

STEAM Academy Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 19, 2024 – 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 09-19-2024.

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, Mahdi Nur, Hamada Aboubakr, Abdallah Mohammed, and Amir Mahmud
 - Public: Magdy Rabeaa, Luli Axbijaj, and Wendy Swanson-Choi (NEO Authorizer)
- ❖ Reading STEAM Academy Mission and Vision: Sarah Chebli read the mission and vision.
- ❖ Conflict of Interest Check by Sarah Chebli (Board Chair): None
- ❖ Comments/Questions from the Public, 2 minutes per person: None
- ❖ Agenda
 - Approval of Agenda at 6:09pmm - Motioned by Hamada, seconded by Abdallah, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed and discussed the previous meeting minutes from May and June.

- Approval of previous meeting minutes - Motioned by Abdallah at 6:15pm, seconded by Sarah, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Board Training / Board Development Plan
 - Rod Hanke thanked the STEAM Academy Board members for the opportunity to join and present in regards to the STEAM Academy's Board training. The Board will complete the survey for the needs assessments and the results will be analyzed. The Board trainings will be conducted to meet the requirements and according to the Board development plan. The Board will do the homework on watching the video training tutorials and then come together as a team to discuss them and take the quiz together.
- ❖ Approval of the Financial Reports
 - Luli went over and presented the financial reports for April, May, June, July, and August. The Board discussed the financial reports; STEAM Academy is doing very good in terms of cashflow and paying the bills on-time (within 30 days). Motion to approve the financial reports as presented: motioned by Mahdi at 6:36pm, seconded by Abdallah, motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Update on the CSP Grant from 2023
 - The Admin Team and the Board discussed about the CSP Implementation 2 Grant. There is an amount of around \$82,000 to be paid back to MDE for the CSP Grant Implementation 2. The items were not purchased at that time with the CSP Grant due to the timing of the grant ending soon and due to not having enough cashflow to purchase the items within the window.
- ❖ Policies Updates
 - The Board had the opportunity to review the updated Procurement Policy before the Board meeting. Motion to approve the updated Procurement Policy at 6:49pm: Motioned by Abdallah, seconded by Amir, motion passed with three votes. Two Board members abstained from voting (Hamada and Mahdi).
- ❖ Operations and Academic Update
 - Magdy gave an update on Operations and Academic update. The current enrollment at STEAM Academy is at 74 students, a lot of diversity in terms of students. STEAM Academy has two Pilipino teachers with many years of experience. STEAM Academy is fully staffed for the year. One of the STEAM Academy's teachers is enrolled in the Master's degree (K-6 General Education Program). The transportation system currently has some hiccups, but the school is working on to resolve some of those issues. STEAM Academy has been providing Professional Developments (PDs) on Fridays and staff meetings from

2pm-4:30pm. There is a partnership program for students to go in the airplane rides and another program for STEM nature field trips.

For Academics, STEAM Academy provided two weeks of Professional Developed for staff before the school started. There were PD sessions on State Standards, Pacing Guides, Assessments, and MobyMax. There are goals put in place, to grow by 20% in MCA and having 80% of students who make the one years of growth in NWEA by the end of the year.

Magdy shared on the screen the list of the law changes from the state statues. The Board discussed about them and decided to put them in a document with tracking on who will be responsible to take the lead on these changes.

- ❖ Contract Approvals
 - The Board reviewed and discussed the vendors and staffing contracts for 2024-2025 school year. Sarah made the motion at 7:08pm to approve the contracts as presented and Mahdi seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
- ❖ Continuing with American National Bank – The Board and the Admin team discussed the services provided by the American National Bank to STEAM Academy. It has been a great experience on working with American National Bank. Mahdi made the motion to continue the services with the American National Bank and Abdallah seconded and the motion passes unanimously.
- ❖ Other Suggested items at 7:15pm: No other suggested items.
- ❖ Adjourn the meeting - Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm: motioned by Sarah, seconded by Mahdi, motion passed unanimously.