

## **POLICIES PERTAINING TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **CHARTER AND BYLAWS**

#### **Governing Structure**

The schools operate as open-enrollment charter schools under charters granted by the State Board of Education to Student Alternatives Program, Inc. (SAPI), as a non-profit corporation exempt from taxation under Section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. SAPI's principal purpose is to undertake and promote programs of education. SAPI is legally and fiscally responsible for the start up and ongoing operation of the four charter schools.

The governing structure for all four charters will consist of three levels of policy and decision-making bodies: 1) the Student Alternatives Program, Inc. (SAPI) Board of Directors; 2) the State Charter School Board (SCSB); and 3) the schools' Local Management Advisory Boards (LMAB). This structure is designed to provide checks and balances to ensure the credibility and integrity of the Academies.

#### **Student Alternatives Program, Inc. Board of Directors**

The Student Alternatives Program, Inc. (SAPI) Board of Directors, established in 1989, is the first level of governance for the Academies. Its membership consists of five (5) members, each member representing different areas of the State of Texas. The role of the SAPI Board will be that of fiduciary and sponsoring agent of the Academies. As such, the SAPI Board has final authority on all fiscal policies and decisions made in relation to the operations of the school and is responsible to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for the Academies' fiscal and operational accountability matters.

#### **Charter School Board**

The State Charter School Board (SCSB) is the second level of governance. Its membership consists of the (SAPI) Board of Directors and at least one (1) member of each of the four charter's Local Management Advisory Board. The role of the SCSB is to conduct all business transactions and to make decisions on the operation of all the charter schools. The SCSB also oversees the operations of the Local Management Advisory Board.

#### **Local Management Advisory Board**

The third level of governance is the Local Management Advisory Board (LMAB). It consists of 7 individuals representing the local community. The members are parents, business and community leaders, community members, and educators. The responsibility of the LMAB is to make decisions on fiscal and operational matters as they relate to the Academy's day-to-day operations.

Initially, the SAPI Board of Directors appointed LMAB members based on nominations and recommendations made by the existing Charter School Coordinating Committee. Any person that lives or works within the Academy's service area is eligible to serve on the LMAB.

**Date Adopted: November 4, 2000**

**Date Amended: March 28, 2009**