

## The Lawson Academy

March 28, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

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

#### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chavon Carr  
Terence Frederick  
Vernon Lewis  
Yolanda Smith  
Champ Warren

#### STAFF/GUESTS

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

#### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Eric Goodie  
Bryce Kennard  
Mary Ramos

### The Lawson Academy Agenda

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was opened by Mary Ramos at 9:38 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** Quorum was established at 10:10 a.m.
- 3. Opening Prayer.** Cheryl Lawson led a prayer.
- 4. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
- 5. Academy Vision (9:38 a.m.).** Champ Warren read the Academy Vision.
- 6. Approval of Minutes (10:10 a.m. – 10:11 a.m.).** Champ Warren moved the approval of the February 28, 2026 minutes. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The February 28, 2026 Minutes were unanimously approved.
- 7. Academy Report (9:41 a.m. – 10:31 a.m.).** Superintendent Cheryl Lawson reviewed campus statistics. Principal Jonathan Sutton reviewed strategies in place to address the campus' accountability status in preparation for the STAAR assessments in April. There was discussion about the elementary grade support needed to bring students up to middle school grade level. After dialogue about the number of students with special education needs, the board contemplated the possibility of becoming a Special Education school. Superintendent Lawson clarified that the adult-student ratio of such schools is much different than Lawson can support. The Bloom Academy staff has been given the opportunity to express interest in working for Lawson and Dr. Sutton will interact persons from both Bloom and Lawson in the coming month. Staff Offer letters are planned for early May, 2026. Upcoming calendar events were reviewed.
- 8. Lone Star Governance (nn:nn a.m.).** Dr. Loyde was not in attendance.
- 9. Superintendent's Report (10:31 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.).** Superintendent Lawson presented the updated Academy Vision that reflects all the elementary grades and removes elements which reflected single-gender learning. The Harris County Department of Education MOU was introduced. It must be approved

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and submitted to HCDE for their consideration. The Communities in Schools organization provided a budget number for the upcoming year. CIS shares the cost of one FTE. The Transition for Bloom Academy included a site plan for each of the campus buildings and a projection of student enrollment. There will be additional updates on the recruiting campaign, including the use of a social media partner that was onsite in recent days.

**Chief Development Officer Report (10:50 – 11:07 a.m.).** Eldon Lewis updated the Board on the multiple visits taking place in the Leadership Speaker Series. There are a number of strategies in place, including foundation grants, individual donor events and continued relationship-building. There were compliments about the presentation at the end. All board members are invited to share information with our team regarding connections they may have to assist the Academy's efforts.

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

**11. Adjourn Meeting.** Yolanda Smith moved adjournment at 11:07 a.m.