

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

August 4, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Hether Benjamin Brown
Terence Frederick
Catherine Mosbacher
Immy Papadopoulos
Yolanda Smith
Kimberly Wilkinson
Gerald Womack

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Toya Roberts Conston
Morris Smith
Mary Ramos

STAFF/GUESTS

Cheryl Lawson, Executive Director
Dr. Marthea Raney, Principal
Annette Simmons, Business Manager
Sherrill Burge, TEA Monitor
Dr. Delic Loyde, PSP

William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity Agenda

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Catherine Mosbacher at 12:14 p.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** The quorum was established at 12:14 p.m.
- 3. Opening Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance.** Terence Frederick prayed, there was no Pledge of Allegiance (no flag).
- 4. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
- 5. Approval of Minutes from June 23, 2018.** Hether Benjamin-Brown moved the approval of minutes from June 23, 2018. Kimberly Wilkinson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Frederick, C. Mosbacher, I. Papadopoulos, Y. Smith, K. Wilkinson and G. Womack.
- 6. Governance and Nominating Committee Report.** There was no report. Committee chair Catherine Mosbacher was pleased that the board is undertaking the visioning process. She reminded everyone that our Lone Star Governance is scheduled for January 11 and 12, 2019.
- 7. Finance and Audit Committee Report.** Annette Simmons reported on the June financial reports. Amendments to the FY18 Budget were presented, having been approved in the last meeting to reduce the variances between budget and actual. There was discussion of the FY19 Budget, including staff increases and changes in services. Yolanda Smith moved the approval of the FY19 Budget. Gerald Womack seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Frederick, C. Mosbacher, I. Papadopoulos, Y. Smith, K. Wilkinson and G. Womack.
- 8. Executive Director's Report.** Executive Director Cheryl Lawson recommended a Fall Fundraiser that would take place in the Academy. Catherine Mosbacher suggested that the event be scheduled for November, and that attendee schedules (e.g., elected officials) be confirmed before setting the date. The Lawson Academy has received a \$250,000 TEA award for the Transformation Fund – Planning Grant. Some of those dollars are to be used for Foundation teachers during the year and the grant will also fund a Summer Academy. Contracts for Revolution Food (food vendor) and AFC Transportation (bus vendor) were presented. Gerald Womack moved the approval of vendor contracts. Terence Frederick seconded the motion. The motion was

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approved by H. Brown, T. Frederick, C. Mosbacher, I. Papadopoulos, Y. Smith, K. Wilkinson and G. Womack.

The Lawson Academy Agenda

A. Academy Report. Dr. Marthea Raney had left the meeting, so Cheryl Lawson presented the materials. TEA Monitor Sherrill Burge will continue to work with The Lawson Academy in this year, of "Formerly IR." The TEA had responded that the testing incident reported in an earlier meeting was over, no changes required by The Lawson Academy. STAAR results were presented, as they had been in the June meeting. There were questions about why scores in 2018 weren't better than in 2017 in several categories. Cheryl Lawson will speak with Dr. Marthea Raney in advance of the next Board meeting on this topic. There were questions about the insurance coverage from the bus vendor (AFC Transportation), a total of \$5 million. Cheryl Lawson will send information on AFC Transportation insurance to the board. The issues of insurance coverage in place were discussed. Cheryl Lawson was asked to have an 'expert' review our insurance coverage and compare our policies to other schools. Dr. Delic Loyce suggested that she might be able to assist with a contact at Region 4.

B. Recruiting. The Academy is now part of the 2019-2020 Common Application, which is expected to increase access to interested students. In preparation for this, the Academy has already implemented the SchoolMint application this year. One more change is required, and that is the revision of our lottery date. Kimberly Wilkinson moved the approval of Resolution 18-03 Change Enrollment Lottery Date. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Frederick, C. Mosbacher, I. Papadopoulos, Y. Smith, K. Wilkinson and G. Womack. Report on enrollment projections as of 8/2/18: 239 enrolled, 119 pending. There are fewer 6th graders than either 7th or 8th.

C. Facility Report. Discussion of the lawsuit filed by TSG, LLC. There has been a package received in advance of today's Board Meeting requesting discovery documents. Immy Papadopoulos suggested that until the discovery is complete, there can be no 'summary judgement' in the case. WALIPP will respond within the 30-day timeline. Legal expenses to date will be emailed to everyone (amount was \$9,960.97). Cheryl Lawson will contact Frank Karkowsky to inform him of the lawsuit.

D. Executive Session. There was no Executive Session.

E. Adjournment. Gerald Womack moved adjournment at 1:58 p.m. Terence Frederick seconded the motion. The motion was approved by H. Brown, T. Frederick, C. Mosbacher, I. Papadopoulos, Y. Smith, K. Wilkinson and G. Womack.