

# William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

July 22, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Hether Benjamin Brown  
Dr. Toya Roberts Conston  
Terence Frederick  
Mary Ramos  
Gerald Womack

## STAFF/GUESTS

Cheryl Lawson, Executive Director  
Annette Simmons, Business Manager  
Theodore Sims, Project Manager  
Jones May, IT Consultant

## BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Billie Jo Johnson  
Catherine Mosbacher

**1. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mary Ramos at 9:35 a.m.

**2. Establishment of Quorum.** The quorum was established at 9:35 a.m.

**4. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.

**5. Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2017.** Toya Conston moved the approval of minutes from June 24, 2017. Hether Benjamin Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, M. Ramos and G. Womack.

**6. Governance and Nominating Committee Report.** Catherine Mosbacher was absent but Hether Benjamin Brown reported that the Governance and Nominating Committee had met one evening and selected several candidates for Board Invitation. Meetings will be scheduled with the nominee and Cheryl Lawson to determine if candidates are willing to serve. Resumes of candidates who are willing to serve will be brought to the August meeting.

**7. Finance and Audit Committee Report.** Annette Simmons reviewed the financial reports for June, 2017. Payment for Latimer & Associates was discussed. Dr. Toya Conston moved the transfer of monies from the Replacement Reserve (Unity National Bank) account to pay the Latimer invoice. Terry Frederick seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, M. Ramos and G. Womack.

The board asked Executive Director Lawson to negotiate a quarterly payment structure with Latimer & Associates. Hether Benjamin Brown moved the approval of the FY18 budget. Terry Frederick seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, M. Ramos and G. Womack.

**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
<b>New Enrollments</b>	46	11	19	76
<b>In Process</b>	63	51	37	59
<b>Returning</b>		34	25	151
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>286</b>

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**9. Facility Report.** Cheryl Lawson reported that the New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) program had closed on July 12 and the Frost loan has been paid off, along with giving the construction project access to more than \$1.5 million. Hether Benjamin Brown asked for clarification on the reports of how much the budget for the project had grown from \$9.7 million to \$11.2 million. Cheryl Lawson explained the additional costs.

Construction Cost	\$9,700,021
(slightly revised during NMTC project)	
In-Kind (fence, paving)	315,000
Development	94,134
Project Contingency	315,000
NMTC Closing Costs	504,250
CDE Fee Reserve	266,499
Construction Period Interest & Fees	28,526
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$11,223,430</b>

The project is still on target to be ready for August 28, 2017. The concrete driveway is being poured this morning, effort to complete all work is underway. First Loan Draw of \$211,646.76 has been submitted to Wells Fargo for payment.

**10. Academy Report.** Dr. Raney is out on vacation. The new Incentive Pay Structure "Aim High" was presented. Textbooks are being ordered, so there was an IMAT form presented for signature by Chair Ramos and Secretary Johnson.

**11. Executive Director's Report.** Transportation Vendor AFC Transportation was recommended. Their costs are higher than last year (\$245 vs \$365/day/bus), but the services are expected to be much better. Hether Benjamin Brown moved approval of the Transportation contract. Terry Frederick seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, M. Ramos and G. Womack.

Executive Director Cheryl Lawson reported that Platinum Copiers has filed a lawsuit against WALIPP claiming that their equipment is no longer being used and that WALIPP has a responsibility to pay more than \$42,000 for unused services. Executive Director Cheryl Lawson has consulted with an attorney who found that the Platinum Copier contract was unconscionable and recommends that WALIPP countersue. Terry Frederick moved that Executive Director Cheryl Lawson be authorized to move forward with counteraction. Hether Benjamin Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, M. Ramos and G. Womack. Gerald Womack moved that all contracts over \$20,000 must be presented to the Board for approval. Hether Benjamin Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, M. Ramos and G. Womack.

**12. Executive Session.** There was no executive session.

**13. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.