

**STEAM ACADEMY BOARD MEETING
AGENDA/MINUTES 3/10/2021**

School Name	STEAM Academy	
Charter Number	#4270	
Date	3/10/2021	
Address	1250 Fifield Ave, Falcon Heights, MN 55108 Via ZOOM. A ZOOM link was provided to the public.	
Board Members Present	Role	
Hamada Aboubakr	Board Chair	
Sarah Chebli	Board Vice Chair	
Joseph Lopez	Board Secretary	
Mahdi Nur	Board treasurer	
Board Members Absent		
Tamer Sharafeldin	Board member	
Community members present		
Luli Axhijaj	Startup Coordinator	
Wendy Swanson	NEO representative	
Call to Order	By	Time
	Hamada Aboubakr	6:42 pm
School Mission Statement		
<p>Mission: STEAM Academy’s mission is to provide a student-centered learning environment where all of its students, families, and communities apply the civic skills needed to wisely meet the common good through personal and public education. Our school strives to answer the question, “Why do I need to know this?” from diverse perspectives: culturally responsive, critical thinking, life-long learning, gender neutral, community informed, cross generational, and any other viewpoint that produces a greater public good.</p> <p>Vision: STEAM Academy embraces a multidisciplinary curriculum with an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) to provide a learning-for-understanding environment which values personal and community accountability, creativity, diversity, critical thinking, and multiculturalism. We believe that schools can prepare their students for greater understanding of profound issues through collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving. We believe this is possible when learning is done with purpose.</p>		
Community Comment		
Public Comment is an open forum portion of the meeting and is an opportunity to present an issue, concern, or other statement to the Board of Directors. Individuals wishing to address the Board must sign up prior to the Call to Order and will be allotted three (3) minutes. Total		

public comment will be limited to twenty one (21) minutes:			
No comments			
Declaration of Conflict of Interest if any			
Board members read the agenda and disclose if they have any real or perceived conflict of interest with any agenda item.			
Approval of the Agenda			
Motion	Motion made by at 6:53 pm		
Made by: Sarah Chebli		Seconded by: Joe Lopez	
Discussion	No discussion		
	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	4	0	0
Agenda			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve previous meeting minutes 2. Updates of hiring startup coordinator 3. Hiring an accountant firm 4. The building search updates 			

1. Approve previous meeting minutes
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Motion	Motion made by 6:53 pm		
Made by: Sarah Chebli		Seconded by: Joe Lopez	
Discussion	No Discussion		
	Yes	Nay	Abstain
	4	0	0

2. Updates of hiring start up coordinator
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3. Hiring an accountant firm

Motion	Motion made Hamada Aboubakr by 7:28 pm		
Made by: Hamada Aboubakr		Seconded by: Sarah Chebli	
Discussion	The board has decided to utilize the services that TAG/Anton group can		

	provide.		
	Yes	Nay	Abstain
	4	0	0

Motion	Motion to give Luli Axhijaj authorization to hire and work with all dealings with TAG/Anton group made Hamada Aboubakr by 7:33 pm		
Made by: Mahdi Nur		Seconded by: Joe Lopez	
Discussion	The board will authorize Luli Axhijaj to hire and work with all dealing with TAG and Anton group.		
	Yes	Nay	Abstain
	4	0	0

4. The building search updates

Adjourn Meeting			
Motion	Motion to adjourn meeting made by Hamada Aboubakr at 8:03 pm		
Made by: Hamada Aboubakr		Seconded by: Joe Lopez	
Discussion	none		
Vote was unanimous			
	Yes	Nay	Abstain
	4	0	0

1. Updates of hiring startup coordinator
 - a. The board offered the job to Luli Axhijaj as a contractor and initially offered him what the board had decided. The board negotiated with Luli Axhijaj for increased hourly rate and came to an agreement. The main reason was to increase the hourly rate, because the second best option the board had for a startup coordinator would have needed much more time to learn how to start a school. Luli Axhijaj already had that experience and the board felt that his expertise was needed in order to start the school by the 2021-2022 school year in an efficient time constraint.
 - b. The board members in attendance agree that the reason why we chose to go with Luli Axhijaj as a contractor was due to the time constraint and agree that hiring the most experienced person available was the best option.

2. Hiring an accountant firm

- a. In order to provide pay stubs and responds to IRS tax forms and deal with all other expenditures, budget, and finance needs we will need an accountant firm. There are other CSP guidelines that we need to follow before the CSP grant money is spent. Luli has worked with vendors and received five different proposals for services that he is recommending:
 - i. Designs for learning
 - ii. CM
 - iii. BerganKDV
 - iv. CLA
 - v. TAG Anton group
- b. In reviewing all of the proposals for each group, TAG/Anton group is in the middle ground for cost, and has a lot of familiarity with CSP grant. We have researched and taken into consideration all of the companies. This is a proper procurement. Sarah, Mahdi, Joe and Hamada all agree that TAG is the best available firm. The board also will give all authority to Luli Axhijaj for signing the contract and all dealings with the TAG/Anton group.

3. Building search updates

- a. Luli has found a few facilities. Some of the facilities are not school ready and will not be ready to use by 2021-2022. However those buildings will still be taken into consideration.
 - i. **180 W Rose Ave.**
 1. Shared lunchroom from two different interconnected buildings
 2. Building has school bus drop offs for each school
 3. The utilities in the building will provide a large financial burden as the building is very large. There is also a school playground, but that would be shared with the current school
 4. Enrollment may be a challenge as there is already an elementary school in the current building.
 5. This current location has a dense population and will allow for a diverse population.
 - ii. **643 Virginia St.**
 1. 8 classrooms and a gym. 4 classrooms on the top level and 1 classroom in the basement. It is a building currently owned by St. Paul City schools.
 2. Very good shape and a very good building.
 3. Easy for recruitment. The cost will also be quite less compared to all of the other buildings. It does not have a playground, but does have a fenced area. There is also room to potentially build their own playground.
 - iii. **1330 Blaire Ave**
 1. The building is owned by St. Columba Church. It is used by a current charter school that is moving out. The area is really nice,

the building has about 20 classrooms. ADA compliant, but is not fully sprinkled.

2. There are window AC units only in the classrooms.

STEAM Academy Authorizer:

Novation Education Opportunities (NEO), 3432 Denmark Avenue Suite 103. Eagan, MN.
55123.

Phone: 612-889-2103

Fax: 612-870-1200

Email: executive.director.email@gmail.com

<http://www.neoauthorizer.org>