

April 24, 2015

Dear Fellow Alliance Staff,

This is not really something I would normally do, but feel compelled by my conscience to do. I understand that UTLA is circulating another petition to Alliance teachers and counselors today. I do not think you should sign the petition and here is why:

Today, I attended at press conference that UTLA organized to say that Alliance was involved in "unfair labor practices".

I attended with teachers from several Alliance schools, who like me are very concerned about UTLA's attempts to organize our teachers, especially after the union's years of attacking charter schools and Alliance in particular. All I heard from the union was misinformation and distortions about Alliance. There were specific claims against my principal and my school that I know to be absolutely false. That is not the kind of organization I want involved in Alliance schools. Their involvement has already been divisive and counterproductive, taking focus away from our students.

The union has taken a new insidious tactic with teachers who are satisfied with their Alliance school, telling us that teachers and counselors at other Alliance schools are mistreated. I say let teachers at each Alliance school speak on behalf of their own experience, and not some rumor about another school or what might happen in the future. If you like your school, know that a vote for the union will fundamentally change what your now treasure. Is that the risk you want to take for some promise of something better from an organization that has been opposed to the very existence of our schools?

I have made it no secret that I think having a union with UTLA would be damaging to our students and even to our teachers. After this morning, I feel even more strongly than I did before.

I encourage you to join me in NOT signing the petition. I encourage you to get more facts. Ask UTLA to give you facts about the promises they make to you.

This is too serious of a decision to do based on falsehoods, rumor and innuendo.

If you would like to discuss this more, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Hoffman  
Counselor  
Alliance Tennenbaum Family Technology High School