



Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

Minutes

REACS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday April 26, 2021 at 6:34 PM

Location

Via Zoom Online Meeting Platform

Directors Present

C. Hagins (remote), L. Hamer (remote), R. Wilson (remote), M. Anglin (remote), S. Brown (remote), L. Stephens (remote)

Directors Absent

K. Sandiford

Non-Voting Members Present

C. Rice (remote)

Guests Present

Dr. Julie Padilla (remote), Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie (remote), Tawanna Muniz (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

Call the Meeting to Order

L. Hamer called a meeting of the board of directors of Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School to order on Monday Apr 26, 2021 at 6:34 PM.

Approve Agenda

C. Williams made a motion to Approve Agenda.

M. Anglin seconded the motion.

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

Approve Minutes

R. Wilson made a motion to Approve Minutes from March 22, 2021.

L. Stephens seconded the motion.

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

II. Business & Operations Report

Mrs. Tawana Muniz

STUDENT DATA DASHBOARD:

- UNIVERSAL PRE-K STUDENTS – 31
- K-7 STUDENTS – 395
- SPED STUDENTS – 52
- ELL – 7
- Economic Disadvantaged Students – 67%

ENROLLMENT: 2021 - 2022

- REACS Lottery held virtually on Tuesday, April 20th, great participation.
- 508 total applications received.

COMPLIANCE/FINANCE:

- Ops continues to meet with parents for device & book pick up as needed.
- 2021-22 projected Budget submitted to Finance committee. Good News!
- NYS approved new PPF (7% increase) & additional Covid funding. Waiting for Governor to sign
- ACR report will be submitted due 4/29/21.
- Preparing for accountability reporting due May 1, 2021 & 990 Tax forms
- Financial/Cash disbursement summaries were attached for board review.

III. School Leader Report

Mrs. Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie/Dr. Julie Padilla

Remote Learning

- REACS continues to provide instruction in a full remote learning environment. The decision to do so was done in collaboration with all stakeholders. Keeping our school community safe is our number one priority. Virtual learning may not be ideal for some scholars. REACS is providing other opportunities to support scholars as well. This decision is anchored in the safety of the school community given the continued rates of COVID-19.
- **Updated Guidance on State Assessments Memo: Schools that are entirely remote during the entire testing window are not expected to re-open for the sole purpose of administering the tests.** "Accordingly, no students should be brought into school just to take a state assessment."
 - <http://www.nysed.gov/news/2021/statement-chancellor-lester-w-young-jr-and-commissioner-betty-rosa-usde-denial-assessment>
 - **Interim Assessment data will be used to determine growth.**
 - REACS has schoolwide i-Ready and ANET data.

DOE SPRING VISIT

- May 26, 2021

May Spring Conferences

- Week of May 10th, update families on scholars' progression, no report cards.

Asynchronous Learning Days

- Will be used as needed to facilitate Parent Teacher Conferences, Professional Development, etc.
- Teacher Guidelines:
- Inform scholars what work they need to complete, with explicit instructions. Be mindful that scholars will not have you for assistance, will be working independently, and are not accustomed to time management on their own.
- Provide a check-in assignment where scholars have to click in to mark their attendance on Google Classroom.
- Provide at minimum a Math and ELA activity. This material should not be brand new or the start of a unit, rather it should be something scholars have seen before, understand what to do, and can tackle on their own.
- These assignments should not carry the same weight of a grade a test, quiz, or assessment may have. These should be equal to classwork/participation, as they would be with you if it were a regular school day.
- Check back in with scholars at 2pm-3pm for any questions they may have. Submission deadline for work should be by 8pm, that way they have ample time to get clarification if they need it for a task.

Schoolwide Assessments

- ANET A3 took place April 13 and 15th. Testing period was opened through the entire following week. Data debrief with admin and instructional staff to follow.
- End of Year Assessment will take place towards the end of the year, tentative dates:
 - ANET A4 - May 25th and May 28th
 - I-Ready - June 1st and June 3rd

Schoolwide Activities

- A variety of school wide activities will be taking place these include: Administration for the 2021 NYC School Survey, Staff Appreciation Week, Celebration of Mothers, Graduates Picture Days, Mental Health Awareness Week, Enrichment Showcase, Clerical Day (Asynchronous for scholars), Virtual Career Day, Virtual Class Awards Ceremonies, Celebration of Dads, Virtual Graduations/Moving Up Ceremonies, School Spirit Week, International Day, and the Last Day of School Celebration. These dates will be announced as we move forward with the planning and implementation.

Parent Teacher Conferences

- Held the week of March 22nd. Teachers continue to outreach to parents who they have not met with to date. Parent Teacher Conferences Participation Data:

Parent Workshops Collaboration Focus

- **Co-Teach**
 - Gretchen met with our teachers at the start of April to align approaches to create one page sheets for families to have as resources. Presented at the PTO meeting on April 21st..
- **SpringBoard**
 - Concluding our Winter partnership, supporting families continually attended family workshops throughout the program to learn instructional strategies to benefit their scholars' literacy knowledge and approaches.

- **Parent Communication**

- Robo Calls, ClassDojo (School wide messages, direct messaging to the teachers or to the Administrators), E-mail: Info@REACSchool.com, and phone calls

After-School/Saturday Academy/Springboard

- We will close out Saturday Academy on April 24th, and After-School on April 29th.

2021-2022 School Year Planning

- 2021-2022 Planning Committee began engaging REACS faculty to gather insight/feedback.
 - *Social Emotional Learning*: Ms. Graham, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Wallace, Ms. Jackson, Ms. Dash, and Dr. Padilla
 - *Extracurricular Options*: Mrs. Brady, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Bettineschi, Ms. Miles, and Mrs. Muniz
 - *Support for REACS staff*: Ms. Hover, Dr. Sibble, Ms. Wisdom, Mr. Asaad, and Ms. Leslie

- **Virtual Summer School 2021**

- Virtual for scholars in grades Rising to Kindergarten through eighth grade. Each class will host up to 15 scholars, with two classes on each grade to ensure small class size. Classes will be held from Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon, July 5th - August 5th
- SpringBoard Collaborative has received Grant donations to cover our \$35,000 cost. This will cover literacy curriculum and program oversight Rising K - Rising grade 4.
- We have established a new partnership Cadence which is a Middle School Partnership similar to SpringBoard supporting teaching learning in grades 4-7. Cost \$50 per scholar. (Cadence Info: [Administrator/Coach Role](#), [Teacher Role](#), and [Novel Selection](#))

- **Virtual Teacher Institute**

- August 30 - (First Day Back) TLIM with Sharon Chapman
- August 31 - September 3 Teaching and Learning led by Admin and Consultants.
 - Math, ELA, Data, SEL, Parent Collaboration and Partnership

IV. PTO Report

Shinequa Brown

Good evening Executive board, school leaders, staff, parents and guardians. Our April PTO meeting was held on Wednesday, April 21st via Zoom, which also happened to be Administrative Professional Day. Our meeting was attended by about 50 participants including our school leaders and a few staff members. As usual, our great School Leaders addressed some questions and concerns of the parents, which I attached to my report. (Parent Questions/Concerns List is attached below). In addition to the questions/concerns sent to our leaders before the meeting, parents also asked why other schools are open and REACS isn't? A parent also asked about when REACS would at least be open to hybrid? They made mention of the survey sent out regarding school reopening. The main issue seemed to be that parents do not have access to childcare.

The PTO did three(3) mask giveaways: scholar, staff, and parent. We are doing our best to keep the momentum up by giving back.

We gave an update on our mask fundraiser. You can still buy one mask for \$6 or two for \$10 via our Cash App \$REACSPTO and they will be mailed directly to you. As of the April 21st, we have sold 132 with all gray masks being sold out and 212 maroon remaining. Our two(2) highest selling scholars will be announced at our June PTO Meeting or when masks are sold out, whichever one comes first. Our Treasurer, Ms. Seabourne, gave the financial update and our current PTO bank balance is \$5,770.55. (Please see a year to date financial summary below)

As for new business, we voted on a \$1,000 budget for graduation gifts for Pre-K, K and 5th grade. We also voted on giving the staff gift cards, a token of appreciation for all they do, during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 3rd through May 7th. PTO Elections for a position on the Executive Board will be held at our meeting on May 19th. If interested in a position, the parents were asked to submit their interest via PTO email by 3pm May 14th, which is when the ballot will be closed. If no one is interested, then we will ask everyone at the meeting to vote to keep the same Executive Board for the 2021-22 school year, and amend our bylaws to state the same.

We had two(2) special guest speakers, Ms. Gretchen Osodipe (the founder of Co-Teach) and Mr. Rashid Johnson (an ANet Data Coach). The parents were engaged and seemed appreciative of the helpful information both speakers presented. Our scholars appear to be above the average when it comes to assessment data, so our conversations and involvement need to continue.

V. CEO Report

Bishop Calvin Rice

Maintenance/Facility and new Construction:

- M & T Bank approved the construction loan last week.
- The DOB had two objections to our submitted plans:
- The placement of a science lab.
- Location of an acid/chemical recovery tank.
- I selected a room in the basement of the existing building and the architect submitted the revisions 04-03-2.
- We are working on objections from the **EPA** once they are resolved barring any further objections the plans should be approved, once the plans are approved construction can begin within a week.
- Vaccinations are continuing at the gym Tues, Thurs, Sat. and Sun.
- I am in discussions with Northwell Health around a partnership with **REACS** to bring in a health education and apprentice program for six, seventh and eighth graders, modeled around the Henry Ford Foundation in Detroit and The Rush Foundation in Chicago.

VI. Finance Report

Mrs. Marcia Anglin

- Finance met 4/23/21 via Zoom.
- Discussed 2021-2022 Budget.
- Reviewed projections, proposals and salary increases for '21-'22 school year.

VII. Academic Accountability Report

Mrs. Chene Williams

Met 4/13/21 via Zoom; the following items were discussed:

- Re-opening of the school Dr. Rice and Dr. Hamer recommended that the school remain closed until further notice).
- REACS scholars will not take the state tests as per state charter regulations, because they are in remote learning status.
- There will be a visit on May 26, 2021, by a state authorizer that will address the following areas: ELL and SPED enrollment; free/reduced #s; and
- Recent and current data comparisons of ELA/Math compared to 2019 scores.
- Recent walk-throughs with Admin and A-Net.
- Renewal expectations discussed with "Nora" (Pasek Consultants).
- Feedback on the partnership programs (Co-Teach/Cadence/Co-Teach).
- Updates on: Social/Emotional learning; virtual enrichment activity; planning for schoolwide activities and end of year celebrations.
- Progress of the afterschool and Saturday Academy ending this month.
- Plans for a 2021-2022 Virtual Teacher Institute.
- Plans for an anticipated 2021 Virtual Summer School.

VIII. Personnel Committee Report

Mrs. Kamala Sandiford

Met 4/13/21 via Zoom; the following items were discussed:

We discussed updating our personnel handbook. In the past we have used Frontline, The New York Times, and Indeed.com to advertise.

School administration discussed a potential new platform called "Get Selected" that screens potential hiring candidates. Admin asked that we also look at an additional hiring source called Spark Hire for next year.

To date, the board has agreed and budgeted for the following new positions at REACS 2021-2022 school year:

- Assistant Principal
- Middle school Physical Ed. Teacher
- Middle school Social Studies Teacher
- Middle school Science Teacher

Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM.

The meeting was adjourned for executive session.

In executive session the following items were discussed:

- 2021-2022 Budgetary matters
- Re-opening plans
- C. Hagins made a motion to accept the 2021-2022 budget with modification to accept the 2% increase of staff (M. Anglin seconded); motion and vote passed. The parent coordinator position is on hold pending clarification
- M. Anglin made a motion to pay teachers who received certifications to pay increase as the current pay scale (R. Wilson seconded); motion and vote passed.
- 2021 Summer School program

Respectfully Submitted,
R. Wilson