

STEAM Academy Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, May 8th, 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 5-8-2025.

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 (Sarah Chebli) called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
- ❖ Present:
 - Board Members: Sarah Chebli, Hamada Aboubakr, Mahdi Nur, Santa Fe Patawaran, and Amir Mahmud
 - Public: Magdy Rabeaa, Luli Axhijaj, Kelly Rimpila (Creative Planning), Tu, and Dan Jett (NEO Authorizer)
- ❖ Reading STEAM Academy Mission and Vision: Sarah (Board Chair) read the mission and vision.
- ❖ Conflict of Interest Check by Sarah (Board Chair): None
- ❖ Comments/Questions from the Public, 2 minutes per person: No public comments (And nothing from Dan Jett).
- ❖ Agenda
 - Approval of Agenda at 6:05 pm - Motioned by Hamada, seconded by Mahdi, motion passed unanimously by a roll call.

- ❖ Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed and approved the previous meeting minutes. The motioned by Hamada and seconded by Mahdi, Motion passed unanimously by a roll call to approve the meeting minutes from March 2025.
- ❖ Approval of the Financial Reports - Kelly presented the March financial reports, cash is looking strong as of \$285,904. We are 75% of the way for the year as of March 31, 2025. The 990 was approved by the Board and it is filed now. We are expecting a \$292,000 cash flow at the end of the school year. Motioned by Hamada and seconded by Mahdi and motion passed unanimously by roll a call.
- ❖ Revised Budget Approval for 2024-2025 - Motion by Hamada and seconded by Mahdi and the motion passed unanimously by a roll call to approve the revised budget for 2024-2025 school year.
- ❖ 2025-2026 Budget Approval – Kelly presented the budget for 2025-2026 school year with 2.7% increase from the state, and based on 117 students. Motion by Hamada and Seconded by Sarah and motion passes unanimously by a roll call to approve the budget as presented.
- ❖ Academic and Operations Update – The enrollment is stable; we are getting some new students these last few weeks. We had one teacher on leave and had a staff who came to join the team, all the staff are coming back next year. We have the Professional Development Sessions happening in Bi-weekly, finished the MCA testing we will share the MCA preliminary results in the future meeting, we are getting ready for FastBridge assessment required for ReadAct and we will start the NWEA Assessments. We have some field trips organized, aviation field trip, next week field trip is at Dodge Nature Center in Cottage Grove and the students will learn about farms and animal. There will be a fun field trip to sky zone. We are in the process of fixing some Air Condition Units in the building because it started to be hot in the classrooms.
- ❖ NEO Authorizer – Tu presented the contract and went through it, and the Board will have a change to make a revision to the contract and goals by June 30th of 2025. Then, Tu started going into the Performance framework. The Academics still need some work and might improve based on the new testing results, the Operations is at 100%, and the Finance section is also at 100%.
- ❖ Staff Contract Approvals – Staff contracts renewals will be between 3% to 5% approval.
- ❖ CMO Contract – The Board discussed the CMO Contract and Services. Motion made by Mahdi and seconded by Hamada and motion passed unanimously by a roll call to continue with the contract and services with SPS (CMO).

- ❖ Vendor Contract Approval – The SPED Director, SPED related Services, Cleaning Services, Transportation, Leading Educational Services, LLC (IT & Operations & Compliance Services), ReadAct, ELL & Instructional Coaching Services, and Food Services. Mahdi made the motion and it was seconded by Sarah and all the vendor contracts were approved as presented by a unanimous roll call.
- ❖ 2025-2026 Lease Agreement Approval – motion to approve the lease agreement by Mahdi and seconded by Sarah, the motion passed unanimously by a roll call.
- ❖ Remove the Board member. Motion by Mahdi to accept the resignation of Abdallah Mohamed from the STEAM Board and seconded by Hamada, motion passed unanimously by a roll call.
- ❖ Other Suggested Agenda Items – None
- ❖ Adjourn – Sarah made the motion and seconded by Hamada and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm by a unanimous roll call.