

## STEAM Academy Board Meeting Minutes

**Date: Thursday, November 21, 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](mailto:info@steamacademymn.org) with their Name, email address and phone # by Noon on 11-21-2024.

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**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 Vice Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.
- ❖ Present:
  - Board Members: Hamada Aboubakr, Mahdi Nur, and Amir Mahmud
  - Public: Magdy Rabeaa, Luli Axhijaj, Tu (NEO Authorizer), Kelly Rimpila, and Marcy Myers
- ❖ Reading STEAM Academy Mission and Vision: Hamada Aboubakr (Vice Board Chair) read the mission and vision.
- ❖ Conflict of Interest Check by Hamada Aboubakr (Vice Board Chair): None
- ❖ Comments/Questions from the Public, 2 minutes per person: Tu thanked the Board and the leadership team for the opportunity to join the Board meeting and for the hard work. He also invited the Board and leadership team to NEO's Fall Celebration of Leading and Learning.
- ❖ Agenda

- Approval of Agenda at 6:12pm - Motioned by Mahdi, seconded by Amir, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed and discussed the previous meeting minutes from September 2024.
  - Approval of September meeting's minutes - Motioned by Amir at 6:15pm, seconded by Mahdi, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Approval of the Financial Reports
  - Kelly from Creative Planning presented the financial reports for September and October 2024. The Board discussed the financial reports and asked questions. The financial reports and cash flow look good. STEAM Academy is almost finished with the 2023-2024 financial audit and the audit reports will be presented at the next Board meeting. Motion to approve the financial reports as presented: motioned by Mahdi at 6:28pm, seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Board Training / Board Development Plan

Marcy Myers started by thanking the STEAM Academy Board members and leadership team for the opportunity to join and do a Board training. The Board had completed the survey for the needs assessments and the results were analyzed. Marcy showed the videos on the following topics per Board training requirements: Evaluate Progress Toward Goals, Conduct Financial Oversight of Pupil Units, Meet Requirements for Serving English Language Learners. The Board also took the exam (quiz) at the end of the three training topics.

#### ❖ Operations and Academic Update

Magdy provided the Executive Director's Report / Update for Steam Academy Board Meeting. Enrollment: We currently have 72 students enrolled. This year, we are seeing a much more diverse student population compared to last year, which is a positive development for our community. Staffing Update: The school is fully staffed for the year. We are excited to welcome two new staff members: Rahma Jama and Saynab Farah, who bring valuable skills and experience to our team. Intervention Sessions: We have started intervention sessions, utilizing data from NWEA and FASTBridge assessments to guide our approach and ensure targeted support for students. Professional Learning Communities (PLC): Weekly PLC meetings continue, alongside staff development sessions, to ensure that we are fostering a collaborative and growth-focused environment for all educators. Partnerships (In-School and Out-of-School): We are building strong partnerships with several organizations to enhance our students' learning experiences,

including: Dodge Nature Center, Runway Rookies, Go Wild Nutrition Program at the University of Minnesota, Snake Discovery, and others that will be introduced soon. These partnerships will provide valuable enrichment opportunities both in and outside of school. Parent-Teacher Conferences: We had a strong turnout for Parent-Teacher Conferences, with about 80% of families attending in person. For the remaining families, teachers will follow up via phone calls, Zoom meetings, or in-person meetings. The feedback from families has been overwhelmingly positive, and they are pleased with the services provided by the school. Winter Jacket Donations: We are currently seeking donations of winter jackets for some of our students who are in need. Any support in this area would be greatly appreciated to ensure that all students are prepared for the colder months. Monthly Assemblies: We continue to hold monthly assemblies to celebrate and recognize "Students of the Month" and those who are embodying the theme of the month through their behavior. These assemblies are well-attended by families and provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen our school community.

❖ Contract Approvals

- The Board approved the contract for hiring two staff members (A Special Education Teacher and a Paraprofessional). Hamada made the motion at 7:04pm to approve the contracts for hiring and Amir seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

❖ 2023-2024 Annual Report

- Luli presented the STEAM Academy 2023-2024 Annual Report to the Board of Directors. The Board discussed the Annual Report as presented. Luli asked the Board or Tu for any feedback. Amir made the motion at 7:14pm to approve the 2023-2024 Annual Report with minor edits and Mahdi seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

❖ Other Suggested items at 7:15pm: No other suggested items.

- ❖ Adjourn the meeting - Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm: motioned by Amir, seconded by Mahdi, motion passed unanimously.