



NSLA News

Spring 2013
Volume 2, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Meet the NSLA Board Candidates	2
Meet the NSLA Board Candidates cont.	3
Deb Levitov Presentation Recap	3
Rule 10	4
A School Librarian's Role in Developing Readers	4
AASL Update	5

A Call to Action

The news from school librarians' associations across the nation is dismal in terms of the number of school library jobs that have been lost in the past five years. Thanks in part to Rule 10 provisions regarding minimum library staffing, we in Nebraska have been somewhat insulated from this rapid job loss. However there are a number of reports from across our state that reveal a disturbing trend toward replacing retiring full-time school librarians with part-time teacher librarians or with clerical staff being overseen by someone in another school. Administrators are being faced with tough decisions when state school aid fails to cover the increases in salaries, energy costs, etc. In addition, schools that receive federal dollars are in imminent danger of losing a percentage of those funds to sequestration. These conditions put pressure on decision makers to look around at places where cuts might do the least amount of damage. Unfortunately, the

school library is a place where the direct connection to student learning is not always readily apparent. This makes it critical that the school library program be perceived as vital to student learning. While there have been countless studies done that show a correlation between strong school library programs and student achievement, these are meaningless unless teachers and administrators in *your school* see the library program as essential to learning outcomes for *your students*.

It is critical that you take action before budget or staffing cuts are announced. By taking a proactive approach, you can evaluate your program based not just on the resources available to students, but on the quality of the learning tasks that students are doing in the library. If you still have teachers doing low level topical research projects, now is the time to approach them with new ideas for assessment that ramp up the

rigor of student thinking. If teachers express unhappiness with student achievement, be ready to work with them to improve student learning. In some cases, this may mean you need to step up and take a more active role in the planning and delivery of instruction. Then make sure you let the powers that be know about your leadership role by communicating it in clear ways. If possible, get others to endorse the value of the library program.

Finally, do be familiar with the minimum staffing resource levels required by Rule 10 (see page....). As an organization, NSLA will continue to monitor any proposed changes to the rules that regulate the staffing and resources for our library programs.

Gail Formanack

Special points of interest:

- NSLA Board meeting Sat., April 27, 9:00 am. Location TBD.

Meet the NSLA Candidates



President-Elect: Beth Kabes

Beth is the current Media and Distance Learning Coordinator for Educational Service Unit 7, in Columbus, NE. She has been involved in

education for 32 years, 23 as a classroom teacher for Leigh Community Schools and 9 for ESU7. She has been a member of NEMA/NSLA for 9 years, serving as Secretary for the last two years.

Beth is also a member of the American Library Association, Nebraska Library Association, and the American Association of School Librarians. She attended the AASL conference in Minneapolis, MN last fall. She has recently been appointed to

the State Advisory Council on Libraries for the Nebraska Library Commission.

As a member of NSLA, Beth enjoys the valuable knowledge and skills shared among the members and through conferences. She has volunteered for NSLA conference committees and has presented on Learn360, virtual field trips at previous NEMA/NSLA conferences. Beth has also shared in the coordination efforts of the Northeast

Nebraska Media Specialists Fall Workshops held each year. Beth is excited to have an opportunity to be a part of the leadership team of the NSLA organization and hopes to share information and initiatives from a statewide perspective as well as build relationships with other NSLA members.



Treasurer: Tammi Mans

Tammi Mans is currently the NSLA Treasurer. Tammi has been a school media specialist since 1996. Graduating from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln with a degree in Business Education, Tammi took a position at Red Cloud Community Schools as a media specialist with the condition of working on her

media specialist endorsement. The rest, as they say, is history. Mans has been working in public school libraries ever since. She is currently the school librarian at Fairbury High School. "I have always enjoyed reading. I just didn't realize how much until I had the opportunity to spend the majority of days working in public school libraries. There are very strong relationships between the media specialists in my area and I would welcome the opportunity to serve as the NSLA treasurer promoting our great organization and creating statewide relationships as well."



Board Member-at-Large: Ruth Walker

Ruth Walker is currently the school librarian for Mitchell Public Schools. She has held this position since 1998. Prior to that, Ruth had served as the librarian at Cedar Canyon School. Ruth served as the secretary for the Panhandle Library System for several years. She has served on the

Information Power Committee. On this committee, she has helped with the revision of the Nebraska Guide. Ruth has also written pages for the Golden Sower Guide as well as being a reader for the selection of the Golden Sower books. In December 2010, Ruth graduated from Chadron State College and UNO with a Masters of Education in Library Science. Ruth has currently served one term on the NSLA Board.

NSLA Candidates continued



Board Member-at-Large: Angie Richeson

Angie Richeson is the K-6 School Librarian / Tech Integration Specialist at Gothenburg Public Schools. She is in her third year in that position and prior to that, taught Special Ed / Title I and then was a 1st grade teacher. Angie received her bachelor's degree from UNL with endorsements in Elementary Education and Special Education, a Master's degree from UNK in Curriculum and Instruction, and a second Master's degree from UNK in Instructional Technology with a School Librarian

endorsement. Angie is very passionate about taking library resources and technology into the classroom. She works hard to promote flexible scheduling for the school librarian and expands the ideas of full-inclusion and co-teaching to include the integration of the School Librarian into the regular education curriculum. Angie thrives on finding new ways to "beef up" an already existing lesson to include critical thinking and the development of 21st Century skills. Angie is a member of NSLA, serves on the NSLA Advocacy Committee, and presented at the 2012 conference. She also is a graduate of the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute. Angie is a member of NETA, serves on the Gothenburg Public Library Board and volunteers in her community.



Board Member-at-Large: Paula McClung

Paula McClung is currently the school librarian at Lincoln High with Lincoln Public Schools. Her first word as a child was "book" and the rest, they say, is history. In her 21st year as an educator, she has always been a non-traditional school librarian with experience at the elementary and middle school levels prior to moving to high school. In 2011, Lincoln High was

chosen as one of the top 35 school library programs in the nation as part of the AASL Vision Tour with Nancy Everhart and in 2008 they were named the Time Warner Cable Library Media Center of the Year. Paula currently holds a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in school reform and is pursuing an Educational Administration certificate from UNL. With an aunt and a cousin who were school librarians, Paula has worked in libraries since she was in elementary school. Her personal mantra is to open the doors and let the students come in, for it is their space, not hers. She pursues a wide variety of tech interests for fear that students might think the dinosaur section of the library is behind the circulation desk.

Board Member-at-Large: Alysa Haack

I am in the middle of the 6th year as the school librarian at Culler Middle School where I taught 6th grade for seven years. Before that I taught at the alternative high school for seven years and third grade for three years. I love

mixing it up in the classroom! After seeing the fun that my husband had as a school librarian, when I saw a sign for a meeting to learn about the UNO School Librarian Media Specialist endorsement, I knew I had to know more. I was delighted to find the UNO classes I took in my program were inspiring, challenging, interesting--

exactly what learning should be! The endorsement program shaped my ability to breathe life into the Culler Library Media Center where students and staff can find their answers to burning questions and enjoy another connection to our school, literacy, technology and LEARNING!

Deb Levitov Presents on Proactive Strategies for School Librarians

In February NSLA hosted workshops with Deb Levitov, editor of *Activism and the School Librarian: Tools for Advocacy and Survival*. Deb presented on the precarious position of libraries in our schools and the importance of "strutting our stuff" as we

build partnerships to grow support of our library programs. A critical component of advocating for our programs is the creation and presentation of annual report. While not mandatory, an annual report is necessary for

communicating to our administrators and stakeholders the impact our programs are having on student learning. It's an opportunity to demonstrate the difference we are making, even when no one seems to be looking. Workshop

attendees explored different models and formats for creating an annual report and began the planning process for building more powerful ways to advocate for our school library programs.

Chris Haeffner

Rule 10

Nebraska Title 92, Chapter 10 School Accreditation- The full text of the Rule 10 accreditation rule can be found on the NDE website.

Media/Technology Staffing 007.04 (paraphrased)
Each K-12 school system and each secondary school system has a person holding a Nebraska Teaching Certificate with an endorsement appropriate for library science or educational media specialist (or someone acquiring at least six credit hours a year toward the appropriate endorsement) assigned on at least a one-half time basis to provide library media services to the school system.

Each school building with an enrollment from 70-249 students has a teacher endorsed with library science

assigned on at least a *one-fifth* time basis or has a library paraprofessional assigned on at least a one-half time basis under the supervision of a certificated staff member. (Library certificated staff person could be in another school in the district).

Each school building with an enrollment of at least 250 students has a teacher endorsed with library science assigned on at least a *one-half* time basis, or has a *full-time* library paraprofessional and a certified librarian on a *one-fourth* time basis.

A school with 500 or more students has at least a *full-time* certified librarian, or has a *full-time* library paraprofessional and a *one-half* time librarian.

A school with 750 or more

students has a *full-time* certified librarian. Media and Technology Resources 006.01 (paraphrased)

Each school has a library media area which is available to students during the entire school day. All library media resources are properly cataloged, marked, and shelved according to a standardized classification system. Each school has at least one set of encyclopedia available in print or electronic format with copyright dates in the past five years.

Each elementary school acquires a minimum of 25 new library media resources in print format (not including textbooks or encyclopedia) of different titles, per teacher per year, up to 150 titles

during one year. (Small school example: 3 teachers x 25 titles = 75 new books minimum, per year) If more than 5 teachers, the minimum number of new titles is 150. If e-books are available, the minimum number of new titles in print is 75.

Each middle school must acquire a minimum of 150 titles each year in print of full text electronic format (e-books). Middle schools must subscribe to at least 10 periodicals either in print or full-text format.

Each high school must acquire a minimum of 150 titles each year in either print or full-text format (e-books). Each secondary school subscribes to at least 25 periodicals in print or in full text electronic format.

A School Librarian's Role in Developing Readers

As pressures mount to get students reading at higher levels of proficiency, it frequently leads to the adoption of reading programs and practices that limit student choice. My middle school was on the Accelerated Reader bandwagon for a number of years, and I dutifully labeled all the books for which we had tests and mourned that students wouldn't check out the newly arrived books without tests. Every student came in searching for a book in their zone, and those students at either end of the

continuum frequently had very few books from which to choose. Then our elementary schools became believers in "guided reading" with teachers wanting to get their students reading books at the appropriate Fountas and Pinnell levels, A-Z. One elementary librarian felt so pressured by teachers in her school, that she actually "leveled" the entire fiction collection. Memories of these situations flooded back to me when I recently read an article in the November issue of *Kappan* called "Don't bribe my kids to read" by John T.

Spencer (p. 72-73). He starts by telling how his son was so excited for "library day" and being able to read real books. When the author, a language arts teacher, questioned him further, his son said, "I get to read real books, Dad, and the librarian cares. She wants to know what I want to read. That's the difference between a teacher and a librarian. A teacher wants to make sure I *can* read, and a librarian cares about what I *want* to read." The author goes on to reflect on how his older students frequently view reading as drudgery because of the

intense focus on teaching the skills of reading. In today's test-driven schools, school librarians are obligated to be team players in the task of getting students able to read. However, school librarians must differentiate themselves from teachers by always upholding students' right to choose books which interest and motivate them to love reading. If you feel pressured by teachers to "get with the program", consider sharing this well written *Kappan* article.

Gail Formanack

AASL Update

AASL Midwinter Update

Midwinter was held in Seattle this year. Saturday's Affiliate meeting had participants discussing three things: ASCD Whole Child Initiative, National Center for Literacy Education, and Digital Learning Day (which was February 6). The ideas that follow are just a few this group generated as suggestions to assure school librarian involvement.

Whole Child Initiative:

<http://www.ascd.org/whole-child.aspx>

This initiative has five tenets which can be seen in their entirety on the webpage. Essentially those items are, healthy students, safe environments, engaged in learning, supported by adults, challenged academically.

- Expand the conversation with other state associations
- Present on this topic at our state conference

- Ask ASCD what can be done
- Have someone from the state ASCS organization present at our conference
- Work closely with Curriculum and Instruction personnel
- Innovative technology
- Share/use/create resources
- Collaborate with teachers to develop lessons

National Center for Literacy Education:

<http://www.ncte.org/nclce>

- Collaboration and conversation starter
- Use website as a resource for professional development with classroom teachers
- Advocacy: forward articles to school/central administration
- Reach out and stay on top of other groups' professional trends and vocabulary
- Focused support of standards-based efforts of teachers and principals

Digital Learning Day:

<http://www.digitallearningday.org/>

- Lunch time technology activities
- E-readers
- Ask students to show "who knows a site that ____?"
- Teleconference between students and a museum
- Use Skype to connect with experts
- Incorporate cool digital tools into curricular lessons:
 - Animoto
 - Google Docs
 - Google

- apps
- Apple apps
- Glogster
- Storybird
- Edmodo
- Primary wall
- QR codes
- Etc.

- Virtual discussion/un-conference/Twitter chat

And how we can help in the specific areas this initiative addresses:

HEALTHY

- Books about health (and other resources)
- Promotions
- Choose myplate.gov

SAFE

- Extended school library hours
- Make it a safe place to go, all are welcome
- Freedom

ENGAGED

- Library is fun!
- Inquiry based learning
- Displays, author visits, promotions

SUPPORTED

- Certified librarian is in the building full-time everyday!

CHALLENGED

- Inquiry based learning
- Expanding horizons
- Creative products

Again much discussion took place on how many states do not see the need for School Librarians ("kids can Google information", "public libraries can fill in the gaps", "parent volunteers can check out books"). In Nebraska, sometimes we forget these cuts are happening because we have Rule 10. What we need to understand is that Rule 10 can be changed. As a result, it is up to each of us as individuals, to prove we are an invaluable component to learning within our own school community.

Each of the items we discussed at the AASL Affiliate Assembly offers us the opportunity to do just that. Does that mean more work for us? You bet! But we all know the library is no longer the place to "retire to". It is a vibrant space, staffed by professionals who spend their days assuring students have access to and understanding of, relevant information. After all, School Libraries Rock!

Carrie Turner



Contact Information

Kim Gangwish
NSLA Executive Secretary
Bellevue West High School
1501 Thurston Ave.
Bellevue, NE 68123

contactnsla@gmail.com

<http://www.schoollibrariesrock.org/>