

The Lawson Academy

July 25, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Terence Frederick
Eric Goodie
Bryce Kennard
Vernon Lewis
Mary Ramos
Champ Warren

STAFF/GUESTS

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Chavon Carr
Yolanda Smith

The Lawson Academy Agenda

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was opened by Mary Ramos at 9:37 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** The quorum was established at 9:37 a.m.
- 3. Opening Prayer.** Cheryl Lawson led a prayer.
- 4. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
- 5. Academy Vision (9:38 p.m. – 9:38 a.m.).** Eldon Lewis read the Academy Vision.
- 6. Approval of Minutes (9:39 a.m. - 9:39 a.m.).** Terence Frederick moved approval of the June 27, 2026 Academy and Board Minutes. Bryce Kennard seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- 7. Academy Report (9:39 a.m. – 9:58 a.m.).** Principal Jonathan Sutton reported he has fully staffed for the upcoming school year. There has been work on the vision for SY27: Leveling Up! Staff arrives on Monday, July 27 to prepare for our August 10 school start. The Meet the Teachers will be held on Thursday, August 6. Students in the 7th and 8th grades are texting Dr. Sutton because of their excitement to be returning. Backpacks and student school supplies have been donated to defray parent costs. There will be a first assessment of student knowledge, the BOY (Beginning of Year) on September 2 and 3.
- 8. Lone Star Governance (Not Included).** Dr. Delic Loyde was not present.
- 9. Superintendent's Report (9:58 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.).** Superintendent Lawson requested approval of a Special Education RFP and the Vendor Selection. There has been a consistent vendor but the expenditures per year have exceeded \$50K and require the RFP process. Champ Warren moved approval of the Special Education RFP and Vendor Selection. Terence Frederick seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The State and Federal Grants Manual was presented. Terence Frederick moved approval of the State and Federal Grants Manual. Bryce Kennard seconded the motion. The motion

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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.

Chief Development Officer Report. Chief Development Officer Eldon Lewis presented the update on efforts to date. The work done by Board Members Vernon Lewis, Champ Warren, Bryce Kennard at the Backpack stuffing day was recognized. The feedback from all the persons was that they enjoyed the work and wanted to come back to support the school. The mother of one donor was highlighted since she 'sat in a school chair' and reflected. There is a need for sporting supplies and other groups (Kappa Silhouettes) want to be involved. A meeting was held with Trent Tellepsen about helping to rebuild the campus park to accommodate an elementary playground. He has committed a personal gift and wants to get employees engaged. Grant submissions continue. There will be a Career Symposium on September 18, and board members are invited to attend and/or participate.

10. Executive Session. There was no Executive Session.

11. Adjourn Meeting. Champ Warren moved to adjourn the meeting. Vernon Lewis seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 10:30 a.m.