

The Lawson Academy

June 27, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Terence Frederick
Bryce Kennard
Mary Ramos
Yolanda Smith
Champ Warren

STAFF/GUESTS

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Chavon Carr
Eric Goodie
Vernon Lewis

The Lawson Academy Agenda

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was opened by Chavon Carr at 9:35 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** The quorum was established at 9:35 a.m.
- 3. Opening Prayer.** Cheryl Lawson led a prayer.
- 4. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
- 5. Academy Vision (9:36 p.m. – 9:36 a.m.).** Champ Warren read the Academy Vision.
- 6. Approval of Minutes (9:36 a.m. - 9:37 a.m.).** Terence Frederick moved approval of the May 30, 2026 Academy and Board Minutes. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- 7. Academy Report (9:37 a.m. – 9:56 a.m.).** Principal Jonathan Sutton updated on the theme for the 2026-2027 school year – Level Up: The Next Stage for Excellence. There will be a tagline: Game On for Growth. There are staff for the upcoming year already in place, continuing to plan for the two weeks of Staff Pre-Service (July 27 – August 7). Board members are invited to attend the **Meet the Teachers** session on August 6 at 4:30 p.m. The Master Schedule was presented which illustrates the classes scheduled throughout the day. There was a selected Ancillary teacher who will support Art and Physical Education on the elementary side. There is an upcoming 'lunch' for Dr. Sutton with some of the rising 8th graders in the next few days. Champ Warren volunteered to deliver his Chase field experience which has made such an impact on students. That session made a huge impact on students as they were able to see a business office, travel inside a corporate building and even sit behind a professional's desk!
- 8. Lone Star Governance (9:57 a.m.- 10:07 a.m.).** Dr. Delic Loyde described the changes which will take place at TEA to include the "through the year" testing instead of STAAR in the next two years. This is a practice already in place at The Lawson Academy, so the transition will be easy. In 2025-2026, the Academy instituted a practice of calibrated walks through the classroom, which included Superintendent Lawson, Principal Sutton and Dr. Loyde. There will also be a change in the use of a new teacher appraisal

The Lawson Academy

June 27, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

system (T-TESS2) and the new Evaluating and Improving Student Outcomes class (EISO2). A successful ADSY (additional days school year) campus visit resulted in a 99 out of 100 score for the program. This program had been operated for the early ed students under the leadership of Community Preschools. Our school will likely be an exemplar for this TEA-funded ADSY program in the upcoming year.

9. Superintendent's Report (10:07 a.m. – 10:28 a.m.). Superintendent Lawson requested approval of a Board Resolution Authorizing State Property from Bloom Academy. Yolanda Smith moved approval of the Board Resolution. Bryce Kennard seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. There were three (3) vendor contracts for approval: Uniforms (Ibiley), HCDE Partnership (Community Preschools) and Back Office Processing (InSchools). Bryce Kennard moved approval of the vendor contracts. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. In the recruiting update, there are 200-250 students on our books, some of which will not arrive. The continuing effort is to grow the enrollment to 350 (budgeted) or more before the start of the school year. There have been a great deal of social media placements that are helping to drive enrollments. A potential ex-Bloom resource may also be of benefit for our final month to increase our results. Superintendent Lawson showed a video clip from social media which was not well received, and there was discussion about getting a much higher quality product into production. After the call, a second video was shared with the board by text which was more warmly received.

Chief Development Officer Report (10:28 – 11:05 a.m.). Chief Development Officer Eldon Lewis presented the update on efforts to date. There was good performance this year, with foundations and private donations exceeding of \$100K. There is a much improved credibility for the organization, based on the turnout and feedback from the Leadership Speaker Series, the Career Symposium, the donations of a campus library and multiple other areas of support from Amy Pierce and others. There is a plan to provide 200 students with backpacks and to provide teachers with all they will need for the new year from private donations. All board members are asked to assist with foundation board member contacts and with other resources. Eldon Lewis can take it from there! Mary Ramos suggested several persons to contact following this meeting.

10. Executive Session. There was no Executive Session.

11. Adjourn Meeting. meeting ended at 11:07 a.m.