

STEAM Academy Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 – 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 1-9-2025.

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 6:03pm.
- ❖ Present:
 - Board Members: Sarah Chebli, Hamada Aboubakr, Mahdi Nur, and Amir Mahmud
 - Public: Magdy Rabeaa, Luli Axhijaj, Bonnie Schwieger (Abdo Solutions), Kelly Rimpila, and Marcy Myers
- ❖ Reading STEAM Academy Mission and Vision: Sarah Chebli (Board Chair) read the mission and vision.
- ❖ Conflict of Interest Check by Sarah Chebli (Board Chair): None
- ❖ Comments/Questions from the Public, 2 minutes per person: No public comments.
- ❖ Agenda
 - Approval of Agenda at 6:10pm - Motioned by Mahdi, seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed and discussed the previous meeting minutes from November 2024.

- Approval of November meeting's minutes - Motioned by Hamada at 6:14pm, seconded by Mahdi, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ 2023-2024 Audit Report – Bonnie from (Abdo Solutions) presented the STEAM Academy Financial Audit Report for the school year 2023-2024. The STEAM Academy leadership and Creative Planning did an excellent job during the 2023-2024 school year. There are no findings (zero findings) and STEAM Academy reached the 20% fund balance as of June 30, 2024. The financial audit documents will be emailed to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and State before the December 31, 2024 deadline. Mahdi made the motion at 6:31pm and Amir seconded the motion to approve the audit report; the motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Approval of the Financial Reports
 - Kelly from Creative Planning did present and went over the financial reports for November 2024. The financials reports are based on a working budget (72 ADM). The Board discussed the financial reports and asked questions. The financial reports and cash flow look really good. Motion to approve the financial reports as presented: motioned by Mahdi at 6:49pm, seconded by Amir, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Board Training / Board Development Plan
 - Marcy Myers started by thanking the Board again for the opportunity to do another Board training. The topics of the trainings were: Understanding employment laws in Charter Schools and Strategic Planning. There were presentations on both topics. The Board also took the exam (quiz) at the end of the training.
- ❖ Operations and Academic Update
 - Magdy provided the Executive Director's Report / Update: The enrollment is 76 as of now and still more students are expected to come. The staffing is very stable and there are no changes. We are providing twice a month Professional Developments for teachers and Staff. We are about to start the Winter Testing; Fast Bridge, NWEA and WIDA Access for ELL students. We have been having regular field trips. We are working with Minnesota Department of Transportation; they are coming to work on building a bridge between 5 with 12 feet long and then disassemble it again when it's finished. The spirit week is this week. We have Parent Teachers Conferences coming up and have Family night in February. Also, STEAM Academy is launching a reading program for students to read books.
- ❖ Other Suggested items at 7:32pm: No other suggested items.
- ❖ Adjourn the meeting - Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33pm: motioned by Sarah, seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously.