



**Unionization Campaign at Alliance Losing Steam  
UTLA Makes Another Legal Maneuver in Attempt to Silence Opposition  
October 12, 2015**

Dear Colleagues:

Last Friday, UTLA once again chose a bureaucratic legal maneuver to try to gain an advantage in its unionization campaign against Alliance College-Ready Public Schools. Since March 2015 when UTLA announced a campaign to attempt to organize Alliance teachers and counselors, the union has led an aggressive drive designed to pit teachers against teachers and teachers against school leaders. The union has denounced the Alliance to our staff, elected officials, community organizations, and members of the media.

Despite seven months of these divisive and dishonest tactics, more than 80% of Alliance teachers have expressed no interest in joining UTLA. In addition, more than 1,600 Alliance parents have signed a petition stating that they want to maintain an independent, UTLA-free Alliance.

Clearly frustrated by the lack of success in organizing Alliance teachers, UTLA filed with the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) a request for an injunction in hopes of silencing voices who oppose their agenda. In this latest complaint against the Alliance, UTLA has targeted teachers by name, accusing those teachers of interfering with the union's right to organize simply because the teachers do not support UTLA.

According to Craig Winchell, a history teacher at Alliance Neuwirth Leadership Academy who was named in the injunction, *"I find it ironic that UTLA has named me, one of the very teachers they say they want to bring into their union, as intimidating and interfering with their campaign. So much for the rights of teachers to freely express their opinions. Frankly, I am not interested – nor are any teachers on my campus – in having an organization built on divisions and antagonism being a part of the Alliance community. We have a great collaborative culture that has helped us become a network of excellent public schools serving students who really need us."*

Throughout the request for injunction UTLA admitted that their campaign was losing steam. Instead of seeing through the administrative processes of the previous legal complaints, UTLA has essentially opted for the legal last-ditch option, which requires a lower threshold of proof than their previous PERB complaints in hopes of litigating their way into Alliance schools and muffling dissenting viewpoints.

From the start of UTLA’s campaign, Alliance has respected the rights of our teachers and counselors to decide for themselves, free from coercion by anyone, whether they want, or don’t want, to be represented by a union. That has been demonstrated repeatedly by not just our words, but by our actions— teachers have freely disseminated information and held open discussions about unionization on and off their campuses.

We also recognize the rights of Alliance leadership and all Alliance staff to be part of this important conversation, not sidelined bystanders. That means we all can share opinions, facts and experiences about unionization. In fact, we believe it is our responsibility to ensure our teachers and counselors have a full set of facts to make an informed decision – not just opinions from UTLA, an organization that for years has been opposed to charter schools and Alliance in particular.

Alliance has been guided by expert legal counsel throughout the campaign and has acted with integrity and transparency. UTLA’s attempts to denounce and intimidate Alliance leadership with attacks on our character are dishonest, malicious and desperate.

In addition, a number of Alliance teachers have said they’ve felt harassed by UTLA’s efforts to strong arm them to join a union that they have no interest in being a part of.

According to Jeremy Hoffman, a counselor at Alliance Tennenbaum Technology High School, *“When I publicly shared my opposition to UTLA, one of my colleagues who supports the union asked me not share my opinions because it was offensive to him. I am grateful Alliance has provided facts about UTLA’s track record and history of opposing charter schools like Alliance. If UTLA had their way, we’d only hear one side of the story.”*

Alliance expresses our disappointment at the continued divisive and disruptive attacks by UTLA against our schools and teachers.

The Alliance community is proud of our teachers, and we share their commitment to providing a high-quality education for all students. We remain steadfast in our commitment to always put the needs of students first and foremost.

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