APPROVED

Rochester Academy Charter School

Minutes

Academic Excellence Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday June 9, 2026 at 1:15 PM

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

Committee Members Absent
H. Hussein

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

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 Jun 9, 2026 at 1:20 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

M. Demirtas made a motion to approve the minutes from Academic Excellence Committee Meeting on 05-12-26.
J. Doyle seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Academic Excellence

A. Review Progress on WIG

Cyndy reported on elementary school metrics, noting declining attendance but implementing incentives including donuts for 204 students with perfect attendance, which will be celebrated in the cafeteria. The elementary school maintained 72% completion of walkthroughs and continued using total participation techniques, with fifth graders preparing presentations for third graders.

Sam reported that attendance trends are holding steady despite denominator changes, with seniors showing slightly higher numbers including unexcused absences like college visitations and potential senior skip days. Academic performance remains stable with students staying for after-school tutoring in various subjects including science, math, ELA, and U.S. history, with review sessions scheduled before upcoming Regents exams. Behavioral metrics including dress code and tardies are down compared to last year with only minor incidents during unannounced hall sweeps.

Robyn reported attendance challenges with numbers declining seasonally, though they made a small improvement this week and are working to prevent chronic absences. She noted that 8th graders maintained 100% excellent behavior while 6th grade doubled their dress down numbers. Jen discussed new teacher recruitment, mentioning two new 4th grade teachers and one new 6th grade math teacher who joined recently.

The meeting covered iReady scores and 35-week grade data, with Jen reporting that 14% of middle school courses had failing grades, though this was an improvement from the previous year at the high school level.

B. iReady Final Results 2025-2026

Cyndy and Jen discussed kindergarten through second grade academic performance, highlighting significant improvements in reading levels. They noted that kindergarten students showed the best performance to date, with 39% leaving above mid or above grade level, while first and second grades also showed progress with 43% of students at or above mid-grade level. The discussion covered third grade achievements, including a full classroom that tested out of phonics for the first time, and addressed the complexity of reading comprehension skills in tested grades, emphasizing the importance of intervention and small group work for struggling readers.

Cyndy reported significant growth in fourth grade despite struggles. The fourth grade cohort, which includes many special education and ENL students, will move to fifth grade next year with new teachers working to address performance gaps through small groups and RTI interventions. Jen presented growth data showing 52% of students met typical growth, with 27% achieving stretch growth, and projected proficiency increased from 6% to 20% by year's end.

Jen presented academic growth data showing fifth grade had significant improvement with 61% meeting typical growth and 20% meeting stretch growth, projecting a 30% proficiency rate on state tests.

The team reviewed academic performance data showing improvements in elementary and middle school math scores. Third grade showed strong growth by 29%, while fifth grade improved by 23%. In middle school, sixth grade experienced challenges with the transition from elementary school, though seventh and eighth grades showed positive growth. The discussion highlighted that better foundational math skills in middle school could lead to improved algebra performance and Regents results in future years.

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 2:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Demirtas