

Rochester STEM Academy
District #4204
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2015 5:00 p.m.
Rochester STEM Academy 415 16th St. SW, Rochester, MN

Call to order: Jill Leet-Otley called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.
Board Members Present: Jill Leet-Otley, Abdulkadir Abdalla, Zach Jones, Abdullahi Ali Yare, Mohamoud Hamud
Absent:
Others present: Bryan Rossi, Robert Procaccini
Conflict of interest: No board members had a conflict of interest on the agenda.

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.

Approval of the agenda: Motion to approve-No objections- Unanimously approved.
Approval of the minutes from Nov. 19, 2014: Motion to approve – No objections-Unanimously approved.

Business:

➤ **Board Motions/Actions**

Motion: To approve financials for November and December 2014			
Made by: Abdulkadir Abdalla		Seconded by: Abdullahi Ali Yare	
Discussion: Finance committee is working on revising the FY15 budget based on lower than anticipated enrollment. Current enrollment is 84.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimous approval			

Motion: To approve bullying policy			
Made by: Zach Jones		Seconded: Abdulkadir Abdalla	
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain:

Decision: Unanimous approval

Motion: To approve Third Party Billing/Special Education Tuition Billing			
Made by: Abdulkadir Abdalla		Seconded: Zach Jones	
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimous Approval			

Director's Report Summary:

Academic performance: We are making AYP but are still in the "Continuous Improvement Category." A continuous improvement letter will be mailed to the parents along with the Feb. newsletter.

Strategy 2018: 12% of the student population is attending PSEO. Current juniors and sophomores are working towards the goal of taking at least one PSEO class next year. All seniors were accepted into college.

Miscellaneous: Enrollment is 86 students. The school is safe and clean with very little vandalism. The school climate is being positively impacted by our artist in residence. The lease has been renegotiated from \$17,750 to \$15,560. Next month the finance committee will present a budget at 80 ADM for revenue projections.

Other business:

We discussed extending the director's contract to 2018 . We will review and take action at the March meeting.

The board chair solicited ideas to revise the vision statement to reflect ongoing concerns with the negative connotations of the wording: "to support students from low-incoming families." This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Old Business:

We need to clarify board members terms and include in next month's minutes.

Comments from Community Members: None.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:10 pm

Next Meeting: March 18th at 5:00 pm

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