



Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

Minutes

REACS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday November 22, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Location

Via Zoom Online Meeting Platform

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

Ex Officio Members Present

C. Rice (remote)

Guests Present

Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie (remote), C. Walden (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 November 22, 2021 at 6:32 PM

K. Sandiford made a motion to Approve Agenda.

C. Williams seconded the motion.

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

C. Approve Minutes

R. Wilson made a motion to Approve Minutes from October 25, 2021.

M. Anglin seconded the motion.

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

II. Business & Operations Report

A. S. Fairclough-Leslie

STUDENT DATA DASHBOARD:

- UNIVERSAL PRE-K STUDENTS – 36
- K-8 STUDENTS – 443
- SPED STUDENTS – 62
- ELL – 10
- ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE STUDENTS – 65%

ENROLLMENT: 2021 - 2022

A total of 553 applications are on our waitlist.

8 seats to fill

- 2-K seats
- 1-2 grade
- 1-4th grade
- 2-7th grade
- 1 8th grade

COMPLIANCE/FINANCE:

- Financial Summary/Budget vs. Actual/Cash Disbursement reports given to the board.

III. School Leader Report

A. Mrs. Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie/Dr. Claytisha Walden

- **Renewal Planning**
- The School Visit for our Charter Renewal took place during the week of October 25th. There were leadership team meetings, Special Education Team meeting, Class observations and Staff Interviews.
- **The following areas were identified as strength of REACS;**
- Management
- School Culture
- Increase in ELLs was noted
- Student exemplary work posted as anchors
- Students were engaged in their work
- There was urgency and commitment from the staff

- **The following 2 areas were identified for continued growth:**
- Ensuring that we are repeating the identified schoolwide priorities
- Strengthening of review and feedback cycle on lesson planning to ensure alignment to the standards and tasks are rigorous.

Next Steps

- Review of School Discipline Policy
- **Public Hearings:** December 6, 2021, at 5:30PM via zoom.

- **Recommendation to Board of Regents for a specific term of Renewal**
- **Board of Regents Decision – anticipated March/April/May**

Continued COVID-19 Impact at REACS

- 6 Positive Covid cases with specific groups identified as close contact and instructed to quarantine.
- No full class closures
- **REACS was selected to host a POP-Up vaccine clinic for scholars 5-11 years old on Friday, November 19, 2021. Numerous parents/guardians came in to have their scholar vaccinated.**

ELA Data

- 4th grade is nailing RL.4.2.
- Grades did fairly decent across all grades.
- 5th-grade stood out and performed above the network.
- Informational text -- we surpassed the network.
- A lot of celebrations are in our upper-school grades: 5th, 6th and 8th grades.
- The kids are excited to be back in school.
- The move back over to the main building went well.
- We want to utilize the team approach to teaching.
- The level of accountability and feedback they are receiving → a lot of praise and constant observations. The other piece of it is content: they have to deliver it differently.
- The middle school schedule is tight and you have to keep moving.
- The learning environment is changed → it's nurturing, collaborative, and kids can actually talk. There's a lot of checking for understanding.

Math Data

- Highly structured, focused, and organized.
- They spend the majority of their time teaching and focusing on the work.
- Teachers deliver on-the-spot feedback and change their practice.
- 3rd-grade did well. I expected them to do better.
- Ensuring feedback is implemented.

DATA Actions Taken

- Reteach Structure in place on Wednesdays to target specific standards identified
- Added more scholars to afterschool based on additional data to offer more support
- Specific attention to Grouping for instruction and Intervention in lesson plans
- Re-aligned coaching structure to support teaching and learning based on data trends

IV. PTO Report

A. Shinequa Brown

Good evening, executive board, School Leaders, staff, parents, and guardians. Our November PTO meeting on Wednesday, November 17th via Zoom, and was attended by about 29 participants. Our meeting was led by our 1st VP Ms. Holmes. As usual, our School Leaders addressed some questions and concerns of the parents which I attached to my report. (Parent Questions/Concerns List is attached below). Our Assistant Principal, Dr. Clay, gave an informative presentation on NYC RISE College Savings Program.

The PTO kept in theme with our giveaways. We gave one (1) scholar in 601 a face mask and one (1) family (the Menard family) a turkey for the upcoming holidays. We also had a winner of the virtual popcorn event which took place November 9th through November 12th, Kori Shannon, who sold \$596 worth of popcorn. She has already received her \$20 Amazon gift card.

As for old business, our mask fundraiser is still ongoing. Our Treasurer gave the update on our popcorn fundraiser. As of the meeting we have sold \$8,735.00 worth of popcorn, which means we have made a profit of \$4,367.50. The current PTO bank balance is \$6,095.68 pending a Direct Deposit from Double Good in the amount of \$964.00. (Please see Cash Flow Statement below) We reminded families to encourage scholars to handle all devices with care.

As for new business, we informed every one of the two (2) vacant positions on the PTO Executive Board (2nd VP and Communications Secretary); giving the date of Friday, December 3rd as the last date to inform us if they want to be put on the ballot. The PTO also gave school administration five (5) sealed cards containing \$50 visa gift cards in each for five (5) REACS families, which will be handpicked by REACS counselors. We love being able to give back and be a blessing to our school community.

V. CEO Report

A. Bishop Calvin Rice

Maintenance/Facility and new Construction:

- We received AG approval (10-27-21) to move forward with M & T Bank.
- As of today, I have visited the job sights of seven prospective contractors and requested and received bids from four of them in the seemingly likely event that we will be unable to use our original contractor due to the performance bonding requirements of M&T Bank. I have received all four bids thus far and all are two to three million above our budget. The most competitive thus far are Acisco Construction at 8.7 million and CMB Construction Partners, LLC at 10.1 million. (See the attached options to be discussed in Executive session)
- Attorney Lamont Bailey distributed a formal bid invitation without any response to date.
- The four temporary classrooms that was constructed on the gym floor and proved to be too noisy was successfully relocated to the multipurpose hall in the main building reducing the noise level by at least 70% and eliminating the need for the sound proofing that was quoted at \$10,000
- I submitted two names for consideration to REACS' board, Mr. David Barron a licensed architect and Mr. Mitchell L. Walker, Deputy Director for NYC Administration for Children both have contacted me concerning their status.
- Through the efforts of Ms. Leslie and myself we were able to secure onsite vaccinations for our scholars, unfortunately turnout was disappointingly low.
- Governor Hochul restored the Homeland Security Grant in the amount of 40,600 and is having her staff look into Malcomb Smith grant (\$500,000) that we never received.

VI. Finance Report

A. Mrs. Marcia Anglin (No Meeting)

VII. Academic Accountability Report

A. Mrs. Chene Williams

- Met on 11/18 @ 6:30 pm via Zoom online platform.
- Addressed areas of concern on DOE visit

VIII. Personnel Committee Report

A. Mrs. Kamala Sandiford

2021 Staffing

- Met 11/18 via Zoom online platform
- Extended two offers to fill the vacancies in Spanish and 6th Grade Math Teacher.
- TA and one school aide vacancies were filled.
- We continue to adjust to challenging daily coverages. Teachers are missing preps.
- Discussed finding certified staff for vacancies.
- 3 Staff members are out on leave. (Assistant Principal, Dr. Padilla and TA, Ms. Jack-Hermitt has indicated they are returning)
- There are a number of staff members who must take the second dose of the vaccine by 11/29.
- 1 staff member got hurt at school and is on leave.

Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM; next board meeting will be held December 20, 2021 at 6:30 pm. The meeting was ajourned for executive session.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. Wilson

In executive session, building plans for the new REACS school building were discussed. M. Anglin made a motion to put up \$1.5 mil in reserve funds to move forward with the building of the school. With that money put up, rent will be frozen indefinitely as long as the school is not financially strong during construction (10 years). R. Wilson seconded the motion.