

The Lawson Academy

December 21, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Hether Benjamin Brown
Terence Frederick
Catherine Mosbacher
Imogen Papadopoulos
Mary Ramos
Morris Smith
Yolanda Smith
Kimberly Wilkinson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Chavon Carr

STAFF/GUESTS

Cheryl Lawson, Executive Director
Dr. Marthea Raney, Principal
Annette Simmons, Business Manager
Dr. Delic Loyde

The Lawson Academy Agenda

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mary Ramos at 9:35 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** The quorum was established at 9:35 a.m.
- 3. Opening Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 4. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
- 5. Academy Vision (9:36 a.m. – 9:36 a.m.).** Kimberly Wilkinson read the Vision to the Board.
- 6. Approval of Minutes (9:36 – 9:38 a.m.).** Imogen Papadopoulos made a motion to approve Minutes of the November 21, 2019 meeting. Morris Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Frederick, C. Mosbacher, I. Papadopoulos, M. Ramos, M. Smith, Y. Smith and K. Wilkinson.
- 7. Governance Committee (9:38 – 9:42 a.m.).** Committee Chair Catherine Mosbacher updated the Board that the committee had postponed their December meeting until January. Imogen Papadopoulos commented that Catherine is doing a great job of leading their effort and Kimberly Wilkinson's "red-lining" will make the review much easier for the Board.
- 8. Academy Report (9:42 – 10:20 a.m.).** Principal Marthea Raney presented the Lead4Ward Raw Score Conversion Table and addressed questions. After some discussion, she reviewed the comparison data from the Curriculum Checkpoint #1 and the Curriculum Checkpoint #2. The Student Questionnaire Survey results were reviewed. There was discussion on students' access to technology in the home. A brief discussion of incarcerated family members took place. The new school website is in "final" status and will be activated in January, 2020. A copy of the website link is being sent to everyone for their December review: <https://dev.thelawsonacademy.org>
- 9. Lone Star Governance (10:20 – 10:38 a.m.).** Discussed the Constraints presented from the January and November meetings. There was significant discussion. The three (3) Constraints agreed to are:

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- (1) The Superintendent shall not allow more than X% of teachers to go without certifications beyond 12 months after hire date.
- (2) Do not allow the Superintendent to neglect adherence to Business and Financial Policies and Procedures.
- (3) Do not allow the Superintendent to move away from TEA approved Governance model (e.g., Lone Star Governance, State Board of Education Framework for Good Governance).

Kimberly Wilkinson moved the approval of the three (3) Constraints. Hether Benjamin-Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Frederick, C. Mosbacher, I. Papadopoulos, M. Ramos, M. Smith, Y. Smith and K. Wilkinson.

10. Superintendent's Report (10:38 – 11:14 a.m.). Presentation by Rebecca "Becky" Smith of the audit firm Melton-Melton. All the pages of the audit report were reviewed and some questions were raised for auditor response. Terence Frederick moved the approval of the audit. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Frederick, C. Mosbacher, I. Papadopoulos, M. Ramos, M. Smith, Y. Smith and K. Wilkinson. The Title I \$100,000 grant award was reviewed. Superintendent Lawson has requested the back-dating of the award to 9/1/19 so that expenditures in September and October can be reimbursed. TEA has not yet responded. The issue of student recruiting was discussed, and ideas offered including getting students to refer their friends. The December student newsletter was discussed.

11. Executive Session. There was no Executive Session.

12. Adjourn Meeting. Imogen Papadopoulos moved adjournment at 11:14 a.m. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Frederick, C. Mosbacher, I. Papadopoulos, M. Ramos, M. Smith, Y. Smith and K. Wilkinson.