII. Personnel Committee Report**

### **A. Mrs. Kamala Sandiford**

- Met January 12, 2022, via Zoom
- Discussed 3 vacancies
- Continuing to address filling vacancies
- Expressed appreciation to staff for hard work

### **Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM. Next board meeting is planned for Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
R. Wilson

The meeting was adjourned for executive session:

In executive session a decision was made for 'an Incentive' for the 2020-2021 school year which will be distributed to all staff and an additional incentive will be given to all staff at the end of the 2021-2022 school year based on performance. (K. Sandiford made the motion, C. Rice seconded; vote was passed). Another decision was made for the 2022-2023 school year for a 2% increase across the board for staff, an increase of 3% for certified teachers and 2% for uncertified teachers; no increase for admin staff. (L. Stephens made the motion, D. Barron seconded; vote was passed). The marketing strategy of REACS was addressed and a committee will be put together from the board to assist in the marketing campaign for the school.