

## STEAM Academy Board Meeting Minutes

**Date: Thursday, September 18, 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](mailto:info@steamacademymn.org) with their Name, email address and phone # by Noon on 9-18-2025.

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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 Board Chair (Sarah Chebli) called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.
- ❖ Present:
  - Board Members: Sarah Chebli, Mahdi Nur, Santa Fe Patawaran, and Amir Mahmud
  - Public: Kelly Rimpila (Creative Planning) and Luli Axhijaj
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Agenda - Approval of Agenda at 6:07 pm - Motioned by Amir and seconded by Santa Fe, motion passed unanimously by a roll call.
- ❖ Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes - The Board reviewed and approve the previous meeting minutes for May and June 2025. - Motioned by Mahdi, seconded by Santa Fe, motion passed unanimously by a roll call.
- ❖ Approval of the Financial Reports - Kelly from Creative Planning presented the Financial Reports and supplements for June 2025. The cash is looking very good. The lease aid application was approved by MDE on June 4, 2025. There is a large state hold back receivable to come in fall of 2025. The Board had a chance to review and discuss the financial reports as presented. Santa Fe made the motion and Mahdi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call to approve the financial reports.
- ❖ Audit 2024-2025 Update – An update was provided to the Board. STEAM Academy will start the 2024-2025 school audit with Abdo Solutions firm around mid-October and we are working hard on preparing for it.
- ❖ Line of Credits Update – Luli shared a quick update that STEAM Academy has finally secured a line of credit with American National Bank. There was a meeting and a lot documents shared with American National Bank for the line of credit approval. The line of credit is available to be used only if necessary and the fee is only around \$350.00. Motion to accept the line of credit approval made by Mahdi, and seconded by Santa Fe and motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Finance Committee – The new requirement for the 2025-2026 school year is for all the schools to have the Finance Committee. The STEAM Academy’s Finance Committee consists of; Sarah Chebli (Board Chair), Luli, and Kelly Rimpila (Finance Manager from Creative Learning). Motion to approve the committee made by Sarah, seconded by Mahdi and motion passes unanimously by a roll call. The committee will meet regularly once a month or every other month as needed.
- ❖ Board Training/Performance and Board Development Plan – The Board training will be continuing again this year at the Board meetings after the self-assessment is completed from each Board member. The emails for surveys were sent to each board member to complete them.

- ❖ Approve the Mutual Cancellation of CMO contract effective as of 8/1/2025 – The Board discussed the contract cancellation with Students Prepared to Succeed (CMO). The Board thanked the SPS for their services for the last four years. Motion made by Sarah and seconded by Amir and motion passed unanimously
  
- ❖ Staffing – Amir made the motion and Mahdi seconded it to accept the hiring of Soad Abdelhamid as the new STEAM Director and also Maeda Muneeb as the Dean of Students & Paraprofessional. Magdy Rabeaa moved on to be the school director at another charter school. The Board thanked Magdy for his hard work and leadership for the past four years with STEAM Academy through SPS (CMO) Services.
  
- ❖ Review / Approve of Contracts Approval (If any) – There were no contracts to approve at this Board meeting.
  
- ❖ Policies to approve (If Any) – No Policies to approve at this Board meeting.
  
- ❖ Academic and Operations Update – A quick Operation and Academic updated was provided to the Board. The school year started successfully; all the staff returned from the previous school year. Also, the back-to-school night was a success and the students were happy to come back for the new school year. Two weeks of trainings (Professional Developments) were provided to all the teachers and staff in all different areas.
  
- ❖ Other Suggested Agenda Items – There are no other Agenda items or business to discuss.
  
- ❖ Adjourn – Mahdi made the motion to adjourn and Amir seconded it and motion passed unanimously by a roll call to adjourn the Board meeting at 6:52pm