MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL OF FLAGSTAFF, INC.

an Arizona Subchapter S Corporation

Strength and Stability of the Governing Body

Part 1: Current List of Governing Board Members

James Spencer, BS Engineering (USNA), MS Management (USC), MBA (Harvard); broad business experience; father of an MCSF graduate – (Resume available in original charter); Original board member

Marlane Spencer, BA (U of West FL), BA (UCI), Early Childhood Specialist (UCI), Montessori Certificate; extensive teaching experience; mother of an MCSF – (Resume available in original charter); Original board member

Christa Stevens – Extensive small business ownership experience; former director of MCSF Elementary Program; mother of two MCSF graduates; board member since October 27, 2002.

Anne Dickman, BSBA (ASU); co-owner of CPA firm; MCSF CPA; mother of two MCSF graduates; board member since October 27, 2002.

David Dickman, BSBA (ASU); co-owner of CPA firm: MCSF CPA; father of two MCSF graduates; board member since October 27, 2002.

Part 2: Governing Body Recruitment/Selection & Development

James and Marlane Spencer are the original board members of the school. The other three governing board members have been in place for at least 7 years, and were involved with the school in other roles for several years prior to becoming board members. All board members were recruited from the population of parents of students at the school and selected based, first, on the skills that were needed to establish a strong board and, second, on the prospective board members' familiarity with the school, its mission, and its operations. All board members are variously involved in the operation of the school. Their development as board members depends on the expertise they bring to their respective posts. All board members were oriented and received on-the-job training prior to and after becoming board members.

For example, on the basis of his extensive business experience in a variety of roles, James Spencer functions as Business Manager. As an experienced teacher at every level of education from preschool to adult education, in traditional and Montessori settings,

Marlane Spencer acts as Chief Administrator. Both Anne and David Dickman are thoroughly familiar with the financial condition and the financial operations of the school by virtue of their position as owners of the CPA firm the school has engaged, and are very familiar with school operations since their sons were both students at the school for a decade or more. Christa Stephens understands the operations of the school since she administered major portions of the school for nearly a decade, and participated as a parent at every grade level for even longer.

Because several very well qualified parents either teach at the school, act as school administrators or volunteer in the classrooms of the school (and sit in on staff meetings from time to time), the school has a substantial pool from which to recruit and select future board members in the event any of the current members wish to step down. Since all current board members have a long history with the school, own and operate businesses in Flagstaff, and have expressed a desire to remain on the board, openings are not anticipated for the foreseeable future.

Part 3: Governance Structure and School Organization

Please refer to the Organization Chart provided in this application and the narrative provided with it.

Because of the provisions of the Open Meeting Laws, the School Governing Board is composed of 5 directors: the 2 corporate directors, the corporation's 2 CPA's, and a former Elementary School Director. All meetings of the governing board are held and any decisions made by the governing board are made in a meeting open to the public. Notice of all meetings of the governing board are posted in a easily accessible location on file with the office of the Arizona Secretary of State, that being the location of the MCSF Middle School at 2212 E. Cedar Avenue in Flagstaff.

The board approves all policy decisions and any exceptions to normal operations recommended by the Chief Administrator. The board bears the responsibility for officially communicating with the State Board for Charter Schools and the AZ Department of Education. On January 19, 1996, in an open meeting of the board, the governing board granted broad operating and financial authority to the Chief Administrator and Business Manager, respectively. The board agreed to function thereafter in an advisory capacity, while still retaining its oversight responsibility.

The Chief Administrator acts as head of school operations. She is responsible to the board for the day-to-day operations of the school and all decisions required to insure its efficient operation and success as an educational institution. The Business Manager acts as financial head of the school. He is responsible to the Chief Administrator for all external reporting, and the ongoing financial viability of the school. He bears responsibility for all of the financial activities of the school. The Business Manager may act in the absence of the Chief Administrator if a decision on an operating issue is required. Both individuals are accountable to the board for their actions and are required to give account to the board whenever requested.

School Directors act as principals of their respective buildings/sites. MCSF is located in four buildings located in west, central and east Flagstaff. Each School Director operates under the authority of the Chief Administrator to insure the smooth operation of their respective programs. Communication among the Chief Administrator, the Business Manager, and the four School Directors is constant; this includes daily e-mails and phone conversations and usually daily visits by either or both of the Chief Administrator or the Business Manager to each school site.

Part 4: Monitoring School's Academic Performance

The Governing Board is ultimately responsible for overseeing every aspect of school operations and performance. As such, the board monitors the academic performance of the school by reviewing published test scores. Board members may visit any of the classrooms of the school at any time, unannounced. Members remain abreast of school operations through the chief administrator and the business manager (board members) who actively participate in the school's day-to-day operations. Through the Chief Administrator (a board member), the board conducts a review of each child's performance, each classroom's performance and each grade level's performance on every standardized test to insure that every potential academic problem is addressed at its source. Members of the board also have direct access to every member of the school's administration and instructional staff.