

## **The Lawson Academy**

October 25, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

### **William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity**

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

#### **STAFF/GUESTS**

Cheryl Lawson, Executive Director  
Dr. Delic Loyde  
Dr. Jonathan Sutton, Principal  
Eldon Lewis, Chief Development Officer

### **The Lawson Academy Agenda**

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was opened by Mary Ramos at 9:39 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** Quorum was established at 9:39 a.m.
- 3. Opening Prayer.** Cheryl Lawson led a prayer.
- 4. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
- 5. Academy Vision (9:40 a.m.).** Bryce Kennard read the Academy Vision.
- 6. Approval of Minutes (9:40 a.m. – 9:42 a.m.).** Bryce Kennard moved the approval of the August 23, 2025 minutes and the September 27, 2025 minutes. Champ Warren seconded the motion. The August 23, 2025 and the September 27, 2025 Minutes were unanimously approved.
- 7. Academy Report (10:00 a.m. – 10:47 a.m.).** Principal Sutton discussed the activities on campus, including the continuing attention to ABC's (Attendance, Behavior and Course Performance). Addressing unwanted behaviors (PBIS: positive behavior interventions and supports) with an emphasis on building relationships with students and their families. There will be ongoing monitoring of student performance through the use of bi-weekly diagnostics in the Intervention classroom, where the software platform IXL is in place. There are problem-based learning experiences combining the learning in Reading/Language Arts and Social studies classrooms. There was a discussion of special education, with emphasis on the large number of students who have been identified or are expected to be identified. The Academy will also reach out to BridgeYear to provide 8<sup>th</sup> graders with insight into the various vocations which they may be of interest. The Academy Drumline was the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner at the Texas Southern University Homecoming Parade and a video of the students was shared with the Board. Dr. Sutton explained that when the Drumline received a paper "award" following the announcement of their #1 placement, students were filled with emotion and the experience moved the teaching staff, as well. The Flag Football team is currenting #1 in our division. Parents have been given access to the portal for grade and student attendance data.
- 8. Lone Star Governance (9:43 a.m. – 9:58 a.m. because this item was taken out of sequence).** Dr. Loyde explained that the legislative session placed great emphasis on safety which is already being

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addressed by the Academy. It is also true that emphasis was placed on HQIM (high quality instructional materials) which is also in place at Lawson. There will be additional changes to likely move from STAAR to the 3-time administration of NWEA MAP for BOY, MOY and EOY analysis. The Lawson Academy has already adopted this model and will be ready when (if) it becomes the statewide model in 2027-2028. TEA has also mandated that the Lone Star Governance teachers must be recertified, so Dr. Loyde has been supporting teachers across the state.

**9. Superintendent's Report (10:50 a.m. – 11:28 a.m.).** Superintendent Lawson presented the HB3 goals for board approval. These goals are consistent with the model of 2020-2025 data, and has been reviewed by staff and campus leadership. There was a robust discussion on the data that was considered (2019 to 2025 performance) and on the goals being set. It is certain that performance may not be linear since each year brings new students. The history of the Academy's performance using the HB3 goals shows that we achieved better performance because of the goals since each year's goal was part of the Campus Improvement planning process. Champ Warren moved the approval of the HB3 goals. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The HB3 goals were unanimously approved by the Board. The Charter Renewal Application is now nearly complete, having been drafted and updated in coordination with Dr. Bruce Marchand and the law firm he is now working with. Yolanda Smith moved approval of the Charter Renewal Application. Eric Goodie seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the Charter Renewal Application submission. The annual submission of our Depository Agreement with Frost Bank is due. It has already been processed, signed and is ready for Board approval. Terence Frederick moved approval of the Depository Agreement. Vernon Lewis seconded the motion. The Depository Agreement was unanimously approved for submission. Chief Development Officer Eldon Lewis was present and updated the persons on the work done so far.

**10. Executive Session.** There was no Executive Session.

**11. Adjourn Meeting.** The meeting ended at 11:28 a.m. A group photo was taken of the Board in the meeting space.