

Rochester STEM Academy  
District #4204  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

March 18, 2015 5:00 p.m.  
Rochester STEM Academy 415 16<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Rochester, MN

**Call to order:** Jill Leet-Otley called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Jill Leet-Otley, Abdulkadir Abdalla, Zach Jones, Abdullahi Ali Yare, Mohamoud Hamud (arrived at 5:10)

**Absent:**

**Others present:** Bryan Rossi, Robert Procaccini

***Vision***

*Rochester STEM Academy will embed STEM immersion into all aspects of its programming, culture, and operations to support students from lower-income families becoming confident and skilled in STEM-related higher educational and employment opportunities.*

***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.*

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**Roll call:** There are no conflicts of interest with the agenda.

**Approval of the agenda:** Motion to approve-No objections- Unanimously approved.

**Approval of the minutes from Jan. 21, 2015:** Motion to approve – No objections-Unanimously approved.

**Business:**

➤ **Board Motions/Actions**

<b>Motion:</b> To approve financials from January and February			
<b>Made by:</b> Abdulkadir Abdalla		<b>Seconded by:</b> Zach Jones	
<b>Discussion:</b>			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Approved unanimously			

<b>Motion:</b> To approve the revised FY2015 budget which is based on 80 ADM			
<b>Made by:</b> Jill Leet-Otley		<b>Seconded:</b> Zach Jones	
<b>Discussion:</b> We will be deficit spending. The FB will drop from 12% to 10%. We need to increase student enrollment to 111 in order to meet Strategy 2018.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Approved unanimously			

<b>Motion:</b> To designate March 27, 2015 a no school day for students (to coincide with area public school calendars).			
<b>Made by:</b> Zach Jones		<b>Seconded:</b> Jill Leet-Otley	
<b>Discussion:</b>			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Approved unanimously.			

<b>Motion:</b> To approve teacher contracts.			
<b>Made by:</b> Jill Leet-Otley		<b>Seconded:</b> Abdulkadir Abdalla	
<b>Discussion:</b> All teachers are returning this year.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Approved unanimously			

<b>Motion:</b> To approve the director's contract through 2018			
<b>Made by:</b> Abdulkadir Abdalla		<b>Seconded:</b> Zach Jones	
<b>Discussion:</b>			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Approved unanimously			

**Other business:****Summary of the director's report:**

Our enrollment stands at 83. In order to realize Strategy 2018 we will need to increase our enrollment in FY2016 to about 111 total students (counting PSEO) or 100 in the building (not counting those at PSEO). Several seminars are planned at various venues in Rochester to advertise our PSEO strategy as a way to increase enrollment. Currently 12% of our students are taking PSEO courses. We are making AYP. All seniors have been accepted into college.

Board Development: Zach and Jill completed training this winter. Hamud and Abdulkadir have attended conferences and Ali will undergo training with Rochester Math & Science Academy teachers this spring.

Revising our Vision Statement: Jill and Hamud will meet as a committee to revise the vision statement.

**Comments from Community Members:** None.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:25 pm

**Next Meeting:** May 20, 2015 at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Jill Leet-Otley, Rochester STEM Academy, board chair and acting secretary