

STEAM Academy Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, June 18, 2026 – 6:00 PM

Meeting Address: Online Meeting using Google Meet (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 06-18-2026.

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, Maria Azizi, Mahdi Nur, Amir Mohammed, and Santa Fe Patawaran
 - Public: Ted Anderson (NEO Authorizer), Angela Reali Crossland (Instructional Designs), Abdinasser Ahmed (Ex-Oficio) 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: Ted Anderson from NEO Authorizer introduced himself again to the Board as he attended for another Board Meeting's observation. He had sent the request for the link to join the Board meeting a few days before the meeting date and time.
- ❖ Agenda - Approval of Agenda - Motioned by Amir and seconded by Santa Fe, motion passed unanimously by a roll call to approve the Agenda for tonight's meeting.
- ❖ Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes - The Board reviewed and approve the previous meeting minutes for April 2, 2026. Motioned by Amir, seconded by Santa Fe, motion passed unanimously by a roll call.
- ❖ Approval of the Financial Reports –Luli presented the Financial Reports and supplements for April and May 2026. The Board discussed the financial statements as presented. The financial reports are on track and aligned to the 2025-2026 budget. Amir made the motion and Maria seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call to approve the financial reports as presented.
- ❖ Approve the 2025-2026 Budget Revision (Working Budget) – Luli also presented and summarized the 2025-2026 Budget revision based on the finance committee meeting's recommendation (Kelly, Sarah, and Luli). The finance committee meets regularly per requirements. Motioned by Maria and Mahdi seconded and motion passed by an unanimously roll call.
- ❖ Board Training – The Board training is provided again this month by Angela Crossland from Instructional Designs.
- ❖ Approve STEAM Academy and NEO Authorizer Contract – After the review and discussions, Amir made the motion and Santa Fe seconded it to approve the STEAM Academy and NEO Authorizer contract renewal for another three years. Motion passed by an unanimously roll call.
- ❖ Academic and Operations Update – Abdinasser Ahmed (Executive Director) presented the Academic and Operations report. The report was also shared with all prior to the Board meeting for a review. He presented on Academic progress, enrollment, interventions, staffing, professional developments, school assemblies, and school culture. It is exciting to see a huge increase on the Preliminary MCA Math Test results compare to last year and previous years. STEAM Academy expects similar results for

Reading as well once they become available to the public in the fall. The Spring NWEA results and growth are also excellent this year for both Reading and Math. The Teachers and intervention team worked really hard this year. The Board and Leadership Team stated that we are very happy with the 2025-2026 Academic results.

- ❖ Lease Aid Application for 2026-2027 – The Board received an update on the 2026-2027 lease aid application and submission status.
- ❖ Approval of the STEAM Language Access Plan (LAP) and Local Literacy Plan – The Board had a chance to review and discuss the documents. Amir made the motion and Maria seconded. The motion passes unanimously.
- ❖ Review / Approve of Hiring Staff (If Any) – Three current staff are not returning for 2026-2027 school year; those positions have been filled and the new staff will start in Fall of 2026. All teachers and staff have been giving contracts for the upcoming year with a five percent increase. STEAM Academy will be serving students in K-8 Grades for 2026-2027 school year, the 7th Grade students will come back to 8th Grade. Maria made the motion and Amir seconded and motion passes unanimously by a roll call.
- ❖ Review / Approve of Contracts Approval (If any) – Rehiring the current vendors and new vendors for Services for 2026-2027 school year. SPED Director from Indigo education, SPED related services, Transportation services (Bille Bus, Dire Dawa Transportation, The Lux Transportation LLC, and Greenway Transit), Leading Educational Services LLC, Zuleimy Cleaning Services, Abdinasser Ahmed, and other smaller amount related services contracts. Amir Made the motion to hire the vendors and independent contractors for services and Mahdi seconded. The motion passes unanimously by a roll call.
- ❖ Policies to approve – Admission Policy and Early Entrance Policies were revised and approved. Maria made the motion and Mahdi seconded and the motion passes unanimously.
- ❖ Other Suggested Agenda Items – There were no other Agenda items or business to discuss.
- ❖ Adjourn – Amir made the motion to adjourn and Sarah seconded it and motion passed unanimously to adjourn the Board meeting at 6:58pm.