

The mission of Rutherford Winans Academy is to prepare students for academic excellence and responsible citizenship.



Rutherford Winans Academy
16411 Curtis Avenue, Detroit, MI 48235
Wednesday, April 19, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

Board Meeting Agenda

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| I. Call to Order | Reginald Scott, President |
| II. Roll Call | Board Members |
| III. Public Comment | Board Members |
| IV. Expulsion Hearing | Board Members |
| V. Approval of Agenda | Board Members |
| VI. Approval of the Minutes – February Meeting | Board Members |
| VII. Curriculum Update | Rachael Pesta
Tomi Ingram, Director |
| VIII. Principal Report | Dr. Ingra Howard |
| IX. Report from Solid Rock Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3rd Quarter Financials | Lateefah Scott
Cindy Flowers, Vice President |
| X. Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A | Board Members |
| XI. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A | Board Members |

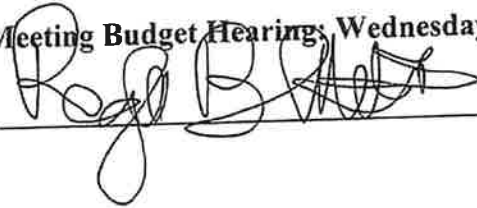
Rutherford Winans Academy Mission Statement

The mission of Rutherford Winans Academy is to prepare students for academic excellence and responsible citizenship.

XII. Adjournment

Next Meeting Budget Hearing: Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Approved Agenda Signature: _____



Board position: _____

President

Date: _____

4/19/2023

This meeting of the Board of Directors in public for the purpose of conducting the Academy's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the agenda.

Individuals wishing to place an item on the agenda shall register their intent with the school principal two (2) days prior to the date set by the Board for mailing the Board member Meeting Agenda. Individuals wishing to address the board of directors under Items III or VIII are requested to sign in with the Board Secretary prior to the start of the meeting. Individual comments are limited to no more than (5) minutes each and total time allowance not to exceed thirty (30) minutes. The Board will not verbally respond to public comments but may follow up in the most appropriate and time effective manner.

*Complaints or concerns regarding the Board members or individuals assigned to the Academy shall first be addressed in writing and delivered to the board President at least (5) days prior to the Board meeting or such complaints or concerns shall not be heard by the Board. Individuals with special needs accommodations should contact the Principal's Office at (313) 852-0709 preferably five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Proposed minutes of this meeting will be available for public inspection at the Academy office located at: 16411 Curtis Ave., Detroit, MI 48235, eight (8) business days after the meeting. Approved minutes are available with five (5) business days after the meeting at which they are approved pursuant to applicable law.

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rutherford
Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at Rutherford Winans, Detroit, MI at 6:00 p.m.

The following Board Members were present:

Reginald Scott – President
Tamika Bryant-Cromer – Secretary
Shivonna Caldwell – Board member

Absent:

Patricia Charleston – Vice President

Guests included:

Lateefah Walker – Solid Rock
Dr. Ingra Howard – Principal
Rachael Pesta- Curriculum
Tomi Ingram – Academic Director
Alma Hollis – DPS representative
Erricka Chester – Office Clerk
Melissa Evans – Solid Rock (via ZOOM)

Parent Guest:

N/A

Public Comment:

Reginald Scott officially called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Board moved to approve the agenda. Motion made by Reginald Scott. Motion seconded by Tamika Bryant-Cromer.

➤ Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Reginald Scott, Tamika Bryant-Cromer and Shivonna Caldwell.

Nays: None

3 Yeas and 0 Nays

The motion was approved.

Board moved to approve the minutes from the December meeting. Motion made by Reginald Scott. Motion seconded by Tamika Bryant-Cromer.

➤ Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Reginald Scott, Tamika Bryant-Cromer and Shivonna Caldwell.

Nays: None

3 Yeas and 0 Nays

The motion was approved.

Curriculum Update (Rachel Pesta)

- Presented MI School Data Overview for 2021-2022 school year.
 - a) Graphs were given to the board and reviewed.
 - b) Board requested graphs show a specific group of children be graphed, instead of a generalization from state reports. State Reports have multiple variables (new students, students leaving, etc.).
 - c) Specific targeted children will show growth from below average to average, average to high average etc.
 - c) Revised graphs will be presented at the April board meeting, detailing more specific student data for real time growth.
 - d) Board stated proficiency in reading (9.8% of students) and math (7% of students) is incredibly low. Board is requesting prior years for comparison from MSTEP data to see student progress.
 - e) Board questioned the overall index being low.
 - f) Ms. Ingram explained the overall index is low because this included the old State Accountability report. This report was where they used to give letter grades and priority statuses for overall school performance. 20% was redisturbed because we don't have a graduation rate and we don't have a high student population; these things affected the overall index.
Ms. Ingram has been having conversations with the state overall index is an unfair assessment across the state. Data was unfair to assess schools with accountability the first year back after COVID, for K-5 schools there was no growth data, RWA K-8 did measure growth in unfair circumstances on the PSAT. Ms. Ingram assured the board the students are treading upward, and those results will show soon.
 - g) Board members voiced concerns as prior years have shown notable growth.
- K-8 Read-A-Thon
 - a) Curriculum, PTO, and Volunteers team has set a goal to raise \$20,000.
 - b) Each staff member is encouraged to get one local business or community supporter for the fundraiser.
 - c) The event will start on March 1, 2023.
- Public Act 144
 - a) Ms. Pesta verbally and physically with graphs presented benchmark assessment data to the board members.

Board moved to approve the curriculum report. Motion made by Reginald Scott. Motion seconded by Tamika Bryant-Cromer.

➤ Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Reginald Scott, Tamika Bryant-Cromer and Shivonna Caldwell.

Nays: None

3 Yeas and 0 Nays

The motion was approved.

Principals' Report (Dr. Ingra Howard)

Calendar of Events

- Coffee and Conversations are monthly educational conversations held every 1st Tuesday on the month. These meetings are held by the principal with parents from 7:45 – 8:45, average

- The school has a partnership with DSO Music and supports the of Michigan,
- MLK Day was observed with a program for students to display art work, poems and singing. Parents were invited to attend the program.
- Universal Circus Clowns visited the school to inspire the children with positive entertainment and provided free tickets to a performance.
- Spirit Week: February 6-10, dress down each day coincided with a black history theme. The goal was to dress with an intentional black history lesson.
- Pep Rally performance by Stars Elite Dance Company prior to NWEA testing to motivate positive testing culture.

Enrollment/Attendance Report

- Enrollment currently at 167, marketing initiatives are in place for the coming school year (visit school fairs, early childcare centers, advertise in area etc.)
- Average school attendance for December was 85%, January 2023 it has increased to 93%. School began calling and having conversations of importance of school attendance.
- Board acknowledged efforts to increase enrollment. However, going forward financial forecasting should reflect more accurate enrollment numbers for more of an realistic yearly budget.

K-8 Culture & Climate/School Activities

- Pictures were provided as staff wore “Dynamic Dream Team” shirts created by Dean Hill. Photos of several events were shared.
- Tutoring continues on every Tuesday / Thursday.
- Basketball team has begun their season.
- K-3 students receive reading literacy from Child Focus.
- Board thanked Principal for social media updates of events.
- K-8 NWEA student pictures with high scores are on display as “High Flyers” in the hallway and are in the monthly newsletter.

Specialized Services

- Currently are in compliance with social worker services. The new social worker is Ms. Nardecchia has begun serving the students in person and virtual.

Curriculum Instruction / Assessment

- NWEA Academic Goals: midyear reading goal was for 25% of all students to meet or exceed individual goals by winter 2022 – 2023 school year. NWEA benchmark assessment measured growth at 46%, math goal was set at 25%, benchmark shows 38%.
- NWEA Spring Assessment testing preparation has begun with learning techniques in class.

Principal Professional Learning

- Attended Elementary Principal Network Session at WRESA on January 24, 2023.
- True Colors Leadership (Alyn Eastin): Reflection and analysis of our leadership strengths and how it affects our interactions with staff, students, and others that we lead. A very reflective learning and beneficial for continual personal and professional growth.

Staff

- In need of a paraprofessional.

Learning Initiatives

- 53rd Bank-Young Bankers Club for our 5th grade class students are consistent as they learn about finances.
- The Jump Start Theater Program will begin our practice for the spring concert on March 7, 2023.
- Character Development component for the month of January is Honesty and Pride was incorporated as we build our students.

School Discipline

- December suspensions: 4 student suspensions, 1-2 day suspensions.
- January suspensions: 4 student suspensions, 1-day suspensions.

Operations

- 2 hands free filtered water fountains have been installed. Students will also receive school logo water bottles.

Perspective Field Trips

- 5th -8th grades are scheduled to visit the African American Museum in March.
- 4th graders will visit Ann Arbor Nature Center
- 2nd - 3rd awaiting a response from the Detroit Science Center for accommodations.
- Board asked if Title 1 funds were being used for field trips? Ms. Scott informed the board that Title 1 funds are being used for monthly principal meeting, tutoring, paraprofessionals and other supplemental services that help with instruction.

Board moved to approve the principals' report. Motion made by Reginald Scott. Motion seconded by Tamika Bryant-Cromer.

➤ Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Reginald Scott, Tamika Bryant-Cromer and Shivonna Cadwell

Nays: None

3 Yeas and 0 Nays

The motion was approved.

Solid Rock Management Company Report

Financial Report (Melissa Evans)

● Balance Sheet

- a) Concerning low year-end balance.
- b) Accounts Receivables based on state aid from student count.
- c) Accounts Payable is high, looking to reduce.

● Schedule of Revenue and Expenditures

- a) Based on fundraisers or vending machines.
- b) Utilize Title 1 on regularly held programs to maintain fund dollars.
- c) Last year of state accrual from ESR.
- d) December payouts include staff holiday bonuses and medical stipends. These are twice a year in December and June showing higher payroll expense.
- e) Pupil Support Services may benefit from using grant dollars for conducting more professional development and coaching.
- f) People Support Services can include any technology services and equipment.

- **Cash Flow**

- a) Is very conservative Ms. Evans will review for a clear understanding.
- b) Board requested cash flow report for 3rd quarter in April meeting to gage where we are before end of school year.
- c) Board suggested working through some variances to make sure cash flow ending balance reflects in all areas.
- d) Expenditures reviewed continually to ensure school doesn't operate at a deficit by the end of the school year.

Board moved to approve the Solid Rock Management Report and 2nd Quarter Financials. Motion made by Reginald Scott. Motion seconded by Shivonna Caldwell.

➤ **Roll Call Vote:**

Yeas: Reginald Scott, Tamika Bryant-Cromer and Shivonna Cadwell
Nays: None
3 Yeas and 0 Nays
The motion was approved.

- **Approval of Fall 2022 Board Policies**

- a) Three policy changes two best practices (Electric Transfer of Funds / Academy Visitors) and one with legal content (Flags and Displays).
- b) Flags and Displays, no other flags other than the American or school flag can be displayed regardless of personal preference. Permission must be granted from principal if request is to do anything additional inside or outside of room for decoration.
- c) It was explained to the new board member that the Affiliation with National Charter School Institute and the availability of a lawyer on the board are good resources to make sure the school is current with global policies. The policies are reviewed, discussed then adopted.
- d) Flags nor decorations are or have been an issue in the school this far.

Board moved to approve the proposed Fall 2022 Board Policies. Motion made by Tamika Bryant-Cromer. Motion seconded by Reginald Scott.

➤ **Roll Call Vote:**

Yeas: Reginald Scott, Tamika Bryant-Cromer and Shivonna Cadwell
Nays: None
3 Yeas and 0 Nays
The motion was approved.

- **2022 Declaration of Potential Fiscal Stress**

- a) The Michigan Department of Treasury is anticipating by the enrollment number and last years finances the school may have fiscal stress by the end of this fiscal year or next year. They recommended within 60 days a determination is made to contract with an intermediate school district to have an administrative review or submit periodic financial status reports to treasury.
- b) After receiving feedback from the authorizer, it was recommended to submit periodic financial status reports to treasury.

- c) Board president will commit to working with financial team at school, the management company to make sure financial statements are accurate to report to the state.
- d) Prepare to address fiscal stress early, if necessary, by monthly statements.
- e) Accountant Melissa will help work through finances to provide accurate financial statements that record activity.
- f) Board discussed bringing in someone new would be challenging to figure out things they are unfamiliar with.
- g) Board members agreed financial reports are capable of being done by knowledgeable staff and board for treasury reporting.

Board moved to respond to The Department of Treasury Potential Fiscal Stress letter by stating agreement with submitting periodic financial status reports to treasury. Motion made by Reginald Scott. Motion seconded by Shivonna Caldwell.

➤ **Roll Call Vote:**

Yeas: Reginald Scott, Tamika Bryant-Cromer and Shivonna Cadwell

Nays: None

3 Yeas and 0 Nays

The motion was approved.

• **Old Business**

Update on Student Plan of Action

- a) Student #2 presented to the middle school class the harmful effects of vaping. Two board members did attend the presentation and were proud of the student.
- b) Student #1 has been following his plan of action however is experiencing some challenges.
- c) Principal explained Student #1 has a 504 and is struggling academically and behaviorally.
- c) Board would like a full report on Student #1 at the next board meeting.

• **New Business**

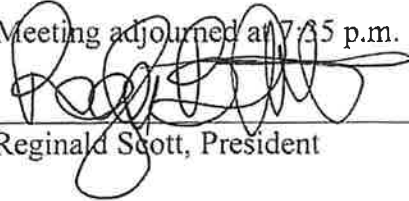
DPS Representative Alma Hollins

- a) February 28- Webinar Series: Governing Over the Unexpected
- b) March 10 – Charter School Financial and Legal Strategies, at Suburban Collection Showcase
- c) All webinars can be viewed on the DPS website through the link.
- d) New board member Shivonna Caldwell was welcomed.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by board member Reginald Scott.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



 Reginald Scott, President