

STEAM Academy Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 4, 2024 – 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 01-04-2024.

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:

- ❖ Call to Order: The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.
- ❖ Present:
 - Board Members: Sarah Chebli, Mahdi Nur, Hamada Aboubakr, and Abshiro Jateny
 - Public: Luli Axhijaj, Hassan Mohamed, Bonnie Schwieger (from Abdo) and Tommi Martinson (from Creative Planning).
- ❖ 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: There was no public comments.
- ❖ Agenda
 - Approval of Agenda. 6:07pm: motioned by Mahdi, seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously.

- ❖ Previous Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from December's Board meeting, the minutes look good.
 - Approval of previous meeting minutes from December 7, 2023 (6:10pm): motioned by Hamada, seconded by Mahdi, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ 2022-2023 Audit – Bonnie Schwieger from Abdo presented the Financial Audit for 2022-2023. The audit reports were also emailed to the MDE (State) by December 31st, 2023. The school finished the school year with a healthy positive fund balance. The percentage of the fund balance will be higher to what is shown on the report due to the payback by the MDE for the Special Education Services. Sometimes the payback is delayed until March or even later in the year.
 - Approval of 2022-2023 Audit Reports (6:22pm): motioned by Sarah, seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Financial Update Approval: Tommi Martinson presented the financial reports for November. The Board reviewed and discussed the financial reports.
 - Motion to approve the November 2023 financials at 6:29pm: motioned by Mahdi, seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ 2023-2024 Budget Revision: The Board discussed about the Budget and revision will need to happen in the future Board meetings.
 - Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Revision at 6:38pm as presented by Tommi: motioned by Mahdi, seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Operations and Academic updates: An Operations and Academic update was provided by the Leadership Team. The school year is going well with lots of learning and events at the school. STEAM Academy held the Parent Culture night on December 14th, 2023, almost all the families and some community members attended the event, students dressed on traditional clothes and families brought different kind of food to share. Then the school went on Winter break and came back in-session this Tuesday, Jan 2, 2024. STEAM Academy will start the mid-year NWEA Testing on the week of January 22nd, then will start the WIDA Access Testing for ELL students sometimes in mid-February.
- ❖ Suggested items: The Board meeting for July.
 - Motion to change the July's scheduled Board meeting from July 4th to July 18th, motioned by Hamada at 6:40pm, seconded by Sarah, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Adjourn the meeting - Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:45pm: motioned by Sarah, seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously.