



Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

Minutes

REACS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday September 25, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Location

Via Zoom Online Meeting Platform

Directors Present

L. Hamer (remote), C. Williams-Hagins (remote), R. Wilson (remote), L. Stephens (remote), M. Anglin (remote), M. Townsend (remote)

Directors Absent

Ex Officio Members Present

C. Rice (remote)

Guests Present

Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie (remote), S. Brown (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 September 25, 2023 at 6:36 PM

R. Wilson made a motion to Approve Agenda.

C. Williams-Hagins seconded the motion.

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

C. Approve Minutes

L. Stephens made a motion to Approve Minutes from August 28, 2023

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 – 36
- K-8 STUDENTS (Pre-Enrolled) – 434
- SPED STUDENTS –
- ELL – 5
- ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS – 65%

ENROLLMENT: 2023 - 2024

- Seats to be filled: K (2), 1st (4), 2nd (5), 4th (3), 6th (2)
- Total applications on waitlist: 407

COMPLIANCE/FINANCE:

- School food (Red Rabbit/vendor) the students are very excited along with the staff with our school food vendor. Each day over 75-80% of the students are eating school lunch which is a big difference from the past years.
- Preparing documents for audit
- Preparing documents for accountability reporting due on 10/2
- Budget vs. Actuals, Cash Disbursement reports were given to the board

III. School Leader Report

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

Ms. Kimylene Hover

SCHOOL YEAR 2023-24

- Scholars returned on September 7, 2023
- We began using the new curriculum resources to provide instruction.
- We started administering Beginning of Year (BOY) assessments to group scholars for instruction and intervention.
- Early Bird PreK, K, and Grade 1
- We applied for a new opportunity from the Heckscher Foundation for Children to fund NY city/state charter school and/or NY City DOE school that wants to adopt EarlyBird this school year and/or next school year for the total cost of EarlyBird.
- Since we had already purchased EarlyBird, Heckscher asked EarlyBird to reach out and extend the opportunity retroactively to us. What would be different is that you would receive EarlyBird and EarlyBird data workshops (grades PK, /or K, and/or 1st) at no cost for SY23-24 and 24-25.
- By accepting Heckscher Foundation funding, we must administer EarlyBird to all children in each selected grade at all three benchmark periods.

MATH STRATEGIC NEXT STEPS

- We have revised the schedules to add a daily skills period, double math, and literacy block.
- Partnered with Lavinia Group to focus on Middle School Math.
- Redistributed the Interventionist teacher to serve Middle School scholars in small groups.
- Target small groups for the after-school program for level 2 scholars
- Renewed partnership with Legacy Math initiative that was started mid-way last year.
- Engaging with a Critical Friends Group within the NYS Charter Network focused on Math instruction.
- Planning for upcoming New Curriculum parent workshops to share how they can help to support students.

REGENTS RESULTS

- 7 out of 11 scholars passed the Algebra I Regents
- 4 out of 11 scholars scored above the 50th percentile and were eligible for the credit.
- The new 2023-24 Regents Cohort has ten scholars identified.

ENRICHMENTS

- During the school day, enrichments will begin in October
 - Chess, Books Alive, Karate, Art, and Yoga/Mindfulness
- After School Enrichments will also begin in October
 - Basketball, soccer, Track, Ambassadors, Girl Scouts, and Sign Language, Chorus and Dance

Personnel Report

- One Teacher Resigned due to Personal matters
- One Teacher Offer was made and was accepted to fill the vacancy
- One Teacher Assistant – Offer made and accepted
- We continue to interview candidates to fill the STEM teacher vacancy

IV. PTO Report

Margie Townsend

Meeting held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023

60 parents, teachers and others in the school community attended. Announced that Ms. Shinequa Brown was offered, and accepted the role of Parent Coordinator at REACS and resigned as PTO President. Introduced myself as the acting PTO President for the 2023-2024 school year. Introduced the rest of the Board and announced that there is an opening for an acting Secretary. Those interested are to send their information by October 10th. All candidates will be presented at the October 18th PTO meeting. Voting will take place from October 20th - November 1st. The winner of the election will be announced at the November PTO meeting, and will begin their tenure. All Board positions will be up for election at the end of this school year. Discussed the role of the PTO as a whole and the parents role within the organizations. Explained about our year long efforts at fundraising, including asking families for yearly dues. We ask for \$25/family, but of course we emphasize that families can contribute the amount that they are comfortable with. Reviewed the goals of the PTO. The main goal is to support our scholars and their families and the school community. We also talked about the need for scholar families to volunteer for the various PTO related events such as Pizza Pop-up and for our biggest event, Field Day. We asked that parents/guardians complete the Parent Contact Form. I went over the PTO's commitment to keeping the parent information confidential, and would only use the information to send PTO related

information. As a way to make our families feel more included in the life of REACS, I asked that if any

parent/family had a small business, PTO wanted to know. We are going to compile a list and keep it on our website so that the entire community can find the information and we can support each other.

I provided the PTO email, our LinkTree and the revamped page on the REACS web page. Ms. Devore, the Communication Secretary worked with Mr. J.J. to make change and will continue to do so throughout the year. Introduced Ms. Roxanne Phoenix as the Volunteer Chairperson and let our families know that she will be sending out information to solicit volunteers. Our Treasurer, Ms. Seabourne gave her report. The bank balance to begin the school year is \$506 (Balance sheet at end of report).. Ms. Seabourne then discussed the annual Popcorn Fundraiser that will begin on Monday October 9th for brochure orders, and the first virtual event will begin on October 10th.

Parent Teacher Organization

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PTO will have the first Pizza Pop-up on Friday October 20th, where we sell pizza, juice and snacks to scholars in grades 3-8. Our 1st VP, Ms. Holmes. discussed our No-Fuss Fundraiser. This fundraiser allows parent to donate for our general fund and base on the level of their donation we know that they may not want to participate in other fundraising activities, but will still be involved with the PTO in other aspects/activities. Ms. Brown was introduced as the REACS Parent Coordinator. She explained her role and her commitment to the families and the school community. Ms. Brown discussed her Leader in Me initiative, and also went over the school policies in regards to lateness and dress code. She then answered some parent questions and concerns. (Included below). Principal Leslie spoke to the families. She was positive about the start of the school year. She provided information about the personnel changes and the new curriculum. She also let the families know that there would be upcoming workshops to go over the new curriculums. She then answered some questions that were submitted in the chat. The PTO giveaway was held and a 4th grade parent was given a MetroCard. We wished all those with a birthday in September a Happy Birthday. The meeting was closed by Ms. Holmes who highlighted important upcoming dates i.e. school closures and ½ day.

Meeting was called at 7:32pm.

V. CEO Report

A. Bishop Calvin Rice – NO REPORT

VI. Finance Report

A. Mrs. Marcia Anglin – NO REPORT

VII. Academic Accountability Report

A. Mrs. Chene Williams

The Academic Accountability Committee met on August 22, 2023 at 6:30 pm. The Committee members introduced themselves to and welcomed Mrs. Margie Townsend, PTO Acting President. The meeting continued with the school report from Ms. Leslie.

Highlights of the meeting consisted of:

- A report on the summer school session (attendance; curriculum; and summer teacher observations
- Scheduling for the 2023/2024 BOY student assessments
- The new curriculum materials received and the teacher training
- Plans put into place for scholar achievement to include enrichment and incentives to address gaps recognized (based on current assessment data
- A request was made for the committee to begin thinking about ideas for an end of the year student incentive award(s) on a larger scale
- The Academic Committee stands ready to work with and support the school administration to ensure a successful school year.

The academic portion of the meeting adjourned at 6:52.

VIII. Personnel Committee Report

A. Mrs. Kamala Sandiford – NO REPORT

Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. Wilson

The meeting was adjourned for executive session.
In executive session: