B.3 Governing Body

As stated in its bylaws, the powers and duties of the Board of Directors for the Institute for Transformative Education include the overall administration of the new charter high school, hiring and evaluation of the school's principal/director, setting school policy and legal and financial oversight.

Additionally the board's responsibilities include:

- Maintain the integrity of the school mission and vision
- Establish and approve overall teaching policies and academic models, student policies, employee policies
- Adopt the annual budget
- Recruit and replace board members
- Commitment to support for mission in every category
- Compliance with Arizona's Open Meeting Law, A.R.S. §§ 38-431 through 38-431.09 on and after the Charter Date

The organizing Board of Directors for the Institute for Transformative Education consists of two members: Celestino Fernandez, PhD and Rosie Garcia.

Celestino Fernandez, PhD was named University Distinguished Outreach Professor in 2007 by the University of Arizona in recognition of his "exception service to the community, state and nation." This designation captures Fernandez's exceptional career in education. In addition to his many years as a University of Arizona Professor of Sociology, Fernandez has also served on school boards including: Arizona Virtual Academy, PPEP-TEC Charter High School, and Insight Online High School (in California). He also co-founded and served on the Board of Directors of San Miguel High School.

Rosie Garcia received the 2007 LULAC National Presidential Citation Outstanding Educator's Award. Garcia's career in education spans three and a half decades as a Spanish teacher at the secondary level (Sunnyside High School – Grades 9 – 12). Garcia has been broadly engaged in the community in leadership positions as well as serving on non-profit boards including Kino Heritage Society, Tucson Hispanic Coalition, University of Arizona Hispanic Alumni, Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson, Father Kino Celebration Committee, Tucson Sister Cities Program, University of Arizona Latin American Community, University of Arizona, Chicano/Hispanic Student Affairs and Resource Center, Mujer '95 – LULAC's First Women's Conference, League of United Latin American Citizens, Third Annual LULAC Youth Leadership Conference, and Mayor's Task Force on Youth Violence. Garcia is widely recognized in Tucson for her dedication to community and to boosting the academic achievement of low-income and minority youth.

The current board members of the Institute for Transformative Education (Fernandez and Garcia) will recruit *and elect* an additional one to three board members *as soon as possible. One board member candidate has been identified and is in the process of applying for the Arizona Department of Public Safety Fingerprint Clearance Card.*

In the meantime, should the two member board have a split vote on a motion, the matter will be added to the agenda for a future meeting for a new discussion and vote.

Board members will be recruited from exceptional community members that will be strong advocates for the school's mission and vision. Qualifications for additional directors will include their ability to perform the board's responsibilities with excellence as well as the particular expertise they possess that will enhance the boards' overall ability to govern. Future board vacancies will be filled in a like manner.

Following one year of school operation, two board members will be recruited from the student body each year to serve one year terms. *To be eligible for a position on the board, students must have 1) a 3.0 or better grade point average, 2) a 3.0 or better grade in the Sociology of Governance course* and 3) passed the 10th grade AIMS test. They must be juniors or seniors during their year of service on the board. Students who meet the eligibility requirements can apply for a position on the board at the end of the academic year for consideration by the current board, with the students' board terms to begin immediately upon election to the board. The board will elect the two students it deems most qualified to take leadership positions.*

Board members will receive an orientation to include training in the Arizona Open Meeting Law to be provided initially by the schools attorney. Training and orientation will also include a review of the charter school's history, charter law, financial reports, legal standing, all policies, and school progress as well as board member expectations.

The meetings of the Board of Directors of the school will be posted in compliance with the Arizona Public Meeting laws. Annual notification will be given to the Arizona Secretary of State of the location of public meeting postings and notices will also be sent to parents and stakeholders. Notice will be given 24 hours in advance of regular meetings and 72 hours in advance of special meetings. The time and place of the annual meeting will be advertised 10 days prior to the meeting date. The board will conduct business with the quorum required by the bylaws. All persons wanting to attend the meetings will be permitted to attend and listen to the deliberations and proceedings. All board members will participate in Open Meeting Law training. All other requirements of the Arizona Open Meeting Law will be met.

**The Sociology class is an elective enabling any student to join the student governance team at the Western Institute. Not a "student government," this is a committed group that plans all-school meetings held each Friday and assists the administration in researching, setting, and implementing school policy. Sociology includes both the study and practice of governance in order to develop both personal leadership skills and the school community.*