



December 13, 2018

Dear AISU Community,

Today the Utah State Charter School Board (SCSB) reviewed AISU's 5-year history in their board meeting. AISU was well represented by our board members, administrators, and parents. Some of the tougher historic financial and educational statistics of the school were discussed. The SCSB board really worked hard to understand our school organization. They asked tough questions of us and of the members of their team that have been working with our school. The board recognized our significant progress over the last 18 months.

In the end, several SCSB members complimented AISU's board and pointed out that we have taken steps to dramatically change AISU for the better, including significant administrative and board member changes. One SCSB member specifically complimented AISU in proactively making these changes, among others, that have greatly impacted the trajectory of the school in a positive way. Due to our proactive nature SCSB will continue to work with AISU to achieve even more successes. SCSB followed their framework for school success by place us on "warning status." This status will give us access to a mentor as well as additional tools and resources provided by the state.

SCSB's two main concerns about AISU are financial viability, and education results. I have included some specifics about these two concerns below. I will follow up and report on our progress at monthly board meetings. The school will also send out any significant updates to this process as it happens. Thank-you for your continued support of our faculty, staff, and most importantly our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tasi Young".

Tasi Young
Executive Director, American International School of Utah

Financial Viability

SCSB focused heavily on the fact that, since it opened, the school has overspent its revenue by millions of dollars, which it received from outside funding. We have already been addressing these concerns during the last 18 months. In one year we have reduced our deficit from over one million to under two-hundred thousand. By next year budget projections show us in net positive. We have significantly revised our budget by reducing facility costs, restructuring staffing, and by implementing a new system of tracking expenditures. AISU's staff and teachers are currently operating within budgets and processes that will allow us to be more transparent both in the short-term and long-term planning.

Education Results

It is not always easy to measure education results. There is a very robust nationwide debate regarding standardized tests and formative assessments. I think it is important to understand that AISU was born out of this debate and therefore any discussion of education results needs to be in context of AISU's philosophy of personalized learning and alternatives to traditional education models. Even though we have shown improvements AISU is still in the bottom quartile of the State's education standards. We have been collecting meaningful data that will help indicate how we can improve upon the successes we have already seen in our SAGE and ACT scores over the last year. We are committed to continue our focus on improvement to our literacy program, curriculum development, and teacher training.