

Rochester STEM Academy  
 District #4204  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
 Wednesday, May 17, 2017 5:00 p.m.  
 Rochester STEM Academy 415 16<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Rochester, MN

**Call to order:** Mohamoud Hamud called the meeting to order at 5:01p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Zach Jones, Mohamoud Hamud, Mohamed Abdalla, Abdulkadir Abdalla, Ayan Mumin

**Absent:**

**Others present:** Bryan Rossi, Robert Procaccini, Kalim Curtis, Ali Yare, and Munira Alimire

***Vision***

*A community focused school providing a rigorous STEM education.*

***Mission***

*The mission of Rochester STEM Academy is to provide a highly supportive learning environment for minority, immigrant, and other students currently underserved in traditional area high schools and greatly underrepresented in Rochester's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) industries through a challenging program that emphasizes creativity, accountability, ongoing assessments, college-preparation, and high academic achievement.*

---

**Approval of the agenda and minutes:**

|  |               |  |                 |
|--|---------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>Motion:</b> To review and approve the agenda, and the minutes from March 15, 2017 |               |  |                 |
| <b>Made by:</b> Zach Jones   |               | <b>Seconded by:</b> Abdulkadir Abdalla |                 |
| <b>Discussion:</b>   |               |  |                 |
| <b>Vote:</b>   | <b>Yea:</b> 5 | <b>Nay:</b> 0                          | <b>Abstain:</b> |
| <b>Decision:</b> Motion carries unanimously  |               |  |                 |

**Business:**

|  |               |                                     |                 |
|--|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Motion:</b> To approve the depository designation and electronic funds transfer.    |               |                                     |                 |
| <b>Made by:</b> Zach Jones   |               | <b>Seconded by:</b> Mohamed Abdalla |                 |
| <b>Discussion:</b> This is done every year, and for some reason has not been done yet. |               |                                     |                 |
| <b>Vote:</b>   | <b>Yea:</b> 5 | <b>Nay:</b> 0                       | <b>Abstain:</b> |
| <b>Decision:</b> Motion carries unanimously  |               |                                     |                 |

|   |               |  |                 |
|---|---------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>Motion:</b> To approve financials from March and April, 2017.  |               |  |                 |
| <b>Made by:</b> Mohamed Abdalla   |               | <b>Seconded by:</b> Abdulkadir Abdalla |                 |
| <b>Discussion:</b> On the payment register description, Said Samatar's services were labeled as recruiter, and it should be changed to substitute paraprofessional. Food services are at a loss, and the school will try to keep the loss under \$30,000. Rochester STEM Academy has received more grants and donations this year, and is under budget with that money. Rochester STEM Academy has also rented out their facility to other community programs. Cash flow appears that it will be steady for the rest of the year. |               |  |                 |
| <b>Vote:</b>  | <b>Yea:</b> 5 | <b>Nay:</b> 0                          | <b>Abstain:</b> |
| <b>Decision:</b> Motion carries unanimously   |               |  |                 |

\***Abdulkadir Abdalla** had to leave at 5:34pm

|   |               |                                     |                 |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Motion:</b> To approve Katrina Benson's contract as Rochester STEM Academy's ESL Teacher |               |                                     |                 |
| <b>Made by:</b> Zach Jones  |               | <b>Seconded by:</b> Mohamed Abdalla |                 |
| <b>Discussion:</b> RSA has been in need of an ESL teacher for a long time.                  |               |                                     |                 |
| <b>Vote:</b>  | <b>Yea:</b> 4 | <b>Nay:</b> 0                       | <b>Abstain:</b> |
| <b>Decision:</b> Motion carries unanimously   |               |                                     |                 |

|   |               |                                |                 |
|---|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Motion:</b> To approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar   |               |                                |                 |
| <b>Made by:</b> Mohamed Abdalla   |               | <b>Seconded by:</b> Zach Jones |                 |
| <b>Discussion:</b> If any changes need to be made the board can choose to make any changes as needed. |               |                                |                 |
| <b>Vote:</b>  | <b>Yea:</b> 4 | <b>Nay:</b> 0                  | <b>Abstain:</b> |
| <b>Decision:</b> Motion carries unanimously   |               |                                |                 |

|  |               |                                |                 |
|--|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Motion:</b> To accept the Auditor bid from Redpath for 2017-2019, with the removal of the 990 tax form.   |               |                                |                 |
| <b>Made by:</b> Mohamed Abdalla  |               | <b>Seconded by:</b> Ayan Mumin |                 |
| <b>Discussion:</b> Abo/Eik/Meyers' bid was a little cheaper, but Rochester STEM Academy has been working with Redpath for years and have been very reliable and trustworthy. |               |                                |                 |
| <b>Vote:</b>   | <b>Yea:</b> 4 | <b>Nay:</b> 0                  | <b>Abstain:</b> |
| <b>Decision:</b> Motion carries unanimously  |               |                                |                 |

|   |               |                                |                 |
|---|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Motion:</b> To approve Board Elections – Certification of results for Ayan Mumin, Zach Jones, and Mohamud Hamud. |               |                                |                 |
| <b>Made by:</b> Mohamed Abdalla   |               | <b>Seconded by:</b> Ayan Mumin |                 |
| <b>Discussion:</b>  |               |                                |                 |
| <b>Vote:</b>  | <b>Yea:</b> 4 | <b>Nay:</b> 0                  | <b>Abstain:</b> |
| <b>Decision:</b> Motion carries unanimously   |               |                                |                 |

**Other business:**

1. NEO Authorizer Contract
  - a. The board spoke with NEO executive director Wendy Swanson-Choi about the contract renewal evaluation, because Rochester STEM Academy will need to be prepared to vote on the renewed contract at the June board meeting.
  - b. Rochester STEM Academy's evaluation from NEO was good, and is on target for a three year contract renewal. NWEA scores have not been entered, but if NWEA scores have improved enough, a possible four year contract renewal will be offered.

**Comments from Community Members:**

1. Rochester STEM Academy PSEO Student Munira Alimire
  - a. Munira is one of the PSEO students here at Rochester STEM Academy and was wondering if the board would be willing to look at a weighted grade policy for PSEO students.
  - b. Munira feels that an A at RCTC should not count the same as an A at Rochester STEM Academy, because one is a college level course and the other is not.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:35p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, June 14, at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Zach Jones, Vice Chair and Secretary