



# Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

## Minutes

### REACS Board Meeting

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#### **Date and Time**

Tuesday May 26, 2026, at 6:30 PM

#### **Location**

Via Zoom Online Platform and In-Person

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#### **Directors Present**

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

#### **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 on May 26, 2026, at 6:34 PM

R. Wilson made a motion to Approve Agenda.

D. Barron seconded the motion.

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

#### **C. Approve Minutes**

K. Sandiford made a motion to Approve Minutes from April 27, 2026

C. Williams-Hagins 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) – 437
- SPED STUDENTS – 78
- ELL – 7
- ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS – 67%
- Temp. Housing – 2

#### ENROLLMENT: 2025 – 2026

- Lottery held April 13, 2026
- 260 applications on the waitlist
- 7 students not returning
- REACS is hosting an ELL Open House on 5/27/2026

#### COMPLIANCE/FINANCE:

- Submitted all compliance documents as per deadlines
- Waiting on final NYS budget to be approved so we can know what the per pupil numbers will be for 2027

#### ATTACHMENTS

- Revised budget draft for 2027 sent to CEO and Treasurer
- 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

#### Instructional Focus

"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%

#### Ongoing

- Continue supporting implementation coaching cycles, observation & feedback loops, and professional learning opportunities for staff.
- Align Interventionist schedules to target approaching students.
- K-1 Interventionist introducing Heggerty in small groups.
- Support is continuous, with teachers receiving Support from instructional coaches and outside consultants
- 3-8 teachers are receiving support from both Legacy Lab and Teaching Matters.
- We have been consistently collaborating with the coaches and consultants to push and unpack instructional expectations as teachers make strategic instructional shifts to their lessons to ensure scholars are on or approaching grade level.

#### Updates

1. Cycle 3 Observations
  - a. We are continuing with Cycle 3 of informal observations for all teachers and instructional staff. Assistant Principals are actively conducting classroom observations and attending instructional meetings to gather evidence aligned to instructional priorities.
  - b. Staff are receiving actionable feedback to strengthen instructional practice.
2. Instructional Resources: Rally Education platform as a supplement. We will continue to implement the Rally platform as one of our core instructional support tools across grades 3–8. Teachers are expected to utilize the platform during instructional blocks and designated skills periods to reinforce learning and accelerate student achievement.
3. Instructional Coaches Evaluation Process. Instructional Coaches will continue to develop and refine their coaching portfolios to document the impact of their work. These portfolios will build on the ones they completed this past school year. They will highlight:

- a. Implementation of data-driven coaching cycles
- b. Strategies used to support teachers at varying levels of development
- c. Evidence of how targeted coaching practices are strengthening teacher instruction and student learning outcomes
- d. Due: Jun 8, 2026
- e. Moving forward, coaches will present a portfolio from September to December in January, and the 2nd portfolio will be from January to May. The presentation will take place in June.

### **School Community Events + Updates**

We are concluding the New York State Exams for Grades 3–8 with only the last components of NYSESLAT remaining. Thank you to all staff members and to the NJWC volunteers who support us and commit to joining us every year as hall monitors throughout the testing period. Also, our PTO for sponsoring some of the special lunches for scholars on the first days.

### **Upcoming Events & Assessments:**

May 27 – 5th Grade Trip to Club Getaway

May 27–June 3 – ANet 3 Assessments (Grades 2–8)

May 29 – Elementary K–4 Field Trip to Legoland

May 29 – 8th Grade Six Flags Trip

June 8–11 – iReady Assessments

June 12 – International Day

Summer Boost 2026 Planning continues. Staff professional learning upcoming.

### **Recommendation**

***Awaiting a Board Decision from Mandarin to Spanish K-5***

### **Personnel Report**

1. We will use Sub coverage to finish out the school year for the following two vacancies. MS ELA Interventionist will not return until after Maternity Leave (MS Vacancy) One Co-teacher vacancy Grade 1
2. Considering Non-Renewal of Contracts for some teachers
3. Hosted a job fair at REACS. Limited response. Plan a June job fair.
4. Compiling the end-of-year staff ratings using the three observation cycles conducted throughout the year.

## **IV.CEO Report**

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

- Completed window shading on the west and north sides of the new building
- Playground equipment is possibly being moved from the backyard to the rooftop for safety and ease of movement
- Working on getting a garbage compactor and an additional garbage pickup (Baisley and Smith Streets)

## **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, May, 20, 2026:**

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Attendance:** 28 attendees

### **Executive Board Elections and Bylaw Amendments**

- Motions to amend the current PTO bylaws were approved to add two new board positions:
  - Co-Secretary
  - Co-Volunteer Chairperson
- The additions were made to better distribute responsibilities, increase family

engagement and participation, strengthen communication and organization, and help prevent volunteer burnout.

- The 2026-2027 PTO Executive Board was approved as follows:
  - Co-Presidents: Ms. Jennifer Steele and Ms. Maria Palma Drexler
  - Vice President: Ms. Shyrl Cole
  - Co-Secretaries: Ms. Fayona Ferguson and Ms. Carnelia Johnson
  - Co-Volunteer Chairs: Ms. Shoshana McLeod and Ms. Marsha Granville Pereira
  - Communications Chair/Secretary: Ms. Quana Richards

#### **Treasurer's Report – April 2026**

- Beginning balance for April: \$10,619.86
- Funds raised during April: \$980.00
- Total available funds: \$11,599.86
- April expenses totaled \$3,403.51 and included:
  - Graduating class gifts (Pre-K, K, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>)
  - Graduation preparedness activities
  - Field Day expenses
- Ending balance for April: \$8,196.35
- Additional Field Day expenses will be reflected in next month's report.

#### **School Updates and Important Reminders**

##### **Assessments**

- NY SLAT testing for EL scholars took place May 18–20.
- End-of-year iReady assessments will take place June 8–11.
- ANET assessments are scheduled approximately two weeks following iReady testing.

##### **Early Dismissals and School Closures**

- Early dismissal for Pre-K through 8th grade:
  - Friday, May 22 at 11:30 AM
  - Friday, June 5 at 11:30 AM
- School closures:
  - Memorial Day – Monday, May 25
  - Juneteenth – School closed

##### **Graduation Dates**

- Pre-K Graduation: June 16 at 12:00 PM
- Kindergarten Graduation: June 16 at 1:00 PM
- Fifth Grade Graduation: June 22
- Eighth Grade Graduation: June 22

##### **Additional School Events**

- Final Pizza Pop-Up: May 21
  - Orders and payments due by May 20 at 8:00 PM
- Fifth Grade ABC Lunch:
  - June 1 at 12:30 PM
  - Families were asked to input and coordinate dishes.
- International Day Celebration: June 12
- Regents Exams: June 17
- Fifth Grade Dance scheduled alongside Regents activities.

##### **Uniform Policy Reminder**

- Scholars are expected to continue wearing full, clean, and complete uniforms for the remaining school days.
- Families were encouraged to donate gently used uniforms.

##### **NYC IEP Workshop**

- Families were informed about an upcoming Zoom workshop focused on advocating for scholars during IEP meetings.
- Date and time: May 21 from 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM.
- Registration is required.

## **School Trips**

### **Elementary Legoland Trip – May 29**

- Departure: 7:00 AM
- Return: 6:00 PM
- Cost per scholar: \$67
- The PTO subsidized Kindergarten scholars to reduce the cost to \$47 as a graduation gift.
- Transportation costs for six coach buses totaled approximately \$14,000.
- Permission slips were due by May 21.
- Chaperone details:
  - Each class was allotted two teacher chaperones.
  - Kindergarten through 2nd grade classes were allotted three teachers.
  - Additional school staff will assist.
  - Parents may attend based on bus availability or drive separately.

### **Fifth Grade Club Getaway Trip – May 27**

- Student arrival: 6:30 AM
- Departure: Approximately 7:00 AM
- Return: Approximately 6:30 PM
- Breakfast sandwiches will be provided.

### **Eighth Grade Six Flags Great Adventure Trip**

- Student arrival: 6:30 AM
- Anticipated return: 8:00 PM
- Families were encouraged to provide scholars with additional money for food, souvenirs, and concessions.

### **Summer Boost / Summer Rising Program**

- Information was sent to families of scholars identified as potentially benefiting from summer programming.
- Additional spots remain available.
- Families interested in enrolling their scholars were encouraged to contact teachers.
- The program provides both academic support and enrichment opportunities.

### **Mental Health and Wellness Session with Get Some**

#### **Joy Agency Overview**

- Get Some Joy is a creative wellness agency focused on nontraditional approaches to wellness, grief support, community healing, and emotional well-being.
- The organization promotes healing through joy, connection, creativity, and community-building.

#### **Services and Activities Shared**

- Mental health trainings for staff, educators, and families
- Literary therapy workshops
- Peer support groups
- Grief and loss groups
- Community cook-alongs and wellness activities

#### **Creative Wellness Activities**

- A “Literary Therapy Wall” activity allows participants to reflect on joy through written
  - expression using postcards.
    - The “Celebrate Yourself Award” activity encourages individuals to acknowledge personal accomplishments and write acceptance speeches celebrating themselves.

#### **Youth Mental Health Discussion**

- The presenters shared that one in five young people will experience a mental health challenge during their lives.
- Families were reminded that mental health challenges are treatable and should not be stigmatized.

#### **Supporting Young People**

Families were encouraged to:

- Create safe spaces for open and nonjudgmental conversations.

- Be mindful of verbal and nonverbal communication.
- Allow children and young people to express themselves without interruption.
- Use creative outlets such as music, food, traditions, and storytelling to support emotional wellness.

#### **Prioritizing Joy**

- Adults were encouraged to intentionally prioritize joy and wellness in their own lives.
- Families were challenged to think about ways they can create and spread joy throughout their homes and communities.

#### **Resources**

- Additional resources, including grief kits and peer support information, will be shared in the PTO recap newsletter.
- Families were encouraged to follow the organization on Instagram at @GogetsomeJoy.

#### **Meeting Outcomes and Follow-Up Items**

- Giveaway winners included:
  - Kingston Khan
  - Ms. Weston, sixth-grade math teacher
- Concerns regarding missing graduation pictures were raised.
- The operations team will follow up and resend the graduation picture link to families.

#### **Closing**

- Despite lower attendance, the meeting was productive and included several important updates, approvals, and discussions supporting scholars, families, and the school community.
- Families were encouraged to continue volunteering, participating in PTO activities, and staying engaged through PTO communications and upcoming events.

## **VI. Academic Accountability Report**

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

#### **B.**

The Academic Accountability Committee met on May 19, 2026 at 6:30 PM. The meeting opened with the school report given by the principals. Highlights of the meeting are in the Principals' report and as follows:

- No additional data was given;
- Cycle observations are ongoing;
- As requested by the Committee, coach portfolios will be presented twice a year – January and June;
- Testing schedules and EOY assessments;
- Tracking of student behavior/attendance/lateness;
- Calendar of special events; a suggestion was made to invite civic/community leaders to the showcase events including graduations;
- Administration reported that the DOE Team completed their follow-up visit and confirmed that the recommended steps were in place.
- A question was asked if the School Leadership Team can speak to the Board as to why they are requesting a change to Spanish language only from K-8.
- Administration is requesting an expedited decision from the Board concerning a material change from teaching mandarin in elementary grades to teaching Spanish only in grades Pre-K-8;

There are no additional recommendations at this time. The Committee is anticipating the improved proficiency ELA and Math goals to 70% at the end of the year.

## **VII. Personnel Report – NO REPORT**

### **A. Mrs. Kamla Sandiford**

### **VIII. Finance Committee Report**

#### **A. Mrs. Marcia Anglin**

- Met in April
- Will discuss highlights in executive session

#### **Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM. Executive session was held after the public meeting.

In executive session, the following items were discussed:

- Personnel matters
- Scholar matters
- Staff Handbook recommendations
- Material change to the charter
  - C. Williams-Hagins made a motion to keep the Mandarin program for K-5 until the end of the year, and to revamp the program in the future with a consultant. C. Rice seconded, and the vote was passed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
R. Wilson