

STEAM Academy Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023 – 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 12-07-2023.

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:
 - Board Members: Sarah Chebli, Mahdi Nur, and Hamada Aboubakr.
 - Public: Magdy Rabeaa, Luli Axhijaj, Hassan Mohamed, and Tu Nguyen from NEO Authorizer.
- ❖ Reading STEAM Academy Mission and Vision: Sarah Chebli read the mission and vision.
- ❖ Conflict of Interest Check by Sarah Chebli (Board Chair): None
- ❖ Comments/Questions from the Public, 2 minutes per person: Tu Nguyen from NEO Authorizer thanked everyone for the opportunity to be present at the meeting. He thanked the Board and the leadership team for the hard work. He also reminded the Board and the Leadership Team to schedule the learning walk, the formal site visit, and send any remaining items for the Epicenter system.

- ❖ Agenda
 - Approval of Agenda. 6:09pm: motioned by Sarah, seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Previous Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed the Meeting minutes from September's Board meeting, they look good and nothing to be corrected.
 - Approval of previous meeting minutes from September 14, 2023 (6:11pm): motioned by Hamada, seconded by Mahdi, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Financial Update Approval: Due to the absence of the Controller from the finance vendor, Luli went through the financial reports for August, September, and October. The Board had a chance to review the financial reports before and discussed them at the meeting.
 - Motion to approve the August, September, and October 2023 financials at 6:20pm: motioned by Mahdi, seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Audit presentation for 2022-2023 will be presented at the next Board meeting.
- ❖ Staffing update / approval: Emily Long and Ola Abdulfatah were hired to replace the two teachers that resigned.
 - Motion to approve the hiring of Emily Long and Ola Abdulfatah at 6:27pm: motioned by Hamada, seconded by Mahdi, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Facility Lease Agreement approval: The lease agreement was provided to all the Board members and attendees for review, discussion, and approval.
 - Motion to approve the facility lease agreement at 6:32pm: motioned by Hamada, seconded by Mahdi, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ World's Best Work Force summary and Annual Report approval: The Board reviewed and discussed the WBWF summary and Annual Report.
 - Motion to approve World's Best Work Force summary and Annual Report for 2022-2023 at 6:37pm: motioned by Hamada, seconded by Sarah, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Operations and Academic updates: The Leadership team provided an update that STEAM academy moved to a new building in Inver Grove Heights. The student transportation is a little challenging due to the distance serving a number of cities from where the school is located. The Administration and teachers are working very hard. The Administration is providing Professional Developments to teachers every week. The teachers and students have access and are receiving trainings on: MobyMax, Into Reading and Origo Math Curriculum. The NWEA testing was finished in September and will be administered again after the winter break. The school is preparing for the Parent Culture Night that is scheduled on December 14, 2023 from 6:30pm-8:00pm. The schools held about three field trips, one outside the building (Airplane rides) and two in-school field trips.

- ❖ Policies review and updates: The Board discussed some of the school policies and updates as necessary. The required policies were submitted to MDE and NEO Authorizer along with Charter School Assurances.
- ❖ Board members update: The Board discussed the membership status of Makia Jama and accept her resignation since she did not return as teacher at STEAM Academy for 2023-2024. The Board also discussed on adding Abshiro Jateny as a board member.
 - Motion to accept the resignation of Makia Jama at 6:47pm: motioned by Hamada, seconded by Sarah, motion passed unanimously.
 - Motion to add Abshiro Jateny to the STEAM Academy Board at 6:49pm: motioned by Hamada, seconded by Sarah, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Suggested items: The next meeting is on January 4, 2024.
- ❖ Adjourn the meeting - Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:51pm: motioned by Sarah, seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously.