



AISU Board Meeting Agenda
AISU Board Room (2nd Floor Conference room)
May 19, 2017, 2 p.m.

- I. Welcome (1 minute)
- II. Public Comment
- III. Executive Session – motion (30+ minutes) VOTE
- IV. Approval of Minutes (2 minutes) VOTE
- V. Auditor Recommendation (10 minutes) Mike Edmonds
- VI. Other business (2 minutes)
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Adjourn VOTE

Executive Session

Executive session after public comment to discuss administrative and leadership feedback and new audit results. Board members will attend in person or by phone. The public and staff are welcome during the public sessions. Executive Session conducted for reasons permitted under Utah Code 52-4-205, including the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.



AISU Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 19, 2017, 2 p.m.
AISU Board Room (2nd Floor Conference Room)

Board Members Present: Richard Maxfield, Mike Edmonds, Diane Johnson, Matt Bowman, David Chan

Attendees Present:

Secretary Present: Tracy Field

AGENDA & MEETING MINUTES

- I. **Welcome & Call to Order:** Richard Maxfield called the meeting to order, welcome parents.

- II. **Public Comment:** two scheduled, Tracy Field read, A board member may ask you a question to help clarify our points or suggestions but Utah public meeting rules prevent them from answering questions or acting on your comments during this board meeting.
 - a) Sarah Barker – Thank you. Board meetings lacking in parent involvement, hope to see more in the future. This is not a parent protest. Invitation to board and administration come to May 25 PTO election, 630p. Following election, town hall style forum. We have issued statement to parents giving our intentions. Topics include plans for middle school, elementary, high school; plans to improve communication and transparency, how changes in staff and administration effects us; plans for transportation and parking regulations; and preschool and other classes. RSVP no later Monday 21st. AISU.PTO@gmail.com

 - b) Kevin Anderson – I am president of local law firm Fabian VanCott, oldest law firm in state. Attorney for AIS LLC. AIS is organization that provides management operational & instructional services for AISU. For profit company responsible for operating AIS. Required to do it that way because of EB5. Concern that I have, noticed on board's agenda today "auditor recommendation." Concern that there has been some offline discussion may be part of a review of Michael Farley's performance. No record of board minutes of auditor being selected or appointed by the board, no record of audit committee which is required, If there is an audit done of Mr. Farley's performance, the agreement between AISU and AIS LLC requires the criteria would be mutually agreement. That has not been done. Mike Farley not involved or contacted by auditor that would make recommendations. Certain legal problems if there is a recommendation and any action pursuant to that recommendation. I tell the board, told Mr. Wright there are contractual agreements and binding legal docs that govern the relationship between AISU and AIS LLC. AIS LLC expects those agreements to be honored and no interference AIS LLC to perform its obligation. Someone contacted bank and had Mr. Farley's name removed from bank account. AISU is not permitted to take and there have been other actions. AIS LLC wants good working relationship with AISU, wants that to continue, but it has to be done according to what required.

- IV. **Review of minutes:** Richard Maxfield noted that this is not a regularly scheduled board meeting and therefore the minutes are not prepared, no action. Public question from Mike Farley, are unapproved minutes available? No.



III. **Executive Session** VOTE

- Richard Maxfield calls for motion to go into executive session
- Mike Edmonds moves
- Diane Johnson seconds the motion
- Votes in favor: Maxfield, Edmonds, Johnson, Bowman, Chan (unanimous)

Excuse the audience

Public question – Will we open up for public comment after the executive session? Yes, keep comments to 1 minute; show of hands of how many people would like to make a comment. Board has made a motion to go into executive session. Executive session will begin

Public comment – Sara Casaday, meeting minutes have not been posted to public meeting notice.

(recorded session 170519_0024)

Moved to first floor conference room for executive session.

Out of Executive Session

- Richard Maxfield calls for motion
- Mike Edmonds moves
- Diane Johnson seconds the motion
- Votes in favor: Maxfield, Edmonds, Johnson, Bowman, Chan (unanimous)

No actions coming out of the executive session.

V. **Auditor Recommendation:** Mike Edmonds noted the agenda item, no recommendation today, no audit suggested, pending the need for one.

VI. **Other Business**

VII. **Public Comments**

Nicole Rich – Love AISU, love vision that Mike Farley had, want to see elementary students as a priority, come out of the portables ASAP. High school and middle school received cool perks and benefits, maybe elementary has been on the back burner a bit.

Randi Cowan – Great experience with teachers at this school, genuinely care about our kids. I have supported the teachers because of what they hold in their hearts for our kids. Feeling very uneasy and uncomfortable because teachers are leaving, changes are occurring and no one knows why. Teachers give more than 110% of everything, they should be put first. Lower elementary play area not adequate. So much time taken out of the day for bathroom breaks because they have to be walked back and forth to the bathroom.

Natalie Lance – Committed to this school, we moved our house to be here. Love the school, the teachers and administration, Mike, Steve, Kelly and so many people make this school excel, maybe the board doesn't know that. Seems like people get mistreated and dismissed without explanation. All the changes make us uneasy, want to see the vision continue. When there's no communication from the board about why and no details it is very frustrating.



Monica Galdd – Stressed out parents want to know what is going on, lots of conversations about Mike Farley. Students are really missing Steve, no one more committed than Steve and Mike. Communication has been a problem. More attempts have been made, but there is more work to do. Feel like communication is backsliding.

Jamie Adamson, Elementary PTO Vice President – See lots of things. I started coming to the board meetings as a member of the PTO, important to stay informed. I haven't always been respected in this room. Not always convey the reason behind the decisions so they don't understand the causes behind the decisions that we make. PTO spends time simmering down angry parents. PTO is supposed to be a bridge between the administration and the parents. No sense of community if we feel disrespected. We have some amazing teachers and amazing administrators. We've gone through a lot of changes this year that haven't been disclosed. Want a school where kids can go to – a forever home, we saw the vision, the goal of what they wanted to see for our kids. All believe in the vision. All worried about the vision being lost – caused by not hearing things and understanding why. Don't want to stage protests. Want parents to stay informed and involved. Want to have a school and community that we can all have faith in.

Effie – Communication issues, hands tied because of lack of communication. Lower elementary issues have been discussed. Teachers first is important. Teachers need to know that they have someone representing them. Teachers are scared of how to address a question; worried they will get in trouble for a word they say. They should be confident to answer questions.

Amber Mortensen, Lower elementary teacher – Found passion working at this school. Montessori method is where it's at in lower elementary education. We must have a bathroom person if we are going to stay in the portables. We need all three teachers in the classrooms at all times. Redirection is needed often (they are six year olds) as students build their ability to stay focused. Give lower elementary what it needs, it will carry through to the other grades for years to come. Whole culture of this school is dependent on having a strong lower elementary program.

Aundrea Hurtado – There can be greater strides. Want academics to thrive here, STEM program. Utah has highest dropout rates, financially not prepared, academic not, poor foundation in language, math, science. We are well known for our performing arts but they are soft skills. Build strong academic and job productivity skills. It's a privilege to attend AISU. We didn't come here to be average. Hear that success coaches are amazing, why are they leaving? We're not having a lot of communication with the board. Parents don't participate, don't know the big picture. No one asks parents why they bring their kids here. Need more opportunity to connect. School lunch is lacking, we can't produce strong minds on a bad diet. Parents are very committed, passionate. School needs to value the parents, use their skills and talents. We need build a fully immersive international experience. Charter schools need to get to seven years to hit their stride. My kids don't have time for that.

Sara Casaday, International – I work with international students, I am representing their parents. I am worried about survival of the international program. As staff members, we have not received any answers. International program staff members have received multiple calls from agents, former students, and parents trying to understand what's going on. Funding for STEM and performing arts comes from international tuition because of Mike Farley's relationships.

Arial Chan, International – I do a lot of recruiting and working with school partners. I am worried about our partnerships. Want to know how partnerships will go forward. Agents calling, they are unsure of how to move forward without Mike Farley. Ariel is worried about funding. Our STEM program, performing arts can't function without those partnerships Mike helped us get. Also concerned about staff morale.



Stephen Blake – Sport program concerns. Lack of support here for sports, my kids went elsewhere to play sports. Now that Steve Farley is gone, he did what he could do to get them to their events safely. When we do have a place set up to play, when it's our turn to get the refs we don't get the refs, then we forfeit. Kids should be able to play when they put so much time in to play. Wife and I talk about the quality of the school, the funding and the dream that Mike Farley brought to the school.

Public Comments Richard Maxfield recognizes the need to communicate and provide responses

Public Question regarding an audit **Mike Edmonds responded** the agenda item was misinterpreted, the agenda items was to make a recommendation for an auditor to perform testing but we are not ready to make that recommendation

VIII. **Adjourn** VOTE

- a. Motion to adjourn
- b. Mike Edmonds seconds the motion
- c. Votes in favor: Maxfield, Davis, Edmonds

(recorded session 170519_0029)