A. Strength and Stability and Stability of the Governing Body (Governance Committee)

Part 1: Members

Karen Edris
Karen has been a board member 1997. She graduated in 1984 from Indiana State University with a BA in Computer Science and in 1986 from Indiana State University with an MBA. She completed all of the coursework for the teacher certification program at the University of Phoenix in 1998 and taught at the University of Indianapolis and at Mesa Community College. Because of her love of children and education, she left the post graduate community and began working at Bright Beginnings Charter School as the Preschool teacher in 1996; became the director in 1997 and assistant principal in 1999. She purchased the for-profit school in 2006 and has been the principal and a board member ever since.

Carole Slaybaugh
Carol has served on the board since 1999 and also is a 6th grade teacher at Bright Beginnings Charter School. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Education from Wayne State College in and her Master's in Education from National Louis University.

Terri Harris
Terri has served on the board since 2002. She has worked as a teacher's assistant at Bright Beginnings School for eight years. She graduated from college with a math degree and worked for several years in the high tech industry in Silicon Valley. She and her husband researched schools and knew that Bright Beginnings would be a great school for their two girls. Both of them attended BBS from preschool until 6th grade. When her daughters started school at BBS, Terri spent so much time volunteering, that she decided to apply for a teacher assistant position. She worked in kindergarten for two years, one year in first grade, two years in second grade, and this is her third year in 6th grade. She has enjoyed aiding in all grade levels but particularly 6th grade because it allows herto use her math degree which she truly enjoys.

Part 2: Recruitment Process – Members of the Governance Committee (Governing Body) are recruited from the parent/teacher community at the school. Notification is sent to stakeholders through newsletters, e-mail and personal invitaion announcing the vacancy and instructing interested parties to contact the principal. The Committee interviews candidates and fills vacancies at an open meeting and considers the following factors in its decision: 1) areas of expertise offered by each candidate 2) reliability and willingness of the candidate to actively participate in the Committee's responsibilities and 3) commitment to the school's mission.

The School Principal provides training for new board members in Open Meeting Law (members receive a book from the Attorney General's office on this subject,) history of the school, and other areas relating to curriculum, academics and Committee procedures. The school's financial service provider meets with new members to assist them in understanding the school budget and interpreting the financial data that is presented at every board meeting. Committee members may also attend the Arizona Charter Schools Association conferences to learn more about the changes that are occurring in the industry so that they better understand how these changes impact the school.

Part 3: Governance Structure/Organization- The Governance Committee serves as the School's Governing Body for purposes of A.R.S. 15-183 (E) (8) and is responsible for the policy decisions of the School. Pursuant to the corporation's bylaws, the president of the Corporation or his/her nominee also serves as the chair of the Governance Committee. All members of the Governance Committee are appointed by the President. The specific responsibilities of the Governance Committee include:

(b) Developing an annual School schedule of events and activities;

(c) Developing major educational policies;

(d) Making recommendations for hiring qualified personnel for the School;

(e) Reviewing the annual budget and financial plan and monitoring and recommending adjustments as necessary throughout the year;

(f) Monitoring and reviewing annual inspections or audits of accounts of the School, as well as any other audits required by law, as made by accountants, auditors, or other personnel selected by the corporation's Board of Directors;

(g) Facilitating ongoing evaluation of the policies and performance of the School and ensuring public accountability; and

(h) Making recommendations to carry out such other duties as are required or described in the School's charter.

The School Governance Committee follows all Open Meeting Laws. Agenda items are posted in advance at a pre-designated public location and the Board does not address issues that are not on the agenda. Board meetings are recorded electronically by the Secretary who is responsible for recording the minutes at every meeting. Committee minutes are maintained in the school office and are readily available to the general public.

Part 4: Monitoring Academic Performance

The school's Governance Committee has responsibility for oversight and monitoring of the school's academic performance. The Principal presents this information annually after analyzing the results of AIMS, AYP, and AZ LEARNS, current-year grade-level assessment results as well as trends over time. If the Principal identifies deficiencies or areas of concern, she seeks the assistance of the Curriculum Director and ultimately the applicable teacher(s) to determine the additional actions or support that is needed to improve pupil achievement in that area. The Principal shares this information with the Governance Committee with any recommended changes to the curriculum, textbooks and programs.