

Albert Einstein Academy Charter School
PO BOX 977
Española, New Mexico 87532
(505) 927-6797

July 21, 2016

New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC)
300 Don Gaspar Ave.
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Commission,

Let me begin by thanking you all for the opportunity to prepare and present the charter school application for the Albert Einstein Academy Charter School. As evidenced in our public hearing, application and public comments, we are prepared to open our doors and begin providing education services for the students most at risk in the Espanola Valley. I was heart broken to hear that the commission had already made an informal decision and an informal public vote, which was apparent at the conclusion of the hearing. It seems apparent that the commission has already decided to deny the application. The commission received an application and YES the application had a minor glitch because some of the appendices did not attach. The application's main paperwork did upload and was available for review. The items that did not upload were available if the commission would have allowed them to be turned in as soon as we were informed. The pieces of the application that were left out really do not determine the success or failure of the application or the schools start-up. Budgets are hypothetical, and job descriptions and governance manuals are not critical in the earliest stages. We know they are important and we do have them available should they be requested. However, I have witnessed application move forward and 2 months before opening, they continue to have pieces missing, this is not the case for the AEA.

In listening to the commission, I felt that we had great support and I felt that the commission was constructed of a diverse-groups of individuals who were able to think freely and vote independently. However, when it came to voicing the individual thoughts, the support seemed to be there but many of the commissioners echoed that the application would be denied because of previous practice. The commission chair mentioned that in the past when attachments have been left, they have been rejected. The school application is not a simple matter of business. The denial of the application is another slap in the face to the students and the many individuals that poured their hearts out and pled for help and new venues for our at risk youth. I think the community and I deserve the exact law that is being cited as the reason for the applications denial so that we may pursue this further.

It was once said, "If we always do, what we always did, we will always get --what we always got!" I think that it is disappointing to know that the commission is not able to transform and make a more sound decision. I think every member of the commission knows that allowing the creation and development of the Albert Einstein Academy is what is best for students, more specifically the kids of the Espanola Valley. A vote to not allow the AEA to proceed is a vote against a brighter future for so many young men and women. A vote against the school, is a vote to more lives lost to the

streets. I urge the commission to be more progressive and think outside the box, think about how you can help students who need your vote.

If we never ventured to do things differently, we would not have the technology we have today or any of the progression that makes us the civilized society we are today. I think the commission needs to re consider their decision and suspend their previous policies and practices and consider doing what is right for kids. The appointment to the commission was an appointment of confidence that you would make decision that would promote the education of our state's children and to ensure that the education our children in New Mexico receive only the best.

Let me also say, I agree that some charter schools need to shut their doors. There is an over saturation of Charter Schools, but Espanola is not one of those places. Espanola NEEDS the Albert Einstein Academy and the Albert Einstein Academy is ready to serve the children of the Espanola Valley. Therefore, at this time I am begging and pleading with the commission to think about what you heard and what WAS in the application packet, be progressive, be responsible and VOTE to allow the Albert Einstein Academy to proceed.

The Albert Einstein Academy is about saving children and keeping them off the streets and keeping them in the classroom. Can you honestly vote against the Academy because a couple documents that could easily be produced did not attach, simply because that is the way it has always been done. The idea that everyone will vote against the application and not bother to ask any questions at the hearing or allow for the documents to be produced simply because that is the way it has always been done is preposterous. Education is all about change and moving with the times. Be a transformational leader and travel uncharted waters.

Therefore, at this time I ask each and every commission member to think about what you saw and what you heard at the community input hearing. Think about what is best for kids and think about voting for a school that WILL provide quality educational service and mental health support to the students who need us most!!

As a K12 administrator, certified as a K-12 teacher in English, Social Studies, Modern and Classical languages, Bilingual, Special Education, Gifted and Talented, and licensed as an Athletic Coach (NMTL 286109), I would be happy to do it all and for free to make a difference in my community. The reality is, the school needs funding and we need support. Please vote for kids, vote to allow the AEA to proceed forward. As the voice of many, I ask you to VOTE YES!!

Sincerely,



LeAnne C. Salazar-Montoya
Founder
(505) 927-6797