

STEAM Academy Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, Nov 17th, 2022 – 6:00 PM

Meeting Address: Online Meeting using Zoom (Audio & Video)

Interested individuals from the public who would like to attend the meeting, should email: info@steamacademymn.org with their Name, email address and phone # by
Noon on 11-17-2022

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.

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.

Meeting Minutes:

- ❖ Present: 6:00 PM: Board Members: Makia Jama, Hamada Aboubakr, Sarah Chebli, and Mahdi Nur (6:20pm)
- ❖ Public: Magdy Rabeaa, Joseph Soveine, Luli Axhijaj, Bonnie Schwieger (Abdo), Adam Myhand, and Amina Adan
- ❖ Approval of Agenda. 6:05pm: motioned by Sarah, seconded by Maryam, motion passed unanimously

- ❖ Reading STEAM Academy Mission and Vision: Sarah read the mission and vision out loud.
- ❖ Comments/Questions from the public, 2 minutes per person: No comments from the public.
- ❖ Approval of previous meeting minutes for the month May, August, and October (6:15): motioned by Maryam, seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously with making minor changes due to typos.
- ❖ Board checks for Conflict of Interest: No conflict of interest from the Board members.
- ❖ Audit Report presentation from Abdo by Bonnie Schwieger – The audit went well for 2021-2022 school year, obtained all the balances, clean and unmodified information. The school ending the year on June 30, 2022 with a 27% fund balance, \$261,561. This is a very healthy fund balance for a small school finishing the very first year of operation. There is one finding due to late timed payments. The statute says to pay within 35 days after the received date. This finding is very common for the brand-new schools as cash flow is low and due to the late reimbursements from the CSP grant. Board members asked for more information about budgeting for the next year and the plans to learn from the 2021-2022 audit.
- ❖ Motion to accept Financial audit FY2022 after adding SPS on the lines: motioned by Hamada, seconded by Mahdi, motion passes unanimously.
- ❖ Financial Update Budget/Financial Update: Joseph Soveine (from EdFinMN) provided a summary of financial statement for October of 2022. Board members reviewed the check registry and had no questions regarding expenditures. ED and Joseph provided explanation / clarification to expenditure questions. Lease Aid application is not approved yet waiting on the emergency action to be board approved.
- ❖ Motion to accept October 2022 financials at 6:35pm: motioned by Hamada, seconded by Makia, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ RFP for financial services: EdFinMN has told the admin team that they are no longer able to continue providing services due to staffing in their company. The board chair and the admin team will start to search for other vendors.

- ❖ Motion to approve RFP for financial services at 6:30 pm: Motioned by Sarah, seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Executive Director presented the World's Best Workforce Summary Report the board members had some discussions about the smart goals.
- ❖ Motion to approve WBWF Summary Report at 6:45pm: motioned by Mahdi, seconded by Makia, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Executive Director presented the STEAM Academy's Annual Report, the Board had a discussion about the learning progress and changes to be made to better educate the students.
- ❖ Motion to approve Annual Report at 7pm: Motioned by Sarah, seconded by Makia, motion passed unanimously
- ❖ Executive Director presented the Emergency Action Plan due to moving to the current school building for this year. The school had a fire drill already and plan to have more drills to have students practice for emergencies. The Emergency Action plan is shared with the Fire Marshal and MDE.
- ❖ Motion to approve Emergency Action Plan at 7:10pm: motioned by Hamada, seconded by Makia, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Executive Director updated the board on the school's progress and hiring update.
- ❖ Next meeting: January 5th, 2023
- ❖ Adjourn the meeting: Motioned by Makia, seconded by Sarah, motion passed unanimously at 7:15pm.