

Exhibit A  
**BYLAWS**

**OF**

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**ARTICLE I**

**General**

**Section 1. Name.** The name of the corporation is \_\_\_\_\_ Inc. (the “Corporation”).

**Section 2. Initial Registered Office and Initial Registered Agent.** The post office address of the Corporation’s initial registered office is \_\_\_\_\_. The initial registered agent in charge of the initial registered office is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Section 3. Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on the first day of \_\_\_\_\_ and end on the last day of \_\_\_\_\_ next succeeding.  
(Alternative is calendar year)

**ARTICLE II**

**Board of Directors**

**Section 1. Directors.** The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed, controlled, and conducted by, and under the supervision of, the Board of Directors, subject to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation (the “Articles”) and these Bylaws. The Board of Directors shall have the number of members, not less than \_\_\_\_\_, as designated by resolution of the Board of Directors from time to time. ***At all times all members of the Board of Directors shall be residents of the State of Indiana, and at least one-half of the members of the Board of Directors shall be residents of the Indiana counties where current students at the charter school reside.***

At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors immediately preceding the expiration of the term of any director, or at a special meeting, the Board of Directors may elect a new director to replace a director whose term will expire, or has expired, and each such new director shall serve for a term of \_\_\_\_\_, or such other period as prescribed by the directors at the time of such election, and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. Following the expiration of a director’s term, at least \_\_\_\_\_ must elapse before he or she again may be elected to the Board of Directors.

In order to ensure continuity among the directors of the Corporation, the terms of the members of the Board of Directors may be staggered as deemed necessary.

Section 2. Quorum and Approval of Actions. A majority of the directors in office immediately before a meeting begins shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business properly to come before the Board of Directors. Unless otherwise provided in the Articles or these Bylaws, the approval of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Regular Meetings. The Board of Directors may hold regular meetings, as fixed by these Bylaws or by resolution of the Board of Directors, for the purpose of transacting such business as properly may come before the Board of Directors.<sup>1</sup>

Section 4. Special Meetings. Notwithstanding the preceding Section 3 of this Article II, the Board of Directors may hold special meetings for any lawful purpose upon not less than two (2) days' notice, as described in Section 6 of this Article II, upon call by the Chair or by two (2) or more members of the Board of Directors. A special meeting shall be held at such date, time, and place inside the State of Indiana or elsewhere as specified in the call of the meeting.

Section 5. Compliance with Indiana Open Door Law. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, the Corporation shall comply in all respects with the Indiana Open Door Law (currently codified at Indiana Code ("IC") section 5-14-1.5-1, et seq.), and any corresponding provision of subsequent Indiana law, in connection with all regular or special meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Notice of Special Meetings. Oral or written notice of the date, time, and place of each special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be communicated, delivered, or mailed by the Secretary of the Corporation, or by the person or persons calling the meeting, to each member of the Board of Directors so that such notice is effective at least two (2) days before the date of the meeting and complies with the Indiana Open Door Law. The notice need not describe the purpose of the special meeting.

Oral notice shall be effective when communicated. Written, electronic, or telefaxed notice, where applicable, shall be effective at the earliest of the following:

- (a) When received;
- (b) Five (5) days after the notice is mailed, as evidenced by the postmark or private carrier receipt, if mailed correctly addressed to the address listed in the most current records of

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<sup>1</sup> **COMMENTARY:** The Organizer's governing board has the statutory responsibility, among others, to oversee and provide direction for the executive, fiscal, educational, administrative and management functions of the charter school. As such, it should conduct regular board meetings throughout the year at regularly scheduled times and at regularly scheduled intervals where possible. Special meetings can be scheduled by the board as necessary to address unique issues which may arise in the charter school's operations. It is the experience of Ball State University that successful governing boards generally conduct between eight (8) and twelve (12) regular meetings per year.

the Corporation;

(c) On the date shown on the return receipt, if sent by registered or certified United States mail, return receipt requested, and the receipt is signed by or on behalf of the addressee; or

(d) Thirty (30) days after the notice is deposited with another method of the United States Postal Service other than first class, registered, or certified mail, as evidenced by the postmark, if mailed correctly addressed to the address listed in the most current records of the Corporation.

Section 7. Waiver of Notice. Notice of a meeting may be waived in a writing signed by the director entitled to notice and filed with the minutes or the corporate records. Attendance at or participation in any meeting of the Board of Directors shall constitute a waiver of lack of notice or defective notice of such meeting unless the director shall, at the beginning of the meeting or promptly upon the director's arrival, object to holding the meeting and not vote for or assent to any action taken at the meeting.

Section 8. Action by Written Consent. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors, or any committee thereof, may be taken without a meeting if a written consent describing such action is signed by each director or committee member and if such written consent is included in the minutes or filed with the Corporation's records reflecting the action taken. Action taken by written consent shall be effective when the last director or committee member signs the consent and the Board of Directors ratifies the action taken in a subsequent meeting held pursuant to the Indiana Open Door Law, unless the consent specifies a prior or subsequent effective date. A consent signed as described in this Section 8 shall have the effect of approval at a meeting and may be described as such in any document.

Section 9. Resignation, Removal, and Vacancies. Any director may resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to the Board of Directors, the Chair, or the Secretary of the Corporation. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or if no time is specified, at the time of its receipt by the Board of Directors, the Chair, or the Secretary. The acceptance of a resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

A director may be removed for cause by a majority of the directors then in office. Cause shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- (a) Violations of applicable law, including (but not limited to):
  - (i) Violations of the Indiana Charter School Law; and
  - (ii) Actions that would jeopardize the tax-exempt status of the Corporation or would subject it to intermediate sanctions under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws (the "Code").

- (b) Breach of fiduciary duty, including (but not limited to) a violation of the applicable standard of care under the Articles, these Bylaws, or applicable law.
- (c) Breach of any governing document relating to the Corporation, including (but not limited to) the Articles, these Bylaws, and the Charter Agreement.
- (d) Inadequate attendance at meetings of the Board of Directors, defined as absence from \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive meetings or from at least \_\_\_\_\_ percent (\_\_\_\_%) of such meetings within one (1) calendar year.

Any vacancy on the Board of Directors created by the resignation or removal of a director shall be filled by a majority of the directors then in office.

Section 10. Educational Management Organizations. Should the Board of Directors elect to engage an educational management organization (“EMO”) to manage the operations of the charter school for which the Corporation is responsible (the “School”), no member of the Corporation’s Board of Directors may have any pecuniary interest in such EMO.

### ARTICLE III

#### Officers

Section 1. In General. The officers of the Corporation shall consist of a Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as the Board of Directors may otherwise elect. An officer may not simultaneously hold more than one (1) office. Each officer shall be elected by the Board of Directors and shall serve for one (1) year, or such other period as prescribed by the directors at the time of such election, and until the officer’s successor is elected and qualified.

An officer shall be a member of the Board of Directors. Any officer may be removed by the Board of Directors at any time for cause as that term is defined herein in Article II, Section 9. Any vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Board of Directors, and any person elected to fill such vacancy shall serve until the expiration of the term vacated and until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

Section 2. Chair. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors of the Corporation and shall be responsible for implementing policies established by the Board of Directors. The Chair shall perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may prescribe.

Section 3. Secretary. The Secretary shall be the custodian of all papers, books, and records of the Corporation other than books of account and financial records. The Secretary shall prepare and enter in the minute book the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall authenticate records of the Corporation as necessary. The Secretary shall perform the duties usual to such position and such other duties as the Board of Directors or the Chair may prescribe.

Section 4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall prepare and maintain correct and complete

records of account showing accurately the financial condition of the Corporation. All notes, securities, and other assets coming into the possession of the Corporation shall be received, accounted for, and placed in safekeeping as the Treasurer may from time to time prescribe. The Treasurer shall furnish, whenever requested by the Board of Directors or the Chair, a statement of the financial condition of the Corporation and shall perform the duties usual to such position and such other duties as the Board of Directors or the Chair may prescribe.

Section 5. Other Officers. Each other officer of the Corporation shall perform such duties as the Board of Directors or the Chair may prescribe.

## ARTICLE IV

### Committees

*(Optional Provision. May be necessary or requested by OCS if Charter School has a Board of Advisors which functions as a body separate from governing board and to which governing board wishes to delegate certain functions or responsibilities. This proposed provision would give the Advisory Board cognizable legal status under Indiana's corporate statutes regarding committee participation in corporate governance)*

Section 1. Executive Committee. The Board of Directors may, by resolution adopted by a majority of the directors then in office, designate two (2) or more directors of the Corporation to constitute an Executive Committee which, to the extent provided in such resolution and consistent with applicable law, shall have and exercise all of the authority of the Board of Directors in the management of the Corporation's affairs during intervals between the meetings of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the authority and supervision of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Other Committees. The Board of Directors may establish other committees, in addition to the Executive Committee, to accomplish the goals and execute the programs of the Corporation. Such committees shall have such responsibilities and powers as the Board of Directors shall specify. Members of such committees may, but need not, be members of the Board of Directors. A committee member appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board of Directors with or without cause.

## ARTICLE V

### Conflicts of Interest

Section 1. General Policy. It is the policy of the Corporation and its Board of Directors that the Corporation's directors, officers, and employees carry out their respective duties in a fashion that avoids actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest. The Corporation's directors, officers, and employees shall have the continuing, affirmative duty to report any personal ownership, interest, or other relationship that might affect their ability to exercise impartial, ethical, and business-based judgments in fulfilling their responsibilities to the Corporation. This policy shall be further subject to the following principles:

(a) Directors, officers, and employees of the Corporation shall conduct their duties with respect to potential and actual grantees, contractors, suppliers, agencies, and other persons transacting or seeking to transact business with the Corporation in a completely impartial manner, without favor or preference based upon any consideration other than the best interests of the Corporation.

(b) Directors, officers, and employees of the Corporation shall not seek or accept for themselves or any of their relatives (including spouses, ancestors, and descendants, whether by whole or half blood), from any person or business entity that transacts or seeks to transact business with the Corporation, any gifts, entertainment, or other favors relating to their positions with the Corporation that exceed common courtesies consistent with ethical and accepted business practices.

(c) If a director, or a director's relative, directly or indirectly owns a significant financial interest in, or is employed by, any business entity that transacts or seeks to transact business with the Corporation, the director shall disclose that interest or position and shall refrain from voting on any issue pertaining to the transaction.

(d) Officers and employees of the Corporation shall not conduct business on behalf of the Corporation with a relative or a business entity in which the officer, employee, or his or her relative owns a significant financial interest or by which such officer, employee, or relative is employed, except where such dealings have been disclosed to, and specifically approved and authorized by, the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

(e) The Board of Directors may require the Corporation's directors, officers, or employees to complete annually (or as otherwise scheduled by the Board) a disclosure statement regarding any actual or potential conflict of interest described in these Bylaws. The disclosure statement shall be in such form as may be prescribed by the Board and may include information regarding a person's participation as a director, trustee, officer, or employee of any other nonprofit organization. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for oversight of all disclosures or failures to disclose and for taking appropriate action in the case of any actual or potential conflict of interest transaction.

Section 2. Effect of Conflict Provisions. The failure of the Corporation, its Board of Directors, or any or all of its directors, officers, or employees to comply with the conflict of interest provisions of these Bylaws shall not invalidate, cancel, void, or make voidable any contract, relationship, action, transaction, debt, commitment, or obligation of the Corporation that otherwise is valid and enforceable under applicable law.

## ARTICLE VI

### Indemnification

**(The presence of this article will typically be helpful in recruiting board members)**

Section 1. Indemnification by the Corporation. To the extent not inconsistent with applicable law, every person (and the heirs and personal representatives of such person) who is

or was a director, officer, employee, or agent of the Corporation shall be indemnified by the Corporation against all liability and reasonable expense that may be incurred by him or her in connection with or resulting from any claim, action, suit, or proceeding (a) if such person is wholly successful with respect thereto or (b) if not wholly successful, then if such person is determined (as provided in Section 3 of this Article VI) to have acted in good faith, in what he or she reasonably believed to be the best interests of the Corporation (or, in any case not involving the person's official capacity with the Corporation, in what he or she reasonably believed to be not opposed to the best interests of the Corporation), and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, is determined to have had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was lawful (or no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was unlawful). The termination of any claim, action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, settlement (whether with or without court approval), or conviction, or upon a plea of guilty or of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not create a presumption that a person did not meet the standards of conduct set forth in this Article VI.

## Section 2. Definitions.

(a) As used in this Article VI, the phrase "claim, action, suit, or proceeding" shall include any threatened, pending, or completed claim; civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative action, suit, or proceeding and all appeals thereof (whether brought by or on behalf of the Corporation, any other corporation, or otherwise), whether formal or informal, in which a person (or his or her heirs or personal representatives) may become involved, as a party or otherwise:

(i) By reason of his or her being or having been a director, officer, employee, or agent of the Corporation or of any corporation where he or she served as such at the request of the Corporation, or

(ii) By reason of his or her acting or having acted in any capacity in a corporation, partnership, joint venture, association, trust, or other organization or entity where he or she served as such at the request of the Corporation, or

(iii) By reason of any action taken or not taken by him or her in any such capacity, whether or not he or she continues in such capacity at the time such liability or expense shall have been incurred.

(b) As used in this Article VI, the terms "liability" and "expense" shall include, but shall not be limited to, counsel fees and disbursements and amounts of judgments, fines, or penalties against, and amounts paid in settlement by or on behalf of, a person.

(c) As used in this Article VI, the term "wholly successful" shall mean (i) termination of any action, suit, or proceeding against the person in question without any finding of liability or guilt against him or her, (ii) approval by a court, with knowledge of the indemnity provided in this Article VI, of a settlement of any action, suit, or proceeding, or (iii) the expiration of a reasonable period of time after the making of any claim or threat of any action, suit, or proceeding without the institution of the same, without any payment or promise made to

induce a settlement.

Section 3. Entitlement to Indemnification. Every person claiming indemnification under this Article VI (other than one who has been wholly successful with respect to any claim, action, suit, or proceeding) shall be entitled to indemnification if (a) special independent legal counsel, which may be regular counsel of the Corporation or any other disinterested person or persons, in either case selected by the Board of Directors, whether or not a disinterested quorum exists (such counsel or person or persons being hereinafter called the “referee”), shall deliver to the Corporation a written finding that such person has met the standards of conduct set forth in Section 1 of this Article VI and (b) the Board of Directors, acting upon such written finding, so determines. The person claiming indemnification shall, if requested, appear before the referee and answer questions that the referee deems relevant and shall be given ample opportunity to present to the referee evidence upon which he or she relies for indemnification. The Corporation shall, at the request of the referee, make available facts, opinions, or other evidence in any way relevant to the referee’s findings that are within the possession or control of the Corporation.

Section 4. Relationship to Other Rights. The right of indemnification provided in this Article VI shall be in addition to any rights to which any person may otherwise be entitled.

Section 5. Extent of Indemnification. Irrespective of the provisions of this Article VI, the Board of Directors may, at any time and from time to time, approve indemnification of directors, officers, employees, agents, or other persons to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, or, if not permitted, then to any extent not prohibited by such law, whether on account of past or future transactions.

Section 6. Advancement of Expenses. Expenses incurred with respect to any claim, action, suit, or proceeding may be advanced by the Corporation (by action of the Board of Directors, whether or not a disinterested quorum exists) prior to the final disposition thereof upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the recipient to repay such amount unless he or she is entitled to indemnification.

Section 7. Purchase of Insurance. The Board of Directors is authorized and empowered to purchase insurance covering the Corporation’s liabilities and obligations under this Article VI and insurance protecting the Corporation’s directors, officers, employees, agents, or other persons. .

## ARTICLE VII

### Contracts, Checks, Loans, Deposits and Gifts

Section 1. Contracts. The Board of Directors may authorize one (1) or more officers, agents, or employees of the Corporation to enter into any contract or execute any instrument on its behalf. Such authorization may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized by the Board of Directors, no officer, agent, or employee shall have any power to bind the Corporation or to render it liable for any purpose or amount.

Section 2. Checks. All checks, drafts, or other orders for payment of money by the

Corporation shall be signed by such person or persons as the Board of Directors may from time to time designate by resolution. Such designation may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 3. Loans. Unless authorized by the Board of Directors, no loan shall be made by or contracted for on behalf of the Corporation and no evidence of indebtedness shall be issued in its name. Such authorization may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 4. Deposits. All funds of the Corporation shall be deposited to its credit in such bank, banks, or depositories as the Board of Directors may designate. Such designation may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 5. Gifts. The Board of Directors may accept on behalf of the Corporation any gift, grant, bequest, devise, or other contribution for the purposes of the Corporation on such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors shall determine.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Amendments

The power to make, alter, amend, or repeal the Bylaws is vested in the Board of Directors of the Corporation; provided, however, that any proposed substantive alteration, amendment, or repeal of these Bylaws must be approved in writing by the sponsor of the School (as the term “sponsor” is defined in IC 20-24-1-9) prior to the Board of Directors of the Corporation taking any action thereon.