



Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

Minutes

REACS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday September 22, 2025, at 6:30 PM

Location

Via Zoom Online Platform and In-Person

Directors Present

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

Ex Officio Members Present

C. Rice

Guests Present

Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie, L.Chapman (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 September 22, 2025, at 6:39 PM

R. Wilson made a motion to Approve Agenda.

C. Williams seconded the motion.

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

C. Approve Minutes

K. Sandiford made a motion to Approve Minutes from August 25, 2025

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 – 36
- K-8 STUDENTS (Pre-Enrolled) – 436
- SPED STUDENTS – 35
- ELL – 8
- ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS – N/A
- Temp. Housing – N/A

ENROLLMENT: 2025 – 2026

- 252 applications on the '25-'26 waitlist

COMPLIANCE/FINANCE:

- Audit
- Submitted annual report
- Submitted title reporting for ESSA due September 15
- Preparing documents to upload for the compliance deadline due on 9/30/25
- Our school received the distraction free cellphone funds for \$1,099.00 to offset the cost

OPERATIONS:

- Pre-K two-year renewal

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 year 2025-26 is off to a great start. We welcomed scholars on September 4th. During the first week of school we reviewed expectations, The Leader in Me activities, completed Beginning of year Assessments, getting to know you activities. Full Instruction began Monday, September 15th.

Updates

- i-Ready BOY assessments for grades K-8 will take place this week.
- Scholars received their individual scores and set goals for the year.
- This week, we are facilitating grade-level common planning sessions. During these sessions, teachers will discuss common trends in scholars' academic performance as well as their social-emotional progress.
- On September 16th and 17th, we are hosting family information sessions for middle school grades. These sessions will provide an overview of school-wide expectations, available academic supports, and intervention strategies to ensure scholars' success.
- **Dads take your child to school breakfast - Thursday 9/18/25 with a guest speaker to encourage partnership with the school.**
- **Grandparents Celebration 9/26/5**

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.

How do we achieve it?

A. Walkthrough "Look-Fors"

The below look fors is what the coaches, APs, will use during informal walkthroughs to check alignment:

1. Rigorous, Grade-Level Tasks

- Upon arrival, students will complete the warm-up activity/ Do Now.
- Lesson objectives are aligned to grade-level NYS standards.
 - Teachers align objectives with standards each day
- Students are completing tasks that require thinking, not just compliance.
 - Critical thinking and open-ended questions.
- Tasks include multi-step problem-solving, text-based responses, or analysis.
- Using Race, Multi-step problems across all content areas (How to write, analyzing character, etc..)

2. Academic Discourse

- Students are talking more than the teacher (student voice greater than teacher voice).
 - Student engagement
- Sentence stems and accountable talk frames are visible and used.
 - Students are pairing with their partners.
 - Students justify answers using evidence or reasoning

3. Written Expression

- Writing occurs across content areas (Math, Science, Social Studies, ELA).
- Students are writing to explain, describe, reflect, or argue. (RACE
- Writing is connected to learning targets and has clear success criteria.
 - Connected to standards and objectives.

Personnel Report

Resignation

- Mr. Lewis (2nd grade teacher)

New Hires

- Ms. Ali (Teacher Assistant)
- Ms. Cummings (2nd grade teacher)

Positions Vacant

- Middle School Interventionist (Awaiting Credential evaluation)
- Custodian (pending)
- IT Assistant (pending)
- Grade 5 ICT teacher is out due to pregnancy related issue. Interventionist is covering the class. We are concerned about the impact on the class if this prolongs throughout the pregnancy.
- Staff Handbook
- Staff is very appreciative of the Birthday and Wellness

IV.CEO Report

A. Bishop Calvin Rice

- Waiting for another inspection from the Fire Department
- Applied for another temporary certificate of occupancy for the new building
- Waiting for secure an elevator maintenance contract with a vendor for the new building

V. PTO Meeting

A. S. Francis

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, September 17, 2025:

Attendance: 64 attendees

▪ **Meeting Overview**

- The PTO meeting focused on introducing the PTO team, sharing goals for the school year, and reviewing upcoming initiatives and events.

▪ **PTO Overview and Goals**

- The PTO is composed of volunteer parents, guardians, teachers, and staff with the mission to enrich the school and scholar experience.
- Goals for the year include:
 - Increasing family engagement through volunteering.
 - Fostering transparent communication via welcome letters, ClassDojo, robo texts, and emails.
 - Building a REACT Vendor Directory to highlight community resources.
 - Continuing recognition and celebration of scholars and staff.

Staff and Scholar Appreciation

- The PTO will continue funding staff appreciation events, gifts, and scholar recognition initiatives, relying on volunteer support.

Getting Involved

- Monthly meetings and school events (calendar included in PTO welcome letter).
- Volunteering for events and sharing skills (design, photography, grant writing, etc.).
- Parent Lighthouse participation (classroom parent program revamp).
- Voluntary membership dues: \$10 via Zelle, Cash App, or envelope to school (include scholar name, class, amount, purpose).

Treasurer's Report (Jennifer Steele)

- Closing balance as of June 30, 2024: \$2,195.35.
- Expenses through August 31: \$348.23.
- Upcoming events: pizza pop-up (October), pictures with Santa, fundraising for gifts, giveaways, holidays, staff and scholar appreciation, Field Day, International Day, Women's History Month.
- Anticipated spending: ~\$19,000; ending balance for August: \$1,8471.12.
- Additional fundraising, donations, and volunteer time needed.

Parent Coordinator's Report (Ms. Brown)

- Supports parents, school leadership, workshops, and events.
- Upcoming events: Dad's Bring Your Scholar to School (tomorrow), Grandparents Day (September 26), Trunk or Treat (next month).
- Parent Lighthouse program: one parent per classroom (20 total) to support leadership and events; applications due October 1.
- Facilitates parenting journey classes with Ms. Gill and Ms. Pierre.
- **School Culture and Communication**
- Motto: "It takes a village."
- Communication through ClassDojo; parents reminded to respect teacher contact hours (24-hour response window).

School Updates

- **Elementary (Ms. Hover):** Thanks to parents for start-of-year support; reminders for events and half-day schedule on October 17.
- **Middle School (Ms. Chapman):** Welcome to new and returning families; cell phone policy and technology updates.
- **Cell Phone Policy & Technology:** NYS-mandated ban; K-8 phones in yonder pouches; one-to-one laptop program.
- **Rostering & Contact Information:** PowerSchool access coming soon; parents encouraged to update contact info.

Community Vendor Directory

- Directory highlights local businesses and resources; linked on school Linktree.
- Monthly business/resource highlights.

Pizza Pop-Ups

- Promotion through September 26 (buy four, get one free); first pop-up October 3.
- Volunteers needed; payments via Cash App or Zelle through October 2.

Next PTO Meeting

- Scheduled for October 15 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

Giveaway and Other Notes

- Gift card giveaway conducted; issues from last year should be emailed to reactspto1@yahoo.com.
- Dad photos will be taken as students arrive at school.

Conclusion

- The PTO continues to focus on family engagement, staff and scholar recognition, operational support for school events, and building community connections through the vendor directory. Volunteer participation and fundraising are critical to supporting the year's initiatives.

VI. Academic Accountability Report – NO REPORT

A. Mrs. Chene Williams

- Met 9/16/25 via zoom
- Meeting began discussing the opening day of school as a whole
- Discussed areas of focus for the school year
- Discussed ELA and Math goals
- Looking forward to a successful year

VII. Personnel Report –

A. Mrs. Kamla Sandiford

- Discussed the school handbook and new hires/departures

VIII. Finance Committee Report – NO REPORT

A. Mrs. Marcia Anglin

Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. Wilson

In executive session the following items were discussed:

- Misc. staff issues
- The school handbook
- C. Rice motioned that two blackout days be added to the handbook (M. Anglin seconded), vote was passed