B.2 School Governing Body

The Board of Directors of The Grande Innovation Academy will serve as the School Governing Body for The Grande Innovation Academy and is hence referred to as the Board. The Board makes decisions as stewards of The Grande Innovation Academy. At all times, it acts with the best interests of the organization in mind and consistently acts in a way that is consistent with the central goals of the organization.

A. Governing Board Responsibilities
The Board is accountable for all governing issues and will create and approve policies pertaining to such, as per **A.R.S.** § **15-183**(E)(8). It will govern according to the Bylaws with the application and will comply with Open Meeting Law. Further, the Board is responsible for the school's overall academic, financial, and ethical success, and thus will take on additional responsibilities as described below. The corporate board for the Applicant will act as the school governing body. The Applicant does not currently intend to form a school governing body separate from the corporate board.

The Governing Board will have the following responsibilities:

Mission Alignment
The Board will ensure that the school's operations are consistently aligned and focused on the school's mission and vision. The Board will ensure effective organizational planning by creating and revising policies, while using the schools mission to guide the process. The Board will set aside time to strategically plan and review the school's progress each month in order to monitor and strengthen the school's progress toward its goals.

Academic Oversight
The Board will consistently evaluate academic data and academic progress of The Grande Innovation Academy's scholars and will assess the effectiveness of instruction, curriculum, and supervision based on this information. The Board will manage resources in order to best support scholar learning and will hold staff and directors responsible for delivering results. It will also make recommendations for improvements based on an academic dashboard.

Board Effectiveness and Succession Planning
The Board will also be responsible for recruiting and orienting new Board members and assessing the Board's performance. The Board will seek out opportunities for training related to its responsibilities, as needed.

Financial Oversight
The Board will be responsible for guaranteeing that the school maintains a balanced budget, manages its resources effectively, and is in good financial health. The Board will participate in fundraising through donations from external sources such as grants as well as personal donations.

Policy Development and Legal Compliance
The Board will ensure that the school is in compliance and is accountable to State and Federal laws at all times. The Board will review this compliance on a regular basis and will ensure that all legal documents are properly filed and that the school maintains legal and ethical integrity. The Board will also be responsible for ensuring policies and procedures are developed to ensure compliance, maximize safety, and minimize risk.

Public Promotion
The Board will be responsible for enhancing the school's public standing by helping the school to network, forge relationships within the community and respond to concerns.

Governing Board General Practices
The Governing Board shall make decisions pursuant to the By-laws of the corporation. A simple majority of the Board, in attendance either in person or telephonically, will constitute a quorum. A simple majority of those present will constitute action by the Board. The Board shall at all times ensure compliance with the Arizona Open Meeting Law.

Board Meetings
Each month the Board will set the agenda for its monthly meeting. At that time the Board will discuss such things as:

- Financial statements
- Academic growth
- Teacher recruitment, retention, development
- School-Community related events
- Goals of the Executive Director

Board Officers
The Executive Director and Academic Coach will be paid staff positions. The Executive Director shall be President, Leah Bowers will be the initial Vice-President and the Academic Coach shall be the initial Secretary and Mark Weber will be the initial Treasurer. The Board of Directors may elect such officers and assistant officers and agents as may be deemed necessary. The same individuals may hold more than one office. All members shall be voting members of the Board.

President. The Executive Director will be President and shall supervise and control the school's business operations including management of the school's finances, fundraising, marketing, community partnerships, parent relations, and school discipline. Jointly with the Business Manager, the Executive Director shall have authority to appoint agents and employees of

the school, to prescribe their powers, duties, and compensation, and to delegate authority. Such agents and employees shall hold office at the joint discretion of the Executive Director and Business Manager. The Executive Director shall perform all duties incident to that office, and the Board may prescribe such other duties as from time to time.

Vice-President. The Vice-President will perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's death, inability, or refusal to act. The Vice President shall have such powers and perform such duties as, from time to time, may be assigned to him or her by the President or the Board of Directors.

Secretary. The Academic Coach shall be secretary and (a) keep the minutes of the Board's meeting in one or more books provided for that purpose; (b) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provision by these Bylaws or as required by law; (c) be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the school if one is authorized by the Board, in which case the Secretary shall see that the School is affixed to all documents the execution of which on behalf of the school under its seal is duly authorized; and (d) in general perform all of the duties to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Chair or by the Board.

The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall: (a) oversee the development and observation of the organization's financial policies, budgeting, reporting to the Board and serve as Chair of Finance Committee; and (b) in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Chair or Vice-Chair.

Other Assistant and Acting Officers. The Board shall have the power to appoint any person to act as assistant to any officer, or to perform the duties of such officer whenever for any reason it is impracticable for such an officer to act personally, and such assistant or acting officer so appointed by the Board, shall have the power to perform all duties of the office to which such as person is so appointed to be assistant, or as to which such person is so appointed to act, except as such power may otherwise be defined or restricted by the Board.

The current composition of the Applicant's board of directors (school governing body) is:

Patricia Messer 950 N. Peart Road Casa Grande, AZ 85122	Leah Bowers 16722 W. Brilles Road Surprise, AZ 85387
Kristin Boatright PSC 78 Box 1444 APO AP 96326	Mark Weber 11241 S. Hopi Street Goodyear, AZ 85338

Governing Board Committees
The Board by resolution may create one or more standing committees having such powers as are then assigned by the Executive Director or Business Manager. Committees may consist of one or more Board members and members assigned by the Executive Director and Business Manager.

Filling a Board Vacancy
Under the Applicant's bylaws, any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of death, resignation, or removal, or any directorship to be filled by reason of an increase in the number of directors, shall be filled by the affirmative vote of the majority of the remaining directors, although less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining director, at a special, regular, or annual meeting. A director elected to fill a vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors shall hold office for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office.

Annually, the Board shall conduct a comprehensive assessment of its needs, including identifying gaps in the members' skills, knowledge, or abilities. This needs assessment shall be used to identify individuals with interests aligned to the Board and capacities complementary to those of the current members. These individuals will be informed of the statutory requirements for corporate board membership and, if amenable, shall be added to a list of potential Board members. Should a vacancy occur, or should the Board choose to increase the number of members within the guidelines of the Bylaws, any Board member may nominate an individual from the list, with membership contingent on approval of the member by the authorizer.

It is the intent of the current GIA Board to maintain at least three names on the list of potential members. This list may include, but not be limited to, parents of GIA students, members of the Casa Grande business community, and/or community leaders

Table B.2.1 Board Members

Board Member	Position	Qualifications
Patty Messer	President, Executive Director	Masters in Educational Psychology Bachelors in Elem Education Certified Elementary - K-8 Teacher Non-profit Board experience
Leah Bowers	Vice-President	Certified Elementary Teacher Gifted Endorsement Non profit board experience
Kristin Boatright	Secretary, Academic Coach	Certified Elementary Teacher Masters in Education
Mark Weber	Treasurer	Financial and Business Expertise Marketing and Promotion Expertise Masters in Business Administration Non profit board experience