

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

September 23, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Hether Benjamin Brown
Dr. Toya Roberts Conston
Terence Frederick
Catherine Mosbacher
Mary Ramos
Yolanda Smith

STAFF/GUESTS

Cheryl Lawson, Executive Director
Marthea Raney
Annette Simmons
Karen Lee, Development Consultant
Theodore Sims, Project Manager

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Gerald Womack

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mary Ramos at 9:46 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** The quorum was established at 9:46 a.m.
- 3. Opening Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 4. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
- 5. Approval of Minutes from August 26, 2017.** Catherine Mosbacher moved the approval of minutes from August 26, 2017. Hether Benjamin-Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos and Y. Smith.
- 6. Governance and Nominating Committee Report.** Catherine Mosbacher reported that Yolanda Smith (Executive Director, NAACP Houston Branch) was attending her first meeting today. Yolanda formally introduced herself to the Board. A second Board candidate, Dr. David Dow, has explained that he'll be traveling through the end of the year (he will attend probably our January meeting). Billie Joe Johnson's passing was discussed, and the Board will be invited to attend the Wake and the Funeral as soon as information is available. Yolanda Smith volunteered to become a check signer given the death of Billie Joe Johnson.
- 7. Finance and Audit Committee Report.** Annette Simmons reviewed the financial reports for August, 2017.

8. Recruiting Committee. Mrs. Gale Stewart provided enrollment results for the week of the school year:

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	TOTAL
Newly Enrolled	94	42	24	160
Returning		48	43	91
TOTALS	94	90	67	251

9. Facility Report. Cheryl Lawson reported that the project had received its Temporary Certificate of Occupancy on Sunday night, September 17 at 10:30 pm. The first day of school was the following day. The project is over budget because of many factors, including electrical (pole mount vs pad mount, etc.) and plumbing (3-compartment sink, grease trap for warming kitchen). Fortunately, the campus is up and running and we continue to finish the construction required for a full Certificate of Occupancy.

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10. Academy Report. The Board reviewed the resolution for Waiver Days associated with Hurricane Harvey. Catherine Mosbacher moved the approval of the Resolution, 18-01. Hether Benjamin-Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos and Y. Smith.

Dr. Raney discussed the 2017 Accountability Summary which was again Improvement Required status. She talked also about the key elements in the Targeted Improvement Plan for FY18: Improving Reading scores from 58% to 65% by monitoring teacher quality and effectiveness and Improving Mathematics scores from 48% to 65% by implementing Student Success Plans. Student Progress (Index 2) Improvement from 28% to 30% will result from weekly measuring and tracking of student progress. As has been mentioned before, 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.

11. Executive Director's Report. Cheryl Lawson indicated that the Loss Claim would be paid shortly (\$7,500+). The Lawson Academy Real Estate Co. will hold its first meeting to establish a lease agreement with The Lawson Academy and begin collecting rents. Platinum Copiers has issued legal documents toward a trial. Our attorney is working on responses. The Giving and Capital Campaign update was provided listing an increase in 2017 of over \$1,000,000 as of late September, the largest year of giving on record for WALIPP. Karen Lee talked about the Advisory Board reception held 9/20/17, the Fall Festival planned for 10/28 and the Luncheon planned for 11/30. Board members are asked to support events as much as possible.

12. Executive Session. There was no Executive Session.

13. Adjournment. Terence Frederick moved adjournment of the Board of Directors meeting. Hether Benjamin-Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, C. Mosbacher, M. Ramos and Y. Smith. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.