

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

November 19, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Toya Roberts Conston
Terence Frederick
Billie Jo Johnson
Mary Ramos
Gerald Womack

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Hether Benjamin Brown
Dr. Christine LeVeaux Haley
Catherine Mosbacher

STAFF/GUESTS

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

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mary Ramos at 9:54 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** The quorum was established at 9:54 a.m.
- 4. Public Comment.** There were no public comments.
- 5. Approval of Minutes from October 29, 2016.** Billie Jo Johnson moved the approval of minutes from October 29, 2016. Gerald Womack seconded the motion. The motion was approved by T. Conston, T. Frederick, B. Johnson, M. Ramos and G. Womack.
- 6. Governance and Nominating Committee Report.** Board Goals were prepared at the October 29, 2016, workshop and distributed in today's meeting materials.
- 7. Finance and Audit Committee Report.** Annette Simmons reviewed the financial reports for October 2016. Cheryl Lawson explained that the construction project needs additional funding to meet the anticipated November expenses. The revenue from the October 1 Gala and other Capital Campaign contributions provide WALIPP with nearly enough for another \$50,000 match from the Kinder Foundation. Billie Jo Johnson moved the approval of up to \$25,000 from the Operating Account to complete the \$50,000 match with the Kinder Foundation. Gerald Womack seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, B. Johnson, M. Ramos and G. Womack.
- 8. Recruiting Committee.** There was no recruiting report.
- 9. Facility Report.** Cheryl Lawson reviewed the November Project Summary report. Income data has been included this month, reporting the project budget needed (\$9,335,916) and the

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amount received (\$7,530,700), or a nearly \$2,000,000 shortfall. When the Board raises \$1,000,000, WALIPP will receive the matching dollars from the Kinder Foundation Matching Grant. As always, The Construction Expense report provides details on the actual expenses for the project, by month. As of now, the Scott Street campus is expected to open in March 2017 instead of January. The school will be relocated over the Spring Break holiday (March 13-17). Billie Jo Johnson asked that the project team make sure to address any increased project cost due to this delay. It was decided that Cheryl Lawson would request the extension of the lease at the St. James Episcopal Church until March 30, 2017.

10. Academy Report. The principal presented the State of the Schools report. Enrollment (242), Special Education (25 students or 10.3%), Withdrawals year-to-date (4), attendance (97%), and economic disadvantage percentage (50%) which can result from previous grade level retentions, failing STAAR, probation or in custody of CPS. A delegation from Cote d'Ivoire visited the school and was impressed with the program. The benchmark data for October was presented:

	Math	Reading	Science	Social Studies
8th Grade-Girls	20.9%	19.4%	55.1%	35.9%
8th Grade-Boys	10.0%	12.5%	25.3%	30.4%
7th Grade-Girls	0.0%	22.3%		
7th Grade-Boys	15.7%	16.7%		
6th Grade-Girls	3.4%	45.4%		
6th Grade-Boys	0.0%	40.7%		

Lexile measurements were conducted for all students. Reading comprehension, determined by Lexile level, are listed below.

	Girls	Boys
8th Graders	731	668
7th Graders	706	670
6th Graders	764	569

The Lawson Academy campus monthly Board Visit Schedule:

October Dr. Toya Conston (completed)
November Hether Benjamin Brown
December Catherine Mosbacher
January Dr. Richard Griffin
February Billie Jo Johnson
March Mary Ramos
April
May

11. Executive Director's Report. A capital campaign update on the grants is in progress. Recapped the follow-up from the October 29 meeting and discussions with all board members.

12. Executive Session. There was no executive session.

13. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.