

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
Monday, June 26, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m.

Budget Hearing & Board Meeting Agenda

I. Call to Order	Reginald B. Scott, Jr., President
II. Roll Call	Board Members
III. Public Comment	Board Members
IV. Approval of Agenda	Board Members
V. Approval of the Minutes – April Meeting Emergency May Meeting	Board Members
VI. Curriculum Update	Rachael Pesta, Director Tomi Ingram, Curriculum Officer
VII. Principal Report	Dr. Ingra Howard
VIII. Report from Solid Rock Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAAN Loan• 2022-2023 Amended Budget• 2023-2024 Proposed Budget	Lateefah Scott Cindy Flowers, Vice President
IX. Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A	Board Members
X. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2023-2024 School Calendar• 2023-2024 BOD Meetings Calendar	Board Members

Rutherford Winans Academy Mission Statement

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

XI. Adjournment

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, August 16, 2023**

Approved Agenda Signature: _____

Board position: _____

Date: _____

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.*

**Rutherford Winans Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 19, 2023**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rutherford Winans Academy was held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at Rutherford Winans, Detroit, MI at 6:00 p.m.

The following Board Members were present:

Reginald B. Scott, Jr. – President
Patricia Charleston – Vice President
Shivonna Cadwell – Board member

Absent:

Tamika Bryant-Cromer – Treasurer & Secretary

Guests included:

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

Parent Guest:

Parent of Student A

Public Comment:

Reginald B. Scott, Jr. officially called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Expulsion Hearing

Board explained the difference between a closed and open session to Student A parent/guardian. The parent/guardian selected an open session.

Dr. Howard stated that due to the student currently having a suicide ideation from an incident in February, there was a heightened concern for the threat the student made to harm other students. The student violated the behavioral plan that was in place, which led to immediate suspension until expulsion hearing, as specified in the Student Code of Conduct handbook. Parent shared that the student struggles with temper coping techniques, but she is determined to get the appropriate counseling needed. The parent took the student to the Crisis Center in March, appointment is scheduled for April 25th. The student read an apology letter however the board was concerned that the apology highlighted missing friends, rather than understanding the reason for suspension. The students' grades have consistently declined since the first report card, along with excessive absences. The board is concerned if the student comprehends the seriousness of the threatening statement made. The Plan of Action principal presented to the board if student is approved for reentry consists of the following: the student having daily contact with the social worker, a check-in plan with Dean Hill (3 times daily, reduced or increased as needed), continue with suicide ideation plan and school safety plan (parental involvement, administration, teachers, social worker, and outside therapist with consistent sessions). The principal stated that the student confided in

her some external situations that have caused an impact on his behavior. The school has supported students all school year with tutoring, emotional and behavioral development for success. If out of compliance this plan will be revisited and rescinded.

Motion made by Reginald Scott to support Student A return to school. The Plan of Action was devised by the principal and adopted by the board which consists of the following: the student must attend counseling session on April 25th, obtain a clearance from counselor before readmittance, the student will have daily contact with the social worker, a check-in plan with Dean Hill (3 times daily, reduced or increased as needed), continue with suicide ideation plan and school safety plan (parental involvement, administration, teachers, social worker, and outside therapist with consistent sessions).

Board moved to approve the Plan of Action. Motion made by Reginald Scott and seconded by Patricia Charleston.

➤ Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Reginald Scott, Patricia Charleston, Shivonna Cadwell

Nays: None

3 Yeas and 0 Nays

The motion was approved.

Board moved to approve the agenda. Motion made by Reginald Scott. Motion seconded by Patricia Charleston.

➤ Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Reginald Scott, Patricia Charleston and Shivonna Caldwell.

Nays: None

3 Yeas and 0 Nays

The motion was approved.

Board moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Motion made by Reginald Scott. Motion seconded by Shivonna Caldwell.

➤ Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Reginald Scott, Patricia Charleston and Shivonna Caldwell.

Nays: None

3 Yeas and 0 Nays

The motion was approved.

Curriculum Update (Rachel Pesta)

- MSTEP, PSAT, NWEA Testing
 - a) K-8 teachers review with IXL to strengthen skills.
 - b) Skill plans along with practice test, writing prompts, practice MSTEP questions, looking students writing samples, making corrections, and reviewing vocabulary.
 - c) Reviewed testing calendar and finished ELA testing this week.
 - d) Teachers went spring testing training, with troubleshooting techniques and expectations during testing window.

- **Additional Supports**

- a) REAP Education Youth Achievement Program a 6-week Saturday program. This was implemented to help students learn strategies to unpack difficult reading and math content.
 - b) Math tutors started April 5. Purpose to provide math intervention during the school day for 1-hour per day a minimum of 3 days – maximum 5 days a week from certified teachers.
 - c) Increase student confidence in major standards by reinforcing strategies that make sense of math.
- **Pep Rally**
 - a) Star Elite Dance Company will return to perform and encourage students after MSTEP testing.
 - b) This is an effort for community building.
 - c) Some students have joined the dance company.

Principals' Report (Dr. Ingra Howard)

Calendar of Events

- March 16: Count Day Celebration for classes with perfect count day attendance.
- March 22: African American Museum Field Trip- Grades 5-8. Every student gave one fact of what they learned from the museum.
- March 24: Staff vs. Student Basketball Ball Game. 3-5th graders were allowed to win, 6-8th grade given no mercy, staff won 56-25.
- April 4: Coffee and Conversations with the Principal topic Assessment Schedules and testing Expectations.
- April 13: Last day for after school tutoring.
- April 14: Banker Engagement Day with Fifth Third Bank. 5th graders were awarded for completing financial literacy program. The bank awarded the school with a 10,000 grant.
- April 20: Founder's Day Celebration, students will perform for the Chancellor.

Enrollment/Attendance Report

- Enrollment is currently at 166, marketing initiatives are in place for the coming school year (visit school fairs, early childcare centers, advertise in area etc.)
- The Board suggested reaching out to the City Council representative for the district, for school visibility.
- Average school attendance for the month of March was 90%.

K-8 Culture & Climate/School Activities

- The building has been redecorated to reflect the theme of Marching into Spring. Students asked if they could get involved, so they created artwork and drawings.

Specialized Services

- We are now in compliance with social work and occupational therapy services.
- 15 students are on individualized educational plan.
- We currently have 30 students (multiple categories) in our MTSS process for Academic, Behavior, and Attendance:
- Our greatest success was being able to create a plan for each student and meet with the teachers to determine the best learning course of action, in addition to tutoring services for academics.

- Some students have been escalated to a tier 4 status for special services. Our behavior and attendance issues have decreased because of restorative practices and consistent parent contact.
- Our greatest challenge is support and time allotted for our MTSS Coordinator. Because of this, as the building leader, I have assumed the role of the coordinator to continue our process and focus on IXL reports, NWEA Data, and Formative Assessments for progress monitoring. I am also currently waiting for additional resources from Dr. Calderon regarding the MTSS (multitier system of support). Academic Schedule to remain uniform between the schools.
- Game Changers: students receive a positive referral, sent to the office, celebrated by staff, picture taken by principal and given a prize.
- The Board noted the number of students in need of help is decreasing.

Curriculum Instruction / Assessment

- Possible Retention list, letter, and plan sent out. Parents were notified the week of March 13th via telephone of the warning and letter. A reminder to the parents of the letter was sent on 3/23 and we have received 6 out of 35 signed and returned.
- Currently 25 students for remediation are eligible for summer school, 0 are listed for retention. Summer school will benefit all students for supplemental as well as remediation support.

Principal Professional Learning

- Restorative Circle exercise led by Dean Hill to show teachers the correct manner in conducting in the classrooms and the process from beginning to end.
- Teachers have reported how these techniques are helping in the classroom.

Staffing Needs

- Parapro (2022-2023)
- Possible positions for the 2023-2024 school year: Elementary Teacher, Social Studies, Science, Math, Paraprofessional

Learning Initiatives

- The Jump Start Theater Program-Auditions: April 6, 2023 (tentative)
- Eighth grade support for High School Transition applications, essays, letter of recommendation etc.
- Applications/Recommendations/ Grades-Ms. Mikki Zachary and Dean Hill.
- The Character Development component for the month of April is Self-Control. We will review and practice a new component monthly: Honesty, Pride, Respect, Self-Control, Humor, Courage, & Cooperation.
- Our Call to Order occurs daily during our breakfast time and is now led by our scholars. The students conduct RWA Way, Pledge of Allegiance and tell the students Go Be Great! This instills ownership and accountability in the students.

School Discipline

- Total: 7 suspensions (1-3 days); In School; 1 pending expulsion hearing.

Operations

- Alarms were checked and serviced by CINTAS Company March 24, 2023

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.
- **Social Media**
- Facebook postings occur weekly with photos of various activities occurring in the school and classrooms.
- Board member Patricia Charleston is a chaplain. She will contact chaplains with the police precinct in the area to conduct behavioral and gun safety sessions for the students.
- Board member Patricia Charleston will obtain gun locks to distribute to the community within the area.

Board moved to approve the curriculum and principals' report. Motion made by Reginald Scott. Motion seconded by Shivonna Cadwell.

➤ Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Reginald Scott, Patricia Charleston and Shivonna Cadwell

Nays: None

3 Yeas and 0 Nays

The motion was approved.

Solid Rock Management Company Report

Financial Report (Melissa Evans)

- **Budget to Actual**
 - a) The Treasury team is concerned that the budget has not been amended.
 - b) Amended budget will be completed in May.
 - c) Reduction of approx. 1.3 million in revenue.
 - d) Federal resources are high, reduction between 7-800,00.
 - e) 80% of expenses are linked to payroll.
 - f) Special board meeting amended budget will be sent in May, then approved in June by the board.
- **Cash Flow**
 - a) Appears the ending balance is 260,000.
 - b) Current cash flow reflects approved budget, not actual.
 - c) Actuals are updated through March.
 - d) Expenses are on target.
- **New Grants (Ms. Scott)**
 - a) McKinney Vento Homeless Grant 5,000 received.
 - b) Learning Loss grant 13,000, will receive through state aid.
 - c) Office of Treasury 18,000, financial stress.

Board moved to approve the Solid Rock Management Report. Motion made by Reginald Scott. Motion seconded by Shivonna Cadwell.

➤ Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Reginald Scott, Patricia Charleston and Shivonna Cadwell

Nays: None

3 Yeas and 0 Nays

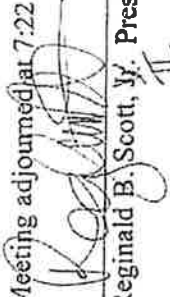
The motion was approved.

- Old Business
- New Business
 - DPS Representative Alma Hollins
 - a) April 19- Final Webinar
 - b) Board members' email addresses will be verified by DPS.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.



Reginald B. Scott, Jr. President



**Rutherford Winans Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, May 2, 2023**

An emergency meeting was held for the Board of Directors of the Rutherford Winans Academy was held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at Rutherford Winans, Detroit, MI at 6:00 p.m.

The following Board Members were present:

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

Absent:

Patricia Charleston – Vice President

Guests included:

Lateefah Walker – Solid Rock
Dr. Ingra Howard – Principal
John Hill – Dean of Students
Erricka Chester – Office Clerk

Parent Guest:

Parent of Student #1

Public Comment:

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

Discipline Hearing

Board explained the difference between a closed and open session to Student #1 parent/guardian. The parent/guardian selected an open session. Board President explained that the communication regarding the hearing would be done between the board, administration, student, and parent. There were approximately 10-12 additional family members in attendance at the meeting.

Dean Hill expressed how he has worked extensively with student #1 this school year during school and even after school with the Young Leaders Alliance, male mentoring program. Student has a behavioral contract, the contract allows him opportunities to be rewarded for exemplary behavior (lunch of choice, a basketball, and other incentives). Unfortunately, this behavioral contract was short lived. The student continuously violates the school's technology policy, has threatened students and staff, and now has been brought before the board for harassment and fighting another student.

Student explained the other student initiated the fight by calling him out of his name using profanity and pushing him at school on the stairs. He was aware of the school's policy concerning fighting, so he suggested fighting off school grounds to the other student. The student he fought reported the fight the next school day to Dean Hill. The student answered the board that his fighting is triggered by students threatening him. The parent explained her student is in need of some coping techniques for controlling anger, in addition to IEP testing. The parent request is for the student to remain in school as the school year is nearing an end, the challenge would be getting the student enrolled in another school.

President Scott explained to the student having a bad attitude, bad grades and the inability to respond to challenges will only lead to more unwarranted consequences creating a negative future. When decisions are made out of frustration there are consequences and as you get older the consequences are greater. The student has to take ownership and be accountable for their actions.

Principal Dr. Howard suggested the student not be expelled; however, the student can only come back into the building to complete his final exams and for any Special Education assessments scheduled for the 2022-2023 school year. The student will receive his work in packet form and through Google Classroom on Monday and Wednesday. Submission of the completed work will be on Wednesday and Friday. The student will meet virtually with Dr. Howard for assistance with any assignments.

Motion made by Reginald Scott to support Student #1 Plan of Action to return to school. The Plan of Action was devised by the principal which consists of the following: the student can only come back into the building to complete his final exams and for any Special Education assessments scheduled for the 2022-2023 school year. The student will receive his work in packet form and through Google Classroom on Monday and Wednesday. Submission of the completed work will be on Wednesday and Friday. The student will meet virtually with Dr. Howard for assistance with any assignments.

Board moved to approve the Plan of Action. Motion made by Reginald Scott and seconded by Tamika Bryant-Cromer.

➤ Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

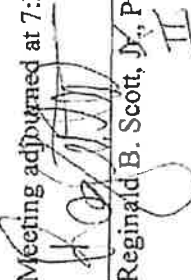
3 Yeas and 0 Nays

The motion was approved.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.


Reginald B. Scott, Jr., President