

# William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

August 26, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Hether Benjamin Brown  
Dr. Toya Roberts Conston  
Catherine Mosbacher  
Mary Ramos

## STAFF/GUESTS

Cheryl Lawson, Executive Director  
Marthea Raney  
Jones Mays, IT Consultant  
Theodore Sims, Project Manager  
Dr. Delic Loyde, PSP

## BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Terence Frederick  
Billie Jo Johnson  
Gerald Womack

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mary Ramos at 9:37 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** The quorum was established at 9:37 a.m. The pledge of allegiance was dispensed of.
- 4. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
- 5. Approval of Minutes from July 22, 2017.** Hether Brown moved the approval of minutes from July 22, 2017. Toya Conston seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, C. Mosbacher and M. Ramos.

**6. Governance and Nominating Committee Report.** Catherine Mosbacher reported that Yolanda Smith (Executive Director, NAACP Houston Branch) was visited and invited to serve. Yolanda has already accepted the Board's invitation to serve. A second candidate, Dr. David Dow, had been invited and has expressed an interest in joining but wanted to attend a meeting before making his decision. Cheryl Lawson reported that one candidate was hoping to report his availability before the meeting, but missed the deadline so we cannot report on his decision. Hether Brown indicated that of her two (2) candidates, one is now fully recovered and the other will be considered in early 2018. Due to Hurricane Harvey, Dr. Dow will be invited to attend the September meeting where he can meet members. Catherine Mosbacher recommended that Yolanda Smith be approved to join the Board of Directors. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, C. Mosbacher and M. Ramos.

**7. Finance and Audit Committee Report.** Cheryl Lawson reviewed the financial reports for July, 2017. TEA letter indicating the audit was received with no issues or noncompliance identified.

**8. Recruiting Committee.** Mrs. Gale Stewart was absent, and yet she had provided recruiting results for the current month:

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	TOTAL
Female	54	55	43	152
Male	55	42	40	137
TOTALS	109	97	83	289

**9. Facility Report.** Cheryl Lawson reported that on Friday, 8/25/17 Board member Gerald Womack had assisted the project by making contact with the City of Houston and allowed us to get 'passed' on all inspections which had been causing significant project delays. Additional permitting is

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required to gain the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy prior to being able to move in furniture and start instruction.

Given the terrible storm, starting date for the school has been changed from 8/28 to 9/5, and a copy of the email announcing the change was sent to all parents on 8/24/17. Two draw requests (Draw #2 and Draw #3) were provided in the meeting package, for board awareness. The project budget was also provided.

**10. Academy Report.** Dr. Raney discussed the two-week Professional Development schedule which has been in place. All teachers this year are certified and we have expanded the team to include Interventionists (2 Math and 1 Reading) along with a second pair of Math instructors. Dr. Delic Loyde described the 2017 Accountability Summary which indicates that the Academy remains in the Improvement Required (IR) status. The campus improved 8% in Index 1 (Student Achievement), ending the year 3% below the target. The campus declined 4% in Index 2 (Student Progress), ending the year 2% below the target (the campus had exceeded the target in 2016). The campus improved 9% in Index 3 (Closing Performance Gaps), exceeding the target by 4%. The campus improved 2% in Index 4 (Postsecondary Readiness), ending the year 6% away from the target.

Dr. Loyde commented that the targets are moving and that the Academy has made significant strides during the past year. Many schools are grappling with this issue since the standards are moving from year to year. Dr. Loyde will continue to work with the Academy in the upcoming year.

**11. Executive Director's Report.** Cheryl Lawson discussed the potential partnership with a nearby elementary school, which was encouraged by the Board. The objective of this partnership, if it takes place, would be to expand one grade per year. There are presently no elementary students in the target school. Three upcoming events were discussed.

- a. A Reception for the Advisory Committee and potential new members is scheduled for September 20 at the home of Advisory Committee Co-Chair Paula Sutton. All board members are invited.
- b. The Fall Festival (October 28) would take place at MacGregor Park and involve students and families. Elementary School Battle of the Bands would be coordinated. Mary Ramos volunteered to work with Faculty Member Kelton Penson and Gale Stewart on the Battle of the Bands effort. Catherine Mosbacher suggested reducing the length of time for the event (was presented as 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.).
- c. Fall fundraiser will be a luncheon at the Junior League on November 30, the Educating Our Community Luncheon.

**12. Executive Session.** Hether Brown moved the opening of the executive session at 10:58 a.m. The executive session ended at 11:00 a.m.

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