

The Lawson Academy

August 28, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Hether Benjamin Brown
Chavon Carr
Terence Frederick
Imogen Papadopoulos
Mary Ramos
Morris Smith
Yolanda Smith

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Catherine Mosbacher
Kimberly Wilkinson

STAFF/GUESTS

Cheryl Lawson, Executive Director
Dr. Marthea Raney, Principal
Dr. Delic Loyde, Consultant

The Lawson Academy Agenda

- 1. Call to Order.** The Zoom meeting was called to order by Mary Ramos at 9:34 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** The quorum was established at 9:34 a.m.
- 3. Opening Prayer.** Cheryl Lawson led a prayer.
- 4. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
- 5. Academy Vision (9:34 a.m. – 9:34 a.m.).** Dr. Marthea Raney read the Vision to the Board.
- 6. Approval of Minutes (9:35 – 9:35 a.m.).** Hether Benjamin-Brown made a motion to approve Minutes of the June 26, 2021 meeting. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, C. Carr, T. Frederick, I. Papadopoulos, M. Ramos, M. Smith and Y. Smith.
- 7. Governance Committee (9:36– 9:36 a.m.).** There is no report. Imogen Papadopoulos commented that there has been no ability to meet due to COVID.
- 8. Academy Report (9:36 – 10:08 a.m.).** Principal Marthea Raney discussed the statistics and described the professional development, School Rally and dance contest. There was also discussion of the digital curriculum, laptops for every student in the classrooms, uniform vouchers for first-year students and the donation of student backpacks for every student. With the addition of an Accelerated Learning Coach to examine data, the Instructional Coach to support teachers and the presence of Varsity Tutoring, STEM for Kids and Field Experiences, there will be plenty of academic support for students. The BOY assessments will start on Monday and this year the use of NWEA MAP testing should provide more rich analysis of student knowledge and growth. In addition, the Habitudes program on Tuesdays and Thursdays and a Change Happens program to deter substance use are both elements of the Social Emotional response this year. In addition, partnership with Catholic Charities for a counselor has been approved. All students are face-to-face and the campus provided masks with the student name on it for many of the students. There was a discussion about asking employees if they are vaccinated, and Dr. Loyde reported that the Commissioner of Education and the Governor of Texas have not allowed public schools to ask

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teachers about COVID. There are presently no students who have been reported to be positive with COVID.

9. Lone Star Governance (10:08 – 10:09 a.m.). The Lawson Academy quarterly Board Tracker will be completed next month. Planning for Board training this year will insure that everyone can get the necessary hours in “workshop” settings.

10. Superintendent’s Report (10:09 – 10:22 a.m.). Superintendent Cheryl Lawson reported on the Charter First score of 75 this year. The comparison of STAAR to other charter schools was presented. The HB3 report was discussed and Dr. Loyde stated that the data for STAAR is devastating state-wide. Since this is a year of A, B, or C, or Not Rated, the Lawson Academy should expect to have a Not Rated score.

11. Executive Session. There was no Executive Session.

12. Adjourn Meeting. Yolanda Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 a.m. Chavon Carr seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, C. Carr, T. Frederick, I. Papadopoulos, M. Ramos, M. Smith and Y. Smith.