Organization Description

B.2 Governing Body

Per **ARS 15-183.E.8**, the Governing Board (Governing Body) is responsible for the policy decisions of the charter school. The Governing Body will be responsible for advising and providing direction for the establishment of the overall policies and focus of the Academy such as determining the educational policies of the academy and future changes thereto. The Board of Directors of Colegio Petite Ahwatukee "Academy Board" holds the charter and is legally and ethically responsible for the school's academic success and financial well-being, including carrying out the requirements of the charter contract, all applicable laws, regulations and reporting requirements. The Academy Board, through the Governing Body, is responsible for governance issues and will govern according to the Bylaws submitted with this charter application, and will comply with all components of Open Meeting Law. The Academy Board, through the Governing Body, will oversee Academy mission, policy, financial and academic oversight, legal and regulatory compliance, strategic planning, accountability to the public, and oversight of the "school director". The Governing Body's powers are limited to policy decisions regarding overall policies of the Academy. Initially, the Board of Directors of the Academy will also function as the Governing Body of Colegio Petite Ahwatukee. It is anticipated that the Governing Body of the Academy will eventually be comprised of between three and five persons appointed by the Member(s) of the Academy and will be separate from the Board of Directors of the corporation. The composition of the anticipated Governing Body of the Academy will include a blend of interested parents, education, civic and business leaders. Members of the corporate board for the applicant will continue to participate in the school Governing Body. It is anticipated that the formation of the initial Governing Body will occur during the organizational and recruiting phases of the Academy's preparation for its initial academic year of operation. The interim Governing Body of the Academy will be comprised of Dr. William Coats, an experienced educator and businessman in the community, and Michele Kaye, an experienced charter management COO.

When vacancies exist, the board will conduct a search for candidates based on educational, business, legal, and community involvement and experience. If a vacancy occurs, the Member(s) of the Academy will appoint new Governing Body members and the new members will be approved by a majority of a quorum present at a public meeting of the Governing Body. Appointment of new members will occur after candidates have undergone a screening process including review of their credentials and an interview by designated members of the Governing Body. New appointments will be based on the needs of the school at the time.

The Governing Body shall meet quarterly throughout the year with special meetings called as deemed necessary. Parents and community members are encouraged to become involved by attending Governing Body meetings. The Governing Body may solicit input and information from advisors such as its CMOs, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Vice President of Human Resources, Vice President of Academic Support Services, attorneys, political advisors and other experts on matters such as (but not limited to) legislative decisions, research based practices and data, and business/financial matters.

All Governing Body meetings and minutes shall be subject to applicable public records and open meeting statutes of the State of Arizona. At least once per year, the Governing Body will hold a meeting specifically designed for all parents and public to attend. At such a meeting, an annual report pertaining to the performance of the school will be presented. Parents and community members requesting items to be added to the agenda should notify the school leader in writing.

The Governing Body will seek to fill the seats with a diverse group of individuals who are representative of the community. In an effort to further enhance and develop an efficient and effective Governing Body, candidates will be selected based on educational expertise, business experience, legal knowledge and community involvement. All newly appointed Governing Body members will participate in a member training program provided by CMO's in-house legal counsel. Upon completion of the induction training, all Governing Body members are required to participate in annual training pertaining to statutory changes and updates.

Stakeholders are provided a variety of avenues to communicate with the Academy's Governing Body. Primarily, the CMO's Chief Operating Officer will report and communicate directly with the Governing Body on the major developments, accomplishments and issues pertaining to the Academy.

Additionally, the Governing Body will also work directly with the CMO's Chief Financial Officer when dealing with financial, accounting and budgetary matters. The CMO's Vice President of Human Resources will work directly with the Governing Body when dealing with contractual agreements, federal and state compliance, employee disciplinary actions and other employability issues that arise. Similarly, the CMO's Vice President of Academic Support Services will also work directly with the Governing Body when dealing with academic accountability and school performance, curricular and instructional programs, special education compliance, English language learner programs, and grants management.

When necessary, the school leader of the Academy assigned by the CMO may directly communicate with the Governing Body providing updates, reports and other information pertinent to the operations and status of the school. Lastly, parents have a direct line of communication with the Governing Body. They are encouraged to attend Governing Body meetings or email the Governing Body to discuss any concerns they may have. The Governing Body will set aside time at each meeting to hear from the public on any such issues allowing parents another avenue of communication.