

The Lawson Academy

January 24, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Bryce Kennard
Vernon Lewis

STAFF/GUESTS

Cheryl Lawson, Executive Director
Dr. Delic Loyde
Dr. Jonathan Sutton, Principal
Eldon Lewis, Chief Development Officer
Brittney Jean-Louis, Bloom Superintendent
Allison Harold, Bloom Board Chair
Cherese Milton, Bloom Board Member

The Lawson Academy Agenda

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was opened by Mary Ramos at 9:34 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** 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 (9:36 a.m.).** Champ Warren read the Academy Vision.
- 6. Approval of Minutes (9:36 a.m. – 9:36 a.m.).** Yolanda Smith moved the approval of the November 15, 2025 minutes. Terence Frederick seconded the motion. The November 15, 2025 Minutes were unanimously approved.
- 7. Academy Report (9:36 a.m. – 10:16 a.m.).** Superintendent Cheryl Lawson reviewed campus statistics and introduced Bloom Academy guests Superintendent Brittney Jean-Louis and Bloom Cherese Milton. Principal Sutton discussed the testing results which compared the 2025 STAAR results to the NWEA MOY results and the Fall Semester test results. On the first day in January, Academy staff reviewed the data from these reports and began including small group direct instruction for the learning gaps. In January, an additional unit test was administered, and the results from that were also reviewed. The next assessment will be the week of February 13 and will be reported in the February meeting. In the area of culture * climate, Dr. Sutton discussed two December events. The first was the Nutcracker Ballet which is an annual event hosted by the Houston Chapter of the Links. The second was a visit by the Student Council to a special VIP event at the Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS) at Christmas which was offered by one of the new 'friends' introduced by Eldon Lewis. There was a A/B Honor Roll lunch with the Principal which served 21 students. Due to some technology problems, students are now using clear or mesh backpacks at school. The Student Survey was reviewed and discussed. A Parent Survey should be developed and circulated so that parent input can be provided to campus leadership. The calendar for January and February were reviewed.

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8. Lone Star Governance (10:16 a.m. – 10:24 a.m.). Dr. Loyde updated the Board on the School Board Governance laws that are focused on student outcomes. The EISO 2.0 training (Evaluating and Improving Student Outcomes) will be important for the board to attend in the coming year. There is emphasis on implementing HQIM and there will be updates on safety training. Much of what the WALIPP Board is doing is being pushed out to the state's schools, public and charter.

9. Introduction of Bloom Academy Superintendent Brittney Jean-Louis (10:24 a.m. – 10:34 a.m.). Bloom Superintendent Brittney Jean-Louis and Board member Cherese Milton spoke about the transition and the reasoning behind TEA's decision to close Bloom Academy. The Board Chair, Allison Harold, joined the meeting shortly after and was also able to speak to the WALIPP Board.

9. Superintendent's Report (10:34 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.). Superintendent Lawson presented the Communities in Schools update showing the case management in December. The 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant was introduced and will involve the partnership between Lawson, Elevate Collegiate and Community Preschools. The deadline for submission is mid-February and there is a grantwriting team that is developing the submission. The 2026-2027 School Calendar was presented for approval. Terence Frederick moved the approval. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. As a result of the software changes in TEA, the 2025 Audit Report which was approved last year must be re-approved for submission. Yolanda Smith moved approval of the 2025 Audit Report. Terence Frederick seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Eldon Lewis updated the Board on the multiple visits and the contributions (\$55K from MD Anderson, \$10K from Coca-Cola) which have been received. There continues to be emphasis on presenting the Academy to potential funders including the Powell Foundation and individuals including Doug Hidalgo.

10. Executive Session. The board went into Executive Session at 10:53 a.m. and came out at 11:20 a.m. Champ Warren moved approval of Resolution 26-02 Welcoming Bloom Academy Students and Board of Directors. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

11. Adjourn Meeting. Yolanda Smith moved adjournment at 11:20 a.m. Terence Frederick seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 11:20 a.m.