

The Lawson Academy

December 17, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chavon Carr
Terence Frederick
Eric Goodie
Bryce Kennard
Mary Ramos
Yolanda Smith
Champ Warren

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Immy Papadopoulos
Catherine Mosbacher

STAFF/GUESTS

Cheryl Lawson, Executive Director
Sheila Profit, Business Manager
Deon Davis, Cradles2Crayons
Sophia Davis, Cradles2Crayons
Jaciel Castro, Community Preschools
Dr. Christy McGowan

The Lawson Academy Agenda

- 1. Call to Order.** The Zoom meeting was called to order by Mary Ramos at 9:33 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** Quorum was established at 9:33 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.).** Eric Goodie moved the approval of the October 22, 2022 Academy and Board of Directors minutes. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by C. Carr, T. Frederick, E. Goodie, B. Kennard, M. Ramos, Y. Smith and C. Warren.
- 7. Academy Report (9:36 – 10:10 a.m.).** Principal Marthea Raney presented information on the student demographics and attendance, including additional demographic details requested in the last board session. It was requested that additional diversity information be added to the Academy statistics (e.g., Asian, White). Dr. Raney discussed the Varsity Tutoring Mid-year report, showing student improvement on the 3rd grade assessment used (Beginning Of Year and Middle Of Year). There was discussion about the positive impact the tutoring has on getting kids up to grade level learning. The STAAR test redesign was also discussed, with teachers due to receive customized training in January. Campus counseling clinician's services were discussed. The clinician has invited a law firm to adopt the school and provide Christmas gifts which will be distributed before the holiday recess. Eric Goodie (HAUL) asked if board member might offer resources to benefit parents and students (yes), and then suggested that NAMI or Mental Health of America could be additional resources for the campus.
- 9. Lone Star Governance (10:10 – 10:15 a.m.).** A weekend for our Lone Star Governance training was selected: Saturday, February 25 and Sunday, February 26. This mandatory training will give every board member 16 hours of training (6 hours are required annually after the first year, with 12

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hours required in year one of service). At least one additional school will be invited to participate and this session will impact the LSG ranking. The Quarterly Board Tracker was updated with identical scores to the August report.

10. Superintendent's Report (10:15 – 10:53 a.m.). The EMAT Allotment TEKS Certification Form was reviewed. Yolanda Smith moved approval of the 2022-2023 [EMAT] Allotment TEKS Certification Form. Champ Warren seconded the motion. The motion was approved by C. Carr, T. Frederick, E. Goodie, B. Kennard, M. Ramos, Y. Smith and C. Warren.

Resolution 23-01 to Expand Charter to PK3-5th Grade for The Lawson Academy was presented to address the installation of a PK-3 and PK-4 program at Regency Lofts. A question about why not “go back” and get the elementary grades later was answered that most schools do not request amendments often, since TEA prefers to have fewer amendments requested and approved. Special Guests to the meeting introduced themselves and described their involvement in the planning for the Regency Lofts location. There was board discussion about the business planning for the PK3-PK4 program and the roll-out of an elementary model. The Charter Amendment must be submitted in early January for TEA to approve. Approval is expected in March, 2023. If approved by TEA, The Lawson Academy will have approval to provide services for students in PK-3 to Grade 12. Even if the TEA provides approval, TEA does not mandate that the grade(s) be installed. The Lawson Academy was granted approval for Grades 9-12 in 2011 but has not yet implemented those grades. Yolanda Smith moved approval of the Resolution. Champ Warren seconded the motion. The motion was approved by C. Carr, T. Frederick, E. Goodie, B. Kennard, M. Ramos, Y. Smith and C. Warren.

11. Executive Session. There was no Executive Session.

12. Adjourn Meeting. Champ Warren moved adjournment at 10:54 a.m. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by C. Carr, T. Frederick, E. Goodie, B. Kennard, M. Ramos, Y. Smith and C. Warren.