

The Lawson Academy

April 25, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chavon Carr
Bryce Kennard
Vernon Lewis
Yolanda Smith

STAFF/GUESTS

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Eric Goodie
Terence Frederick
Mary Ramos
Champ Warren

The Lawson Academy Agenda

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was opened by Yolanda Smith at 9:40 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** There was no quorum established.
- 3. Opening Prayer.** Cheryl Lawson led a prayer.
- 4. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
- 5. Academy Vision (9:42 a.m.).** Cheryl Lawson read the Academy Vision.
- 6. Approval of Minutes ().** Since the quorum was not established, the minutes were not approved.
- 7. Academy Report (9:44 a.m. – 10:01 a.m.).** Superintendent Cheryl Lawson reviewed campus statistics. Principal Jonathan Sutton updated on the performance of STAAR so far, with all content tested except for Math. All teachers are now focused on Math preparation for the 4/28 STAAR test. As the year comes near the end, there have been 'creative' student behaviors and staff is managing the students well. There was discussion around the STAAR growth performance projected by the NWEA MAP end-of-year analysis. Dr. Sutton will be attending the Track Meet to support Academy students after this meeting.
- 8. Lone Star Governance (10:01 a.m. – 10:12 a.m.).** Dr. Loyde was encouraged by the Academy Report. The upcoming change in accountability (2027-2028) will make the assessments even more rigorous. Cut-points will be higher and the Board will participate in a EISO2 training to understand the new accountability models. The board decided on Saturday, May 30 for a 3-hour in-person training session from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The session will take place on the campus of The Lawson Academy.
- 9. Superintendent's Report (10:12 a.m. – 10:42 a.m.).** Superintendent Lawson requested approval of the Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials. Since there was no quorum, the Board will be polled to comply with the deadline of May 1. The Safety Intruder Detection Audit took place in April and the school passed. The intruder could not enter the campus unseen, and all the required documentation was in place.

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The CIS update was presented. Upcoming recruiting activity includes a significant investment in social media including a partnership where videos have been prepared and are being final-edited for publication. A video was shown to the Board. There will also be digital recording in the last weeks of the school year to be played throughout the summer on Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms.

Chief Development Officer Report (10:29 – 10:42 a.m.). Chief Development Officer Eldon Lewis presented the update on efforts to date. There have been dozens of Leadership Speaker Series guests and several grant requests have been submitted or meetings held. The donation of the Campus Library has been a significant effort, spearheaded by Eldon and a single donor (Amy Pierce) who enlisted support from her friends to donate books, furniture, and supplies. There are a number of influential board members of the foundations being targeted with whom WALIPP Board members may have relationships. The list of board members will be circulated. All board members must be financially supportive of the agency. When the question from a funder is asked, the answer must be “100%”, so if a gift has not been made yet, all members must donate to the agency.

10. Executive Session. There was no Executive Session.

11. Adjourn Meeting. meeting ended at 10:42 a.m.