



August 20, 2012

Dear Parents and Staff,

As sitting President of the School Site Council, I wish to invite your participation on the “New and Improved” SSC at Albert Einstein Academies. The role of the SSC over the past year has been in some flux, as many of the former tasks of the SSC were moved to the Strategic Planning committees currently considering the future of AEA. However, after much thought and discussion with the Principals, we have developed a new structure and purpose for the SSC that really helps forward the educational and growth (both individually and institutionally) of AEA. We believe this new structure will make the SSC a more focused and effective group, one that takes on both old and new challenges, and provides a more open resource for concerned parents to communicate with the school.

New structure of the SSC

The two main changes to the SSC this coming year will be the member composition, and the topics on which we will focus, at least initially. The changes in membership are minor, but are intended to make recruitment easier and integrate the two schools. We feel this integration is very important. The Elementary school kids will eventually become the Middle School students, and the Middle School benefits from students well-prepared in Elementary School.

SSC Members

The SSC will be composed of 10 parents and 10 staff members (50:50) drawn from both Elementary and Middle School. Also, instead of having two separate SSC groups, we will have a combined Elementary and Middle School SSC. As the Middle School prepares its eventually move, it will be important to continue to have a committee that connects the parents and staff of the two schools.

Meeting Organization

The SSC will begin the meeting as a single group for direction, summaries, and listening to parental concerns. We will make sure to invite parents to come to the SSC to share concerns that they have about issues at the school. After this, we will break into several subcommittees to deal with important topics at the school that are not currently being addressed by other groups or seem to need more attention.

Some of the issues outlined below are under the direction of those strategic planning teams. Therefore, our efforts in these committees will be to support their work and help out in other areas to address needs not being met.



Subcommittees:

- a. *Parent University/Curriculum/Academic Achievement Committee*: The Parent Universities in particular need attention and direction. The SSC will likely be put in charge of managing and organizing them. We will also deal with helping to implement Academic Achievement ideas and Curriculum issues.
- b. *Communication Committee*: Facilitating communication between staff, faculty and parents is an ongoing struggle. This committee will help find ways to enhance information flow to parents through websites and other media (social networking), as well as make sure that communication happens (minutes from Board, Information about Middle School, Teacher website updates). There is also a need to make sure that parents know how the staff and faculty are addressing concerns brought up by the parents in the previous school survey.
- c. *School Safety/Campus Climate* This subcommittee will deal with the constantly evolving issues of school safety campus climate on both campuses. Uniforms, bullying and comfortable learning spaces will be likely topics.
- d. *Human Resources/Hiring (As needed)*: As new teacher hires become necessary, this committee will make sure that parents, teachers and staff are all involved in this critical process.

Again, we welcome and encourage your participation on the new and hopefully improved SSC. If you are interested in becoming a member of the SSC, please contact Birgit Schafer at bschafer@aeacs.org.

Yours truly,

Scott T. Kelley
President AEA School Site Council