

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

April 23, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Hether Benjamin Brown
Dr. Toya Roberts Conston
Dr. Richard Griffin
Billie Jo Johnson
Regina Rogers
Gerald Womack
Ambassador Arthur Schechter

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Terence Frederick
Christine LeVeaux Haley
Catherine Mosbacher
Mary Ramos

Cheryl Lawson, Staff
Dr. Marthea Raney, Principal
Annette Simmons, Business Manager
Karen Lee, Fund Development Consultant
Jones Mays, IT Consultant
Theodore "Ted" Sims, Project Manager

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Dr. Toya Conston at 9:40 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** The quorum was established at 9:40 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 March 23, 2016.** Dr. Richard Griffin moved the approval of minutes from March 23, 2016. Hether Benjamin Brown seconded the motion. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, R. Rogers, G. Womack, and A. Schechter.
- 6. Governance and Nominating Committee Report.** There was no report from the Chair. We discussed the need for additional members of the Board of Directors, hopefully some younger people. Members of the Board can and should nominate persons to Board Chair Catherine Mosbacher who will make formal recommendation(s). It was mentioned that Mallory Mincberg had resigned the Board due to Saturday commitments to a Grief Counseling program.

7. Finance and Audit Committee Report. Committee Chair Toya spoke briefly and asked that Business Manager Annette Simmons review the March Statements of Activities (MTD and YTD) and Statements of Financial Position. A Variance Memorandum for March with income variance was also presented. Cheryl Lawson presented the Resolution to Reimburse Pre-Construction Expenses to Operating Accounts. There was discussion of the changes to our banking which will take place:

CURRENT (purpose)

Amegy Operating Account (The Lawson Academy) ==>
Amegy Savings Account (The Lawson Academy) ==>
Unity Operating Account (Senior Residence/Agency) =>
Unity Savings Account (Reserves) ==>

FUTURE

Frost Construction Account
Frost Academy Account
Frost Academy Savings Account
Frost SR/Agency Operating Acct
Frost Reserves Account

Motion for approval of the Resolution 16-04 to Reimburse Pre-Construction Expenses was made by Billie Jo Johnson. Motion was seconded by Gerald Womack. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, R. Rogers, G. Womack, and A. Schechter.

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8. Recruiting Committee. Tarla Crumb presented a report of her recruiting activity and discussed the Open House on Thursday (44 families attended). Gerald Womack indicated he could send us a list of all homes who have sold in the area. Several persons reminded us that the Medical Center would be a great area to prospect, since parents would be able to bring their students to The Lawson Academy on the way to and from work.

FOUNDER'S COMMENT. Rev. Bill Lawson spoke about the great work of the Board and that it is of the highest quality he has seen. He also commented on the terrific leadership of Dr. Marthea Raney and Cheryl Lawson they have partnered to make the school such a success. Finally, Founder Lawson complimented Cheryl Lawson on the great work of finding and getting the CDBG grant for the academy.

9. Facility Report. Purchase of Scott Street land was completed on 4/21/16. We reviewed the building design which had been approved by campus and administrative staff. The idea of a space for counselor and a "memorial" room for WAL in the new space. There was discussion about the process to be used for vendor bidding. We will establish a CIP (construction in progress) Committee to include board members who volunteered (Gerald Womack & Hether Benjamin-Brown), members of the community (e.g., Bob Eury) and others. The Project Summary report was reviewed with attention to the Budget (\$9,335,916 project) and our outstanding financial needs (\$4,605,916). Members were invited to confirm their attendance at the Groundbreaking on May 3 at 10:30 a.m.

10. Academy Report. The Academy newsletter was reviewed and briefly discussed. There were two (2) inclement weather days approved by TEA as waiver days.

11. Executive Director's Report. The Capital Campaign progress report was discussed and emphasis was placed on the work done by Karen Lee to support the grant submissions. Hether Benjamin Brown asked about a social media funding vehicle like "Go Fund Me" to assist. Cheryl will advance that approach as well.

12. Executive Session. There was no executive session.

13. Adjournment. Dr. Richard Griffin moved adjournment at 10:55 a.m. Gerald Womack seconded the motion. Motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, R. Griffin, B. Johnson, R. Rogers, G. Womack, and A. Schechter. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.