

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

February 27, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Hether Benjamin Brown
Dr. Toya Roberts Conston
Dr. Richard Griffin
Billie Jo Johnson
Catherine Mosbacher
Mary Ramos
Regina Rogers
Gerald Womack
Ambassador Arthur Schechter (ex officio)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Terence Frederick
Christine LeVeaux Haley
Mallory Mincberg

Cheryl Lawson, Staff
Dr. Marthea Raney, Principal
Karen Lee, Fund Development Consultant

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mary Ramos at 9:38 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** The quorum was established at 9:38 a.m.
- 3. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**
- 4. Public Comment.** There were no public comments.
- 5. Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2016.** Dr. Richard Griffin moved the approval of minutes from January 23, 2016. Gerald Womack seconded the motion. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos, R. Rogers, and G. Womack.
- 6. Governance and Nominating Committee Report.** There was no report.
- 7. Finance and Audit Committee Report.** Committee Chair Toya reviewed the January Statements of Activities (MTD and YTD) and Statements of Financial Position. A Variance Memorandum for January with income variance (\$10,840 representing donations to WALIPP honoring the life of Audrey Lawson and Holiday Letter in the Unity bank account and \$10,000 earmarked for the shortfall of food revenue from McGovern Foundation in the Amegy bank account).

Motion for approval of the January financial reports was made by Dr. Richard Griffin. Motion was seconded by Gerald Womack. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos, R. Rogers, and G. Womack.
- 8. Recruiting Committee.** Dr. Marthea Raney updated the Board on recent recruiting activities, including a visit to several campuses and plans for a campaign before the STAAR testing gets underway in March. Cheryl Lawson explained that we would also do a mailing shortly which enables us to recruit from the addresses we can find of prospective students.
- 9. Facility Report.** Gerald Womack moved the approval of Resolution 16-02 to authorize the Executive Director to execute the Commercial Contract – Unimproved Property for 0 Scott Street (5012 Scott Street). Dr. Richard Griffin seconded the motion. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos, R. Rogers, and G. Womack.
- 10. Academy Report.** Dr. Marthea Raney updated the Board on the attendance (965), enrollment (148), admissions (1), withdrawals (2) on-line applications (11), discipline (1 suspension) and the

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

February 27, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

instruction and extracurricular programming. Dr. Raney suggested that Restorative Discipline training be provided to the Board as part of our instructional schedule and Dr. Richard Griffin indicated that he would be happy to work with Dr. Raney to achieve that goal. Upcoming events were reviewed on the March 2016 calendar.

11. Executive Director's Report. The Texas Department of Agriculture Administrative Review of the campus meal program (breakfast, lunch and supper) was reviewed in December, 2015 and January, 2016. The Lawson Academy has received an EXCELLENT score and we celebrated the great work by all the members of the food team (receptionists/cashiers, Dr. Raney and Revolution Foods). Everyone received a copy of the Fundraising 'book' which is being used as a tool to ask for foundation and individual support toward our goal of building a new campus for The Lawson Academy. The names of proposed funders were reviewed and lists of Foundation Board members were provided. Any WALIPP Board member who know of or can make contact with foundation board officers should do so – it will help our application(s) if our Board reaches out to the Foundation's Trustees.

Board member Hether Benjamin Brown asked that we offer training on how to have those conversations with funders, so Cheryl will schedule such a session, probably over dinner one evening.

12. Executive Session. The Board opened an executive session at 10:14 a.m. as authorized by Section 551.001 et seq§ of the Texas Government Code (the Opens Meetings Act) to take place for the purpose of real property discussion as permitted by Sections 551.071-551.84, inclusive, of the Open Meetings Act. The Board ended the executive session at 10:35 a.m.

13. Adjournment. Dr. Richard Griffin moved adjournment at 10:53 a.m. Billie Jo Johnson seconded the motion. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos, R. Rogers, and G. Womack. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.