

## **William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity**

January 27, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

### **STAFF/GUESTS**

Cheryl Lawson, Executive Director  
Dr. Delic Loyde, PSP & Training Facilitator

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Catherine Mosbacher  
Gerald Womack

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mary Ramos at 12:28 p.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** The quorum was established at 12:28 p.m.
- 3. Opening Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 4. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
- 5. Approval of Minutes from December 16, 2017.** Toya Conston moved the approval of minutes from December 16, 2017. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, M. Ramos and Y. Smith.
- 6. Governance and Nominating Committee Report.** Executive Director Cheryl Lawson presented the Bio of Chris Bilton for review. Hether Benjamin Brown discussed her candidate, Kimberly Williamson, who is now ready to discuss service. Executive Director Cheryl Lawson reported that Dr. David Dow had not yet committed to serve, he is out of the city today and his email response did not give a certain date when he is available. Other board members were asked to present or recommend candidates.
- 7. Finance and Audit Committee Report.** Finance Committee Chair Toya Conston reviewed the November and December financial reports. Hether Benjamin Brown moved the approval of the Financial reports. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, M. Ramos and Y. Smith.
- 8. Recruiting.** Today is a recruiting event at Minute Maid Park for the National School Choice Week, and our representatives are there.
- 9. Facility Report.** Final Certificate of Occupancy is expected for the Cafeteria/Administration building on Monday or early next week. Campus buildings (boys' building and girls' building) are already approved. A Fire Marshall inspection is scheduled for 8:00 am on tomorrow, Sunday 1/28/18.

The letter provided by our attorney to the attorney of Ted Sims/TSG has not resulted in any action. Executive Director Cheryl Lawson has met with Ted Sims but no agreement was reached. Cheryl Lawson circulated the list of permits which had not been finalized under Ted Sims which were required prior to achieving the Certificates of Occupancy for all three buildings. Hether Benjamin Brown moved that if a letter from TSG was not received according to the timeline of our lawyer's

## **William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity**

January 27, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

letter, WALIPP advance the legal process to invalidate the lien. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, M. Ramos and Y. Smith.

**10. Academy Report.** During the morning training session, the idea of an alternative strategy to negate the impact of the Improvement Required (IR) status was discussed. If a Subchapter E charter school is created, and The Lawson Academy does not 'score' out of the IR status at the end of this year, the Subchapter E charter school will become operational and it will have no prior years of IR status. Yolanda Smith moved that the Executive Director be authorized to create a partnership with Houston Community College to build a Subchapter E charter school under the Texas Education Agency. Hether Benjamin Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, M. Ramos and Y. Smith.

**11. Executive Director's Report.** Executive Director Cheryl Lawson provided information on two (2) funding strategies for the WALIPP Senior Residence. The first strategy is to install central air and heat in the building's hallways, close in the endcaps and improve the apartments (new floors, countertops, cabinets and standing shower in one of the two bathrooms) by partnering with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas and others. The second strategy is to expand the number of available apartments by acquiring three lots behind the existing building and two lots to the south of the building, constructing an additional 106 apartments and partnering with the City of Houston and other large funders such as Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco and the Low Income Tax Credit program. After discussion, it was determined that the Board needs a long-range vision for WALIPP. **A facilitated planning session will be scheduled to coincide with our March Board of Directors meeting and Dr. Delic Loyde will conduct that session.**

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

**13. Adjournment.** Hether Benjamin Brown moved adjournment at 1:31 p.m. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Conston, T. Frederick, M. Ramos and Y. Smith.