

## STEAM Academy Board Meeting Minutes

**Date: Thursday, December 4, 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 12-4-2025.

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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 6:03pm.
- ❖ Present:
  - Board Members: Sarah Chebli, Mahdi Nur, Santa Fe Patawaran, and Amir Mahmud
  - Public: Bonnie Schwieger (Abdo Solutions), Ted Anderson (NEO Authorizer), Kelly Rimpila (Creative Planning), Maria Azizi, and Luli Axbijaj
- ❖ 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: Ted Anderson from NEO Authorizer introduced himself and the reason for him joining the meeting is to do an observation. He will send the report within 2 or 3 days.
  
- ❖ Agenda - Approval of Agenda - Motioned by Mahdi 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 September 2025. Motioned by Mahdi, seconded by Amir, motion passed unanimously by a roll call.
  
- ❖ Approval of the 2024-2025 Audit Report – Bonnie from Abdo Solutions presented the Audit Reports for 2024-2025 school year. The Abdo Solutions team finished the work and they were very pleased with the results of STEAM Academy. There are no audit findings (Zero Findings), a clean audit as presented, and the fund balance for 2024-2025 is 22.32%. The fund balance exceeds the goal which is 20%. Luli thanked Bonnie for their excellent services, Kelly (Creative Planning) for working hard and closely with the Administration, and the whole team for such a tremendous work. This is the second year in a row for STEAM Academy to get the clean audit (No audit findings) and over 20% fund balance since the new Administration took over to oversee the school finances and working with Creative Planning as a finance vendor. Motioned by Amir, seconded by Mahdi, motion passed unanimously by a roll call to approve the 2024-2025 Audit Report.
  
- ❖ Approval of the Financial Reports - Kelly from Creative Planning presented the Financial Reports and supplements for August, September, and October 2025. The cash is strong and financials are looking very good. The Board had a chance to review and discuss the financial reports as presented. Mahdi made the motion and Amir seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call to approve the financial reports as presented.
  
- ❖ Board Training – Angela from Instructional Designs went over the training after the board had watched the videos. The training was towards Policies, Policy approval and Guiding Boards in Policy Development – Quiz and Program Oversight and Evaluation. After the training was finished, the board members took the Quiz and all passed it successfully on these topics.

- ❖ Board Members (Remove/Add) – Mahdi made the motion and Amir Seconded to approve the resignation of Dr. Hamada Aboubakr. The Motion passes unanimously by a roll call. The Administration and the Board members thanked Dr. Hamada for his services to STEAM Academy for over six years.  
Then, Amir made the motion and Mahdi Seconded to approve Maria Azizi to join STEAM Academy Board as a Community Board Member. The Motion passed unanimously by a roll call. Maria brings a lot of experience to STEAM Academy Board, she had served as a Board member in a charter school for many years.
  
- ❖ Board Oath of Office for Charter School Member – Luli has emailed the attached form for each Board member to sign the form and to keep it in file per new requirement. Each Board member said that they will sign and email it back as discussed during the meeting.
  
- ❖ Review / Approve of Contracts Approval (If any) - Motion made by Amir and seconded by Mahdi and the motion passed unanimously by a roll call to approve the hiring of Abdinasser Ahmed as a new STEAM Director after Soad Abdelhamid’s resignation. Abdinasser brings over 15 years of experience working in Charter Schools and especially with students who majority of them are English Language Learners (ELL). Abdinasser has two current Teaching Licenses in the State of Minnesota.
  
- ❖ Policies to approve (STEAM Academy MN Paid Leave) – Amir Made the motion and Mahdi seconded to approve the STEAM Academy MN Paid Leave. The Motion passed unanimously by a roll call.
  
- ❖ STEAM Academy 2024-2025 Annual and CACR Report – The 2024-2025 Annual and CACR Report was presented to the Board. The Board reviewed and discussed the report. Amir made the motion and seconded by Mahdi and the motioned passed unanimously.
  
- ❖ Academic and Operations Update – Luli presented the Academic and Operations report by summarizing the attached report provided to all the Board members before the meeting.
  
- ❖ Other Suggested Agenda Items – There are no other Agenda items or business to discuss.
  
- ❖ Adjourn – Mahdi made the motion to adjourn and Sarah seconded it and motion passed unanimously by a roll call to adjourn the Board meeting.