

STEAM Academy Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 7, 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 03-07-2024.

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 6:08pm.
- ❖ Present:
 - Board Members: Sarah Chebli, Mahdi Nur, and Hamada Aboubakr
 - Public: Luli Axhijaj, and Adam Myhand (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: Adam Myhand from NEO Authorizer stated that he is happy to attend the meeting and nothing to add, but looking forward to the Annual Site Visit that is scheduled for next week.
- ❖ Agenda
 - Approval of Agenda. 6:13pm: motioned by Hamada, seconded by Mahdi, motion passed unanimously.

- ❖ Previous Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from January's Board meeting, the minutes look good.
 - Approval of previous meeting minutes from January 4, 2024 (6:16pm): motioned by Hamada, seconded by Mahdi, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Financial Update Approval: Luli presented the financial reports for December and January. The Board had a chance to review them before and they discussed them at the meeting.
 - Motion to approve the December's and January's financial reports at 6:24pm: motioned by Hamada, seconded by Mahdi, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Lease aid Application Update: Luli gave an update on the school facility and lease aid application. All the inspections have been finished, reports have been sent from the Fire Marshal and everything is up to code. The lease aid applications forms have been submitted electronically to each Board member and Board Chair for signatures. The lease aid application will be submitted to MDE by Monday.
- ❖ Operations and Academic updates: An Operations and Academic update was provided by Luli. Things are going well, the school held the Parent-Teacher Conferences successfully, the parents are happy and the monthly assemblies are occurring as scheduled. The Administration and the teachers are working really hard after the winter break. They are preparing students for MCA Testing and then for NWEA Spring Tests. The Professional Development opportunities are provided to the teachers on Friday afternoons.
- ❖ Grants update: Luli mentioned that Magdy and the grant manager are working on some grants that are available for the school.
- ❖ Board Members: A motion was made (6:32pm) by Mahdi and second by Hamada and motion passed unanimously to remove Abshire Jateny and Omran Alzahrani from the Board effective April 1, 2024. Also, a motion was made (6:33pm) by Hamada and Second by Mahdi to approve the two new Board members; Amir Mohammed and Abdallah Mohammed, motion passed unanimously
- ❖ Board Members Training – Luli had sent the videos to watch for the Board Training before the Board meeting. There were opportunities for any questions or concerns for the Board members.
- ❖ Board Election – Motion by Sarah (6:36pm) and seconded by Mahdi to appoint Mr. Luli Axhijaj as the Board Election Commissioner for STEAM Academy, motion passed unanimously. He will create the plan and make it available to public and send it to all the Board members, parents, and staff.
- ❖ Evaluation of CMO Services – Motion by Mahdi (6:39pm) and Seconded by Hamada to authorize the Board Chair to do an evaluation of the CMO Services provided to STEAM Academy, the motion passed unanimously.

- ❖ Other Suggested items: None
- ❖ Adjourn the meeting - Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40pm: motioned by Sarah, seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously.