

The Lawson Academy

November 15, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Terence Frederick
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
Gerald Herd, Construction Owner's Rep

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Chavon Carr
Eric Goodie
Bryce Kennard

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.).** Cheryl Lawson read the Academy Vision.
- 6. Approval of Minutes (9:40 a.m. – 9:42 a.m.).** Yolanda Smith moved the approval of the October 25, 2025 minutes. Terence Frederick seconded the motion. The October 25, 2025 Minutes were unanimously approved.
- 7. Academy Report (9:42 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.).** Principal Sutton discussed the activities on campus, including the continuing attention to ABC's (Attendance, Behavior and Course Performance). Student attendance decline is being examined. Upcoming and recent events were discussed, including the Breakfast Club for "A" students, use of ClassDojo, the first PTO meeting and Spooktackular which was on the parking lot and engaged parents and students with sack races and trunk or treats. Performance by Drumline and cheerleaders at National Literacy Institute last weekend was attended by students and parents. Academic performance shows that 22% of students are on A/B Honor Roll and the Mentoring/Mind Your Health program with an active partner. The basketball season has just started for both boys and girls. The 6th grade class was split into a boys and girls class, reducing class size for all content areas and is having a positive impact on behaviors. Mary Ramos volunteered to donate a game or two of her Rockets tickets. Vernon Lewis asked about getting students/families tickets to the Livestock Show and Rodeo for the 2026 Black Heritage Day. Superintendent Lawson is hoping to support families by purchasing (donating to families) ties, shirts. The academy has not turned students away because of uniform appearance, but many students are not dressing in full uniform.

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8. Lone Star Governance (10:10 a.m. – 10:17 a.m.). Dr. Loyde emphasized the value of the board's consistent adoption of the LSG model. There will be feedback from the most recent legislative session to share soon. The Board's Quarterly Progress Tracker was reviewed and updated. Champ Warren moved approval of the Board's Quarterly Progress Tracker. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. Superintendent's Report (10:17 a.m. – 10:43 a.m.). Superintendent Lawson presented the Charter First results for the 2024-2025 academic year. These reflects the 2024 audit report, and the Lawson Academy scored a "B" rating. A recent Employee Satisfaction & Engagement Survey was conducted and the 7 responses were presented in a graphical format. Chief Development Officer Eldon Lewis was present and updated the persons on the work done so far. There have been a number of meetings held with existing Advisory Board members and with community resources. One of the key strategies is to get person to come to the Academy, see the 'magic' and get inspired. Eldon share the video of early ed students telling him their goals. The Leadership Speaker Series has been launched and speakers have included (but not been limited to) Al Payton (Centerpoint), Alejandra Salinas (attorney and City Council candidate), Jessica Kemp (BP). Champ Warren stated that the work Eldon is doing is fantastic, and with the recent visit to the Merrill Lynch/Bank of America offices that Champ hosted, he recognized that when our students can see their own potential, they will be unstoppable. Eldon invited the Board to identify persons in the board members' network to come speak to the students, as others have. There is a continuing request for 100% of the board to contribute this year. Without 100% board member participation, The Lawson Academy cannot receive donations from large funders like Houston Endowment or Brown Foundation.

10. Executive Session. There was no Executive Session.

11. Adjourn Meeting. Yolanda Smith moved adjournment at 10:44 a.m. Vernon Lewis seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 10:44 a.m.

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