

APPROVED



## Rochester Academy Charter School

### Minutes

#### Academic Excellence Committee Meeting

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##### **Date and Time**

Tuesday January 20, 2026 at 1:15 PM

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##### **Committee Members Present**

J. Doyle (remote), M. Demirtas (remote), S. Al (remote), W. Middleton (remote)

##### **Committee Members Absent**

*None*

##### **Guests Present**

C. Belfield (remote), R. Roberts-Grant (remote), S. Martina (remote)

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#### **I. Opening Items**

##### **A. Record Attendance**

##### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

S. Al called a meeting of the Academic Excellence Committee of Rochester Academy Charter School to order on Tuesday Jan 20, 2026 at 1:22 PM.

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

M. Demirtas made a motion to approve the minutes from Academic Excellence Committee Meeting on 12-09-25.

J. Doyle seconded the motion.

The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

#### **II. Academic Excellence**

## A. Review Progress on WIG

### Elementary School (Mrs. Belfield):

- Attendance improving after post-holiday slump; dress-down day incentive helped reduce absences
- iReady minutes on track (4th grade slightly behind due to schedule)
- Behavior improvements: Kindergarten achieved 100% (no referrals)
- MTSS interventions showing positive results in K-1

### Middle School (Ms. Roberts-Grant):

- Attendance hovering at 91-92% despite illness impacts
- Academic passing rates regressed slightly; working toward improvement for the next 5 week
- 6th grade behavior improved; 7th grade addressing drama issues
- ELA department meeting all thresholds; 6th grade math transitioning with new teacher support

### High School (Dr. Martina):

- Chronic absenteeism increased due to illness; utilizing transportation and sports eligibility
- Students with multiple failing courses trending downward
- Regents and midterms week underway
- Senior leaders visiting freshman homerooms to promote academic success
- Dress code violations and tardies mostly improved

### 15-Week Grading Period Results

- Middle school: 12% fail rate (218 fails out of 1,820 courses)
- High school: Similar uptick at 15-week mark, expected improvement by 20-week
- Steering committee to be established to analyze fail rates and improvement strategies

## B. iReady Data

### Elementary School:

- First diagnostic completed September (K-5); kindergarten delayed for technology acclimation
- Math and phonics screeners used for Tier placement
- **ELA Projected Proficiency (if typical growth achieved):**
  - 3rd grade: 24%
  - 4th grade: 12% (focus area - struggled last year)
  - 5th grade: 23%

- **Math Projected Proficiency:**

- 3rd grade: 27%
- 4th grade: 21%
- 5th grade: 16%
- Second diagnostic began today (K-2 ELA); 3-5 ELA starts tomorrow
- Incentive: Pizza/dance party on February 27th for students meeting typical growth

**Middle School:**

- **6th Grade ELA:** 13% at/above grade level (up from 9%); 52% met typical growth; 22% projected proficiency
- **7th Grade ELA:** Strongest progress - 21% at/above grade level (up from 12%); well below decreased from 59% to 44%; 46% met typical growth; 27% projected proficiency
- **8th Grade ELA:** 39% below grade level; 46% well below (increased); 24% met typical growth; 40% projected proficiency (teacher notes group not performing to capability)
- **6th Grade Math:** 9% at/above grade level; new teacher transition mid-November; 25% met typical growth; 9% projected proficiency
- **7th Grade Math:** Best results - 28% at/above grade level (up from 8%); well below decreased from 51% to 26%; 68% met typical growth; 44% projected proficiency (Ms. R. Walker - proficiency projection jumped from 15% to 38% with no additional growth)
- **8th Grade Math:** Teacher transition to Ms. R. Walker mid-November showing immediate progress; 52% met typical growth; 40% projected proficiency
- Initiatives: Grade-level challenges, iReady store with incentives (snacks, supplies, uniforms), teacher contests
- Teacher buy-in and data understanding critical to student engagement

**III. Closing Items**

**A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
M. Demirtas