

The Lawson Academy

September 26, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chavon Carr
Terence Frederick
Eric Goodie
Vernon Lewis
Yolanda Smith
Champ Warren

STAFF/GUESTS

Cheryl Lawson, Executive Director
Jennifer Murchison, Transition Coach
Dwayne Shorter, COO
Dr. Delic Loyde, Consultant
Eldon Lewis, Chief Development Officer
DeAnna Clavell, InSchools

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Bryce Kennard
Mary Ramos

The Lawson Academy Agenda

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was opened by Eric Goodie 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 (9:37 a.m.).** Champ Warren read the Academy Vision.
- 6. Approval of Minutes (9:38 a.m.).** Yolanda Smith moved approval of the August 22, 2026 Academy and Board Minutes. Champ Warren seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- 7. Academy Report (9:38 a.m. – 10:07 a.m.).** Transition Coach Jennifer Murchison presented the progress being made to create schedules and structures for student learning. There were significant gaps in preparing the school for readiness and those issues are constantly being addressed. Teacher morale is low, partly because of the exit of Principal Sutton. Teachers were not set up for success, including having access to high quality instructional materials and the knowledge needed to implement them. There was a robust discussion about the work underway. There was a suggestion to have a Parent Corner on the website for information that will guide parent understanding of changes at the Academy.
- 8. Lone Star Governance (10:07 a.m. – 10:12 a.m.).** Dr. Delic Loyde indicated that Parental Rights training is going to be required and is available. There will have to be a 100% score for board members to complete the training.
- 9. Superintendent's Report (10:13 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.).** Superintendent Lawson explained that the first principal candidate was evaluated in three phases and was not a good fit. Additional candidates are being screened to select the most qualified and effective principal for the campus. Enrollment data for the

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beginning of the year was reviewed. There was an Academy newsletter which was circulated to families. Board members were not included in the initial distribution but will begin to receive the semi-monthly newsletters.

Chief Development Officer Report (10:30 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.). Chief Development Officer Eldon Lewis presented the update on efforts to date. As always, there are many contacts which have been very positive, and the Board members were pleased. Board members who have not been financially committed to the Academy were encouraged to make initial or recurring gifts.

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 10:57 a.m.