

The Lawson Academy

August 22, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Terence Frederick
Bryce Kennard
Vernon Lewis
Mary Ramos
Yolanda Smith
Champ Warren

STAFF/GUESTS

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Chavon Carr
Eric Goodie

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.).** Champ Warren read the Academy Vision.
- 6. Approval of Minutes (9:39 a.m. - 9:39 a.m.).** Yolanda Smith moved approval of the July 25, 2026 Academy and Board Minutes. Bryce Kennard seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- 7. Academy Report (9:40 a.m. – 9:49 a.m.).** Principal Jonathan Sutton reported he achieved the academic goals to move the accountability score from a “D” to a “B” and that the campus is now fully staffed. He also described that this accountability results give students and staff hope and have built the momentum needed to start the year. Campus leadership has recalibrated the systems needed for the behavior systems (PBIS) and to address concerns. There were two (2) distinctions in addition to the “B” rank: top 25% of comparative academic growth and top 25% of closing the gaps. There will be an Open House meeting in September, along with the Title I meeting.
- 8. Lone Star Governance (9:49 a.m. – 9:52 a.m.).** Dr. Delic Loyde reminded the Board that this is the final year of the current accountability. There will be more emphasis on College and Career and Military Readiness in the new accountability mode. The governance training will incorporate these new accountability models going forward.

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9. Superintendent's Report (9:52 a.m. – 10:17 a.m.). Superintendent Lawson introduced the new Chief Operating Officer, Dwayne Shorter, who came from Bloom Academy. His objective is to “eliminate disruption from instruction” and he will give leadership to the campus operations including transportation, food service, maintenance and IT. Upon review of the enrollment numbers, enrollment went from 78 6th-8th graders to 225 on the first day of school. The Federal Grants were reviewed (Title I, Title II, and Title IV) along with the a Local Planning Grant which affords the campus the ability to set our own “A-F” accountability model which might include additional enrichment or experiential elements for measurement. The CACFP Governing Body Awareness forms will be circulated to each board member for signature. This is to support our decision to offer Pre-K snacks (morning and afternoon) and supper. The House Bill 12 compliance requirement was discussed. Bryce Kennard moved approval of the House Bill 12 Policy on DEI. Terence Frederick seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chief Development Officer Report (10:17 a.m. – 10:43 a.m.). Chief Development Officer Eldon Lewis presented the update on efforts to date. There was a meeting with an Arts partner in recent days, the contribution of TUTS tickets, UH football game tickets, school supplies and uniform donations to provide greater opportunity for students were discussed. There have been numerous visits by and with supporters, including the Pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church and others. Plans for a Houston Community College partnership and site visit to a pathologist lab are underway. There were a number of donors and foundations named and an update on those offerings was discussed. Some wins and some losses, but lots in the pipeline.

10. Executive Session. There was no Executive Session.

11. Adjourn Meeting. Yolanda Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Champ Warren Lewis seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 10:46 a.m.