B. Strength and Stability of the Governing Board

The current members of the Mingus Springs Charter School (MSCS) Governing Board are:

President - Chris Igel
Vice President - Lupe Ocampo
Clerk - Karen Black-Passmore
Member - Janeen Rainwater
Member - Dawn Gonzales.

Chris Igel is an educational technology consultant, community business member, and a MSCS parent. Lupe Ocampo is a community business member and a MSCS parent. Karen Black-Passmore is a MSCS parent. Janeen Rainwater is an accounting associate specializing in tax, accounting, and payroll services. Dawn Gonzales is the Director of MSCS, an educator, and a MSCS parent.

Governing board members are sought through our families and community members. If a member chooses not to return at the end of their two year term or upon resignation, a search for a new member begins through advertising of an opening on the board. The Director interviews prospective members and makes a decision based on the applicant's experience of the educational system, knowledge of and interest in Mingus Springs Charter School, and a desire to make a positive difference in the lives of our students. New board members are nominated by the Director at a governing board meeting and voted on by the existing board members. After the appointment of a new member, he/she is given a copy of the charter, a MSCS policy manual, information on how the MSCS governing board operates, and training, as needed, by the Director and board president. Members are also given the opportunity to attend board trainings through the county and the Arizona School Board Association (ASBA).

The governing board is a critical element of MSCS. First and foremost, it is responsible for upholding the charter. The board is also responsible for addressing operational decisions of the school, such as approving and adopting school policies, approving and monitoring the school's annual budget, reviewing financial reports, approving certified contracts, review of the Director's performance, and strategic planning. MSCS has contracted with ASBA to create the school's policy manual. The governing board is obligated to and does comply with all rules, regulations, and laws set forth by the state of Arizona when conducting their meetings, including the Open Meeting Law. The MSCS Director is responsible for developing the agenda for each monthly meeting. The President of the board facilitates the monthly meetings. In his absence, the Vice President becomes the facilitator. The Clerk is responsible for taking the meeting notes and developing the minutes from those notes.

The decision-making process of the MSCS Governing Board takes place during scheduled and posted meetings. The Board makes decisions concerning the governance of the school and allows the Director to make decisions that relate to the management of the school. Issues or concerns from the staff, parents, or community are brought to the Director. The Director then consults with the Board President and together they decide whether the issue/concern is a Board matter or one that the

Director needs to resolve. If the issue/concern requires Board involvement, it is placed on the next month's meeting agenda. During the meeting, items are discussed, reviewed, and voted upon. There must be a quorum (3 members) for the Board to vote on an agenda item. A majority vote is required for an item to be addressed. A strong partnership between the Board and the school Director, which is built on mutual trust and respect, allows for smooth operations of MSCS.

It is the Director's responsibility to report on the school's academic performance during a scheduled board meeting. The Board evaluates the information. Appropriate actions for improvement or continued success are discussed and delegated to the appropriate person or committee.