

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

March 26, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Hether Benjamin Brown
Dr. Toya Roberts Conston
Terence Frederick
Dr. Richard Griffin
Billie Jo Johnson
Catherine Mosbacher
Mary Ramos
Regina Rogers
Gerald Womack

Ambassador Arthur Schechter (ex officio)

Cheryl Lawson, Staff
Dr. Marthea Raney, Principal
Annette Simmons, Business Manager
Kimberly James, Board Attorney
Karen Lee, Fund Development Consultant
Jones Mays, IT Consultant
Theodore "Ted" Sims, Project Manager
Albert Myres, Capital Campaign Chair
Sara Metzger, City of Houston, Housing
Department

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Christine LeVeaux Haley

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mary Ramos at 9:32 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** The quorum was established at 9:32 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 February 27, 2016.** Dr. Richard Griffin moved the approval of minutes from February 27, 2016. Catherine Mosbacher seconded the motion. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos, R. Rogers, and G. Womack.
- 6. Governance and Nominating Committee Report.** There were two (2) resignations: Mallory Minberg from the Board of Directors and Benjamin Hall from the Advisory Committee. Dr. Richard Griffin moved the acceptance of the resignations. Catherine Mosbacher seconded the motion. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos, R. Rogers, and G. Womack. It was suggested that Cheryl Lawson and Mary Ramos call Mallory to determine if we could have done anything to keep her on the Board of Directors. Catherine Mosbacher asked that everyone think about person(s) who could be asked to serve on the Board of Directors. Younger people would be good to have, along with known in the community, and credibility to help us with fundraising.
- 7. Finance and Audit Committee Report.** Committee Chair Toya spoke briefly and asked that Business Manager Annette Simmons review the February Statements of Activities (MTD and YTD) and Statements of Financial Position. A Variance Memorandum for February with income variance was also presented. Terry Frederick said that the Academy construction costs should be capitalizable. Annette Simmons will make that adjustment in next month's financial reports.

Motion for approval of the February financial reports was made by Dr. Richard Griffin. Motion was seconded by Catherine Mosbacher. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos, R. Rogers, and G. Womack.

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8. Recruiting Committee. Cheryl Lawson introduced Ms. Tarla Crumb, a contract Parent Engagement Rep who will assist with support of our Title I enrollment and recruiting efforts. Ms. Crumb presented her Campaign Report. Cheryl submitted the Resolution to Approve Expand Geographic Boundaries for Board approval (Amendment 16-03). Dr. Richard Griffin moved approval of the Resolution 16-03. Catherine Mosbacher seconded the motion. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos, R. Rogers, and G. Womack.

9. Facility Report. City of Houston grant is to be presented to City Council on April 6 at 9:00 a.m. Board members are invited to attend to show their support. Sara Metzger of the City of Houston, Housing and Community Development Department is attending today, and the final approval of the contract will be the signing of the four (4) copies of the agreement. Gerald Womack moved the approval of the contract with the City of Houston for the \$4,730,000 CDBG grant. Dr. Richard Griffin seconded the motion. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos, R. Rogers, and G. Womack.

Cheryl introduced Project Manager Theodore "Ted" Sims to the board and invited him to speak about his background. Multiple bids will be solicited for project functions moving forward, now that we have delivered to the City of Houston the required due diligence resources.

10. Academy Report. Dr. Marthea Raney updated the Board with the 2016-2017 Academic Calendar. Catherine Mosbacher moved the approval of the Calendar. Terry Frederick seconded the motion. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos, R. Rogers, and G. Womack. STAAR testing begins next week so the focus on the campus has been preparing the students for their first days of testing.

11. Executive Director's Report. The five-year renewal of the Charter has some revisions required by the TEA Attorney, Karen Johnson. With the Board approval, those revisions will be submitted to TEA. The depository contract will be revised to reflect Frost Bank, our new funding source. Dr. Richard Griffin moved the approval of the Charter Renewal revisions. Catherine Mosbacher seconded the motion. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos, R. Rogers, and G. Womack. Dr. Richard Griffin moved the approval of the Depository Contract. Catherine Mosbacher seconded the motion. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos, R. Rogers, and G. Womack.

12. Executive Session. The Board opened an executive session at 10:35 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 10:56 a.m.

13. Adjournment. Terry Frederick moved adjournment at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Richard Griffin seconded the motion. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos, R. Rogers, and G. Womack. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.