



Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

Minutes

REACS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday October 27, 2025, at 6:30 PM

Location

Via Zoom Online Platform and In-Person

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

Ex Officio Members Present

C. Rice

Guests Present

Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie, Ms. L. Chapman (remote), T. Muniz

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 October 27, 2025 at 6:38 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 September 22, 2025

D. Barron 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) – 442
- SPED STUDENTS – 68
- ELL – 8
- ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS – 63%
- Temp. Housing – 0

ENROLLMENT: 2025 – 2026

- 220 applications on the '25-'26 waitlist
- Student seats available: Grade K=3, Grade 3=1, Grade 4=2, Grade 8=2

COMPLIANCE/FINANCE:

- Audit due 11/3/25
- Submitted annual compliance report that was due 10/1/25
- Preparing to upload documents to upload for the compliance deadline due on 11/3/25
- NYC Charter office held a call regarding the political climate

OPERATIONS:

- Good news! We finally received the PreK funding on 10/10/25. we also received a renewal for a two-year period. Completing the documents to upload
- Lunch forms have been sent out so we will have our Poverty level which is due by 10/31/25

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

- CT3 Walkthrough: Our CT3 consultant, Chris Cantu, will be on-site October 23–24 to provide coaching support for our Dean of Culture and Restorative Justice teacher, and Assistant Principals. The focus will be on creating and sustaining a positive school culture.
- Varsity Tutoring: Tutoring for our emerging and developing 5th and 6th grade scholars (students who scored Level 1 or 2 on the 2025 NYS End-of-Year assessments) will take place during the school day starting October 20, 2025, twice a week, with a 5:1 student-to-tutor ratio.
- Afterschool Program: Our Afterschool Program began on October 8th and is focused on Grades 3–8. The program supports Level 2 scholars and lower Level 3 scholars to help them attain or maintain Levels 3 and 4 in ELA and Math.

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.

iReady Analysis Strengths

- Strong upward trends in early grades (3rd Reading +25%, 3rd Math +13%); early intervention and foundational instruction are paying off.
- 8th Grade growth in both Reading (+3%) and Math (+13%) shows gradual improvement as we prepare them for high school.

Areas of Growth

- (Grade level) 7th Grade: Decline in ELA and Math indicates a need for re-engagement strategies, differentiated reading instruction, stronger comprehension focus and/or targeted math interventions.
- Math vs Reading growth overall, while Reading shows net positive across grades, Math has two grades with declines.

ELA Priority Domains based on the data

- Vocabulary
- Comprehension: Literature
- Comprehension: Informational Text

Math Priority Domains based on the data

- Geometry
- Algebra and Algebraic Thinking

Next Steps

- Document and share early grade instructional strategies (guided reading, phonics routines, math fluency drills) with upper grades for vertical alignment.
- Continue to pair teachers with instructional coaches for short-cycle data analysis and reteaching planning every 2–3 weeks.
- Conduct walkthroughs and modeling on vocabulary instruction, questioning techniques, and math discourse.
- Provide spiraled review of foundational algebra concepts for 6th–8th graders to ensure vertical coherence.

Updates

- We experienced an issue with Clever that delayed our assessment timeline. Scholars are completing the ANet assessment this week. Following continued data review, we determined that 5th and 6th grades will be the targeted grades for high-dosage tutoring.
- A current area of concern is also 3rd grade.
- Curriculum/Intervention: We have begun exploring the integration of Heggerty into our literacy instruction. The Interventionist has completed an initial professional development session to support implementation.
- All STEM and Science teachers and coaches received initial training on the A+ Mobile STEM Lab(s), which are resources to help teachers to deliver robust, grade-appropriate, technology-driven STEM learning experiences through hands-on activities and experiments

School Community Events + Updates

- **Staff Team Building:** The staff participated in a team-building session at The DOOR restaurant on October 17 following the PD sessions.

- **Anti–Black Out Bullying Walk/Assembly:** Held on October 17 as part of our community engagement efforts.
- **Pumpkin Farm Trips:**
 - K–2 scholars visited on October 21.
 - Grade 3 will visit on October 28.
- **Etiquette Class for MS Scholars :** Selected Middle School scholars recognized as Top Performer, Most Improved, Kid for Character, and Community Contributor will attend a special session at The DOOR restaurant on October 29. During this experience, scholars and teachers will participate in an etiquette workshop, learning essential dining skills; from proper table manners and place settings to engaging in respectful conversation; all while enjoying a delicious meal provided by the restaurant.
- Character Day/ Trunk of Treats will be held on October 31.
- **Enrichments Embedded in the School Day:** Include BooksAlive, Karate, Dance, Percussion, and Chess.
- **Afterschool Enrichment Programs:**
 - Basketball began last week.
 - Cheerleading starts today.
 - Upcoming enrichments include Arts & Media, Boy Scouts, Choir, Lions Den, and Soccer.

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.
- Revisions have been made to the staff handbook to align with current instructional and operational expectations.
- Middle school teachers continue to express that the expectations around lesson planning, grading, providing student feedback, and data tracking feel overwhelming. In response, we have revised the daily schedule to provide each teacher with an additional preparation period and adjusted the pacing calendar to reduce workload and better support instructional quality.
- A Renewal Readiness call with Pasek Consulting was held on October 15, during which the team outlined key steps to prepare for our renewal. (Slides have been shared.)

Staff Updates

- **First Grade Teacher:** Ms. Tulloch resigned effective 10/10, with her last day on 10/23. The current Interventionist will be transitioning into that classroom role, creating a vacancy in the Interventionist position. This vacancy has been filled by Kwame Rodney, who accepted the position on 10/17 and is currently being onboarded to start on 11/3.
- **Middle School Interventionist:** The Middle School Interventionist position has been filled by Star Layne, who accepted the role on 10/17 and is also being onboarded to start on 11/3.
- **Middle School Interventionist (Leave):** Another Middle School Interventionist remains out on leave due to pregnancy-related medical issues. Her most recent update on 10/8 indicated she would be out for approximately four weeks, returning around 11/5. We are concerned about the potential instructional impact if her leave is extended further into the pregnancy.
- **MS Science Teacher:** The MS Science teacher, Mr. J. Anderson resigned on 10/20, with their last day scheduled for 10/24. Several interviews have been scheduled for tomorrow to find a replacement.

Staff Updates

- Middle School Interventionist (Awaiting Credential evaluation)
- MS Science Teacher

IV. CEO Report

A. Bishop Calvin Rice

- Looking for two certification licenses for the fire alarm and sprinkler system
- The final step for C of O and public assembly for the new building will take place 11/6; heating system will be tested
- Working on the grant money for kitchen and additional resources for REACS
- Travelling to Albany next week to secure additional money in the event of government funding cuts

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, October 15, 2025:

Attendance: 62 attendees

Call to Order and Introductions

The October PTO meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM via Zoom. Roll call was conducted for PTO Executive Board Members:

- **Jennifer Steele**, Treasurer
- **Shaena Francis**, President
- **Quana Richards**, Communications Secretary
- **Maria Palma Drexler**, Vice President

Members Ms. Johnson and Ms. Granville-Pereira were noted as absent. Jennifer Steele welcomed families and staff, reviewed the evening's agenda, and introduced a representative from the **NYC Kids Rise** program as the evening's guest speaker. A giveaway raffle was announced for attendees who entered their information in the chat.

President's Report – Shaena Francis

Shaena thanked parents, guardians, and staff for joining and reviewed highlights from the first

Pizza Pop-Up held on October 3rd.

Key Points:

- Strong turnout and community participation.
- "Buy 4, Get 1 Free" promotion was well received.
- Some logistical challenges occurred; a debrief meeting will be held to identify areas for improvement.
- Families are strongly encouraged to pre-order and pre-pay by 8 PM the night before each Pizza Pop-Up to streamline operations.
- Same-day orders are accepted cash-only and are subject to supply availability.
- Volunteers are always welcome to help ensure smooth execution.

Shaena also encouraged families to:

- Stay engaged through ClassDojo and PTO communications.
- Attend upcoming meetings and volunteer for events.
- Email questions or ideas to reactpto1@yahoo.com.

Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Steele

Jennifer provided the financial update as of September 30, 2025:

- **Starting Balance (August 31):** \$1,847.12
- **Funds Raised:** \$5,478.73 (primarily through prepaid Pizza Pop-Up promotions)
- **Expenses:** Minimal for September (October expenses will appear in the next report).
- **Ending Balance (September 30):** \$6,351.31

She thanked families for their continued support and participation in fundraising efforts.

Approval of September Meeting Minutes – Presented by Shaena Francis

In the absence of Secretary Ms. Carnelia Johnson, Shaena summarized the September 2025 meeting minutes:

Highlights:

- The 2025–2026 PTO Executive Board was introduced.
- Annual PTO goals: family engagement, clear communication, vendor directory, and scholar/staff recognition.
- Projected annual budget: **\$19,000** for events, appreciation initiatives, and school activities.
- Fundraisers: Pizza Pop-Ups, holiday photos, and family events.
- \$10 voluntary family dues encouraged.
- September events included Dad's Bring Your Scholar to School Day (Sept 20) and Grandparents Day (Sept 26).
- Upcoming events discussed: Trunk or Treat, Character Day Parade, and October Pizza Pop-Up.
- **Giveaway winner:** Mr. Aquan Barfield (\$25 gift card).

Parent Coordinator's Report – Ms. Brown

Ms. Brown shared several school updates and upcoming events:

Reminders and Announcements:

- **Weather:** Scholars still go outside for recess; families should ensure proper attire.
- **Blackout Bullying Parade:** October 17 at 8:30 AM to raise anti-bullying awareness.
- **Character Day:** Scholars must dress as a book character and bring the related book (no masks).
- **Trunk or Treat:** Families asked to donate treats by **October 22**; volunteers needed to decorate car trunks.
- **Scholastic Book Fair:** November 10–14. Pre-K may attend daily with a parent; K–8 will have assigned class days.
- **Friendsgiving:** Classroom-based celebration; class reps to coordinate menus and supplies.
- **Parent Lighthouse Program:** Recruiting parent reps for classes 201, 402, 502, 702, and 802. A Google Form will collect contact information to improve communication.
- **Student Council Elections:**
 - Grade 4 – Ambassadors
 - Grade 5 – Class Deputy
 - Grade 6 – Secretary
 - Grade 7 – Vice President
 - Grade 8 – President
 - Campaigns will run the last week of October; results announced by November 3rd.

School Leadership Report

- **Assistant Principal Hover** thanked families for improved student attendance and timeliness.
 - Level 2 scholars have been invited to after-school programs to improve proficiency.
 - Saturday School will launch in January 2026 for expanded academic support.
 - Encouraged families to maintain engagement and communication.

Assistant Principal Chapman added several enrichment and academic updates:

- **New in-school enrichment programs:** Hip Hop, Dance, Music, Art, Chess, and AV Music Ministry.
- **Varsity Tutoring Partnership:**
 - Targeted tutoring for Level 1 & 2 students (twice weekly, small groups).
 - AI-based tutoring available for all K–8 students via Clever starting **October 20**.

- **Attendance Initiative:** “Strive for 5” pledge encourages no more than 10 absences per year; incentives planned for perfect attendance.
- **New Partnership:** The Door Restaurant will host an etiquette class for Grades 5–8.
- Four students per class will attend, selected by teachers for performance, character, improvement, and community contribution.

Guest Presentation – NYC Kids Rise: Save for College

Program Presenter: *Shawntel Street*

- NYC Kids Rise partners with NYC Public Schools to provide each K–4 student with a
- **\$100 scholarship account** to encourage early college and career savings.
- Participation is automatic for eligible students regardless of family income or immigration status.
- Families can contribute additional funds but are not required to.
- Research shows that even small savings significantly increase college enrollment and completion rates.

Raffle Drawing and Closing

A raffle drawing concluded the meeting. Families and staff were reminded to include names and class information in the chat for entry.

- **Giveaway winner:** Audra Grant

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 PM following the presentation.

Next PTO Meeting: November 19, 2025, at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

VI. Academic Accountability Report – NO REPORT

A. Mrs. Chene Williams

- Met 10/21/25 @ 6:35 via zoom
- Reviewed admin report
- Waiting for testing results and will discuss next meeting
- Discussed goals, and admin agenda
- Foreign language questions are being addressed

VII. Personnel Report

A. Mrs. K. Sandiford

- Covered in the admin report
- Celebrates Admin Leslie being honored
- School handbook has been signed by all staff members

VIII. Finance Report – NO REPORT

A. Mrs. M. Anglin

Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. Wilson