B.2 Governing Body

Responsibilities of the Governing Body, per A.R.S. §15-183.E.8

Arizona statute mandates that the charter of a charter school shall ensure the following: "That it provides for a governing body for the charter school that is responsible for the policy decisions of the charter school. Notwithstanding section 1-216, if there is a vacancy or vacancies on the governing body, a majority of the remaining members of the governing body constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, unless that quorum is prohibited by the charter school's operating agreement" (A.R.S. §15-183.E.8). The Rising School's governing body is the Governing Board. The governing body will have no role beyond the statutory minimum. The Governing Board is responsible for approving all school policy.

Article III, Section 4 of RSI's corporate bylaws delineates the powers of the Board: "The Board shall have and possess all of the powers, rights and discretions necessary or appropriate for the discharge of its duties and responsibilities, including, without limitation, such powers, rights and discretions as are conferred upon it in these Bylaws and under the laws of the State of Arizona." Article 2, Section 5, of RSI's Board Policies describes the Board's responsibilities:

<u>Section 5. Board Responsibilities</u>

1. The Board is responsible to the Corporation by:

a. Promoting and protecting the mission of the Corporation
b. Adhering strictly to the code of ethics
c. Setting the direction of the Corporation through planning with specific goals
d. Supervising and managing the person or persons who report directly to the Board including, the person(s) holding to position of "Principal" or such other similar designation and engaged by the Corporation to manage and administer the educational programs of the Corporation at each one or more school facility location ("School") in Pima County ("Head of School"). The Head of School is, in turn, directly responsible to and shall report to the Board.
e. Evaluating the Corporation's programs/services to ensure they are consistent with their objectives, the goals, and the Corporation's mission
f. Reviewing and keeping up to date the corporate documents, including without limitation those set forth in Article 1, Sections 5 and 7 above
g. Accounting to the public for the educational services offered by the Corporation as required by law.

2. The Board is responsible for the financial condition of the Corporation by:

a. Ensuring adequate resources for the Corporation
b. Ensuring proper accounting principles
c. Ensuring that the Board always has at least one member with financial literacy
d. Approving financial plans, policies, statements, budgets and audits
e. Accounting to the public for the expenditures of the Corporation's funds

3. The Board is responsible to itself by:

a. Following procedures as found in the bylaws and policies
b. Setting and ensuring proper performance of Head of School and the processes of committees and other entities created and governed by the Board
c. Strategically recruiting and orienting new Board members
d. Evaluating its own governing performance
e. Conducting efficient and productive Board meetings

Composition of the Governing Body

The Governing Board is currently composed of three members: Gregory J. Berger, J.D., Rosie Garcia, M.Ed., and George G. Rising, Ph.D. The Board intends to add two to four members by the time The Rising School opens in August 2013. The three current Board members are not related nor do they have any financial involvement with each other; in fact, Mr. Berger and Ms. Garcia had never met before they each became a Director of RSI. Each is a longtime Tucson resident of 25 years or more with many years of experience in education.

Gregory J. Berger, J.D., the Treasurer of the Board, contributes legal and educational experience to the organization. Mr. Berger is a defense attorney at the Pima County Public Defender, adjunct professor of law, and former secondary-school teacher. After growing up in Tucson, he attended Occidental College, graduating in 1990. He had two tours, totaling nine years (1991-95 and 2001-05), of teaching history at St. Gregory College Preparatory School, one of the best independent schools in Arizona. In between stints at St. Gregory, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer, teaching English in Kyrgyzstan for two years, and then attended the University of Arizona's College of Law, earning his Juris Doctor degree and passing the Arizona State Bar in 2001. Since 2006, he has worked as a Defense Attorney in the Law Offices of the Pima County Public Defender. He also teaches at the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona.

Rosie Garcia, M.Ed., the Secretary of the Board, is a distinguished, long-time educator in Tucson. Ms. Garcia earned her M.Ed. in Secondary Education and a K-12 Principal's Certificate from the University of Arizona. For the past 37 years, she has taught at Sunnyside High School in Tucson where she also has sponsored numerous clubs and organizations, including the National Honor Society. She has also served as head of the Spanish Department for two decades. She is committed to community involvement and has served on the board of directors of Luz Academy of Tucson Preparatory School, Every Voice in Action Foundation, and the Western Institute for Leadership Development charter school. She is a member of several professional organizations and has won many honors and awards, including the 2007 LULAC National Citation Outstanding Educators Award.

George G. Rising, Ph.D., the President of the Board, is an accomplished school leader with 16 years of experience at some of the best schools in Tucson. After growing up in Michigan, Dr. Rising earned a B.A. in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in U.S. history from the University of Arizona. He holds a Principal's certification from the state of Arizona, and in May 2013, he will receive his Superintendent's certification after he finishes his M.Ed. in Educational Leadership at the University of Arizona. He has published three books on political history and is an active member of several professional organizations.

Dr. Rising has extensive experience as an educator in Tucson. From 1995 through 2002, he was an adjunct history professor at the University of Arizona. In 2002, he began four years of teaching AP U.S. history and AP U.S. government at St. Gregory College Preparatory School, one of the best prep schools in Arizona. In 2006, he moved to BASIS Tucson, where he began as an AP U.S. history and AP U.S. government teacher. Soon, he was promoted into administration, serving as Academic Director, then Upper School Director, and finally, as Head of School. During his tenure at BASIS, it was ranked by Newsweek magazine as the #1 best public high school in the United States. In 2010, he left BASIS and joined the Western Institute for Leadership Development, a charter high school, as the founding principal. In late 2011, he left the Western Institute. In April 2012, the CEO of AmeriSchools Academy, a Tucson charter school, hired him as principal. Dr. Rising worked for AmeriSchools for two months. In late June, however, the school's governing board decided that Dr. Rising's desire to help start The Rising School constituted a "conflict of interest" with AmeriSchools. Dr. Rising then got a job teaching history for two months before being hired as the Interim Head of School at the International School of Tucson in November 2012.

Process for Filling Vacancies on the School Governing Body

Article VI, Section 2 of RSI's corporate bylaws states: "If a vacancy occurs on the Board, including a vacancy resulting from an increase in the number of Directors, the Board may fill the vacancy." Article III, Section 2 of RSI's bylaws states: "The Board shall ensure competence when qualifying potential Directors. Each potential Director shall complete the Board application form and be subject to such application interview and review procedure as the Board may establish."

Article VII of RSI's bylaws describes the process for nominations and elections of Board members:

"Section 1. Election of Directors

The Board shall ensure that proper elections are held in accordance with these Bylaws. Each potential candidate shall complete the Board of Directors application. The Board shall follow the below process for the election of Officers and Directors.

1. The President of the Corporation shall make known the "call for Board candidates" at least 90 days prior to the end of the fiscal year. The notice shall ask interested individuals to request an application by a certain date. The notice may go to the Board, the community or other organizations, as determined by the Board.

2. All applications are due to the Secretary at least 45 days prior to the end of the fiscal year, the President, shall ensure that the application due date is approximately 1-2 weeks prior to a scheduled Board meeting.)

3. After the application due date, the President shall inform the Board of the number of applications received. The Board shall meet through in executive session to review the applications. Motion and vote to accept or reject each application is subject to the Arizona open meeting law and shall occur either at the regular or at

a special meeting. The President shall send a notice to each applicant informing them of the decision of the Board.

4. The Board shall consider each application and make a determination of potential candidates based on the need of the Board.

5. The Board shall ensure that at least one Board member that has financial literacy and that each and every candidate fully understands the responsibilities of serving on the Board.

6. Those applicants that have been approved by the Board shall receive from the Secretary a copy of the Articles, Bylaws and Board Policy of the Corporation, including information regarding the next Board meeting and location. The President shall ensure that the new Board member(s) are informed of processes and upcoming critical decisions of the organization."

By August 2013, the current board members will recruit directors to fill the vacancies on the Board with individuals who meet the following guidelines:

- Have expertise in the following areas: education, real estate, facilities management, finance, business operations, fundraising, community leadership, politics, or human resources
- Possess a deep commitment to RSI's mission
- Are willing to execute the responsibilities and obligations of a Director on the Governing Board

RSI's board members have conducted serious conversations with several possible candidates for board membership as the board expands. One possible new member is Juan R. Garcia, Ph.D. A professor of history, Dr. Garcia has extensive experience in leadership, education, and scholarship. He joined the faculty of the University of Arizona's History Department in 1981. His other administrative appointments at the university include Head of the History Department, Associate Dean for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, and Vice President for Instruction. In the early 2000s, he served for three years as Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College of Saint Mary in Omaha, Nebraska. Dr. Garcia would bring leadership and education experience to the board, and his fluency in Spanish would be asset, too.

Another possible board member is Deborah Munoz-Chacon. Ms. Munoz-Chacon has been the owner and president Sonoran Oasis Landscaping since 2005. She and her company have won several awards, including the 2006 Small Business Administration Minority Enterprise Development Service Firm Award and the 2007 National Enterprising Women of the Year Award. Previously, Ms. Munoz-Chacon was an accountant for over a decade. She has also served on several nonprofit boards and is an active member of many professional and philanthropic organizations. She would bring business, finance, and community-service skills to the RSI board.

Another possible board member is Margret Huebner. Ms. Huebner is the co-owner of Commercial Carpet Cleaning, Inc., a family-owned company based in Tucson since 1985. She oversees the finances of the company which has over a dozen employees. Under Ms. Huebner's

leadership, Commercial Carpet Cleaning has become renowned for its customer service and products, which has led to winning several small-business honors, including a nomination for a prestigious Copper Cactus Award in 2012. Ms. Huebner would bring leadership, business, finance, and community-service experience to the RSI board.

Another possible board member is Randy Brainard. Mr. Brainard would bring community leadership and educational experience to RSI. He grew up in metropolitan Tucson, graduating from Marana High School in 1989 and the University of Arizona in 1994. He then taught biology at his alma mater, Marana High School. He left teaching for his calling in the ministry, serving for fourteen years as the youth pastor at Northwest Bible church in Tucson. In 2010, he founded and became head pastor at a new church, Hope Community Church in metropolitan Tucson. The successful start and quick growth of Hope Community's congregation attest to Pastor Brainard's leadership, organizational skills, and community-building ability.