

Communicating with your Administrators Panel

-Mary Ann Stahr- Some admin see the importance of the library, others don't seem to. What is the best way for an admin to receive information about the library?

-Dr. Cockley- One page infographic is easy to read and share. Hudson has a positive library experience with library as heart of school. Admin seen as not caring, but sometimes they are so busy with other tasks that they overlook the library. Share events after the fact- don't expect admin to be part of the planning. Hudson's librarian is in a PD leadership role, so they do collaborate with that.

Dr. Quallich- Medina's library staff has drastically changed (2 people covering whole district). Sees librarian as technology specialist, lone ranger role since they are often the only one with their title. Agrees that infographic is a great tool. Suggests showing skills/marketing yourself. Reminder that every administrator comes with different expectations, so you will need to re-market yourself to every new admin.

Mr. Hunter- One of his buildings closed a library due to lack of use. Librarians who are proactive and show added value (in the classroom, co-teaches, assists with projects, etc) will thrive and be an intrinsic part of the school. Reference material being online and mobile circ in classrooms have hurt circulation stats. Principals will see if you are actively in classrooms and working with peers. Market yourself and include best practice.

Tamra Dugan- Is there a point of too much self-promotion?

Dr. Quallich- Use teachers as your best marketing tool. If others are talking about what you're doing, you don't need to blow your own horn as much. She feels bad for librarians because the role has changed so drastically. Librarians need to use their skills to make themselves invaluable.

Kristin Walters- In districts where staff has gone to a skeleton crew and admin doesn't seem to understand library staff role, how would you like staff to approach you to discuss expectations?

Dr. Quallich- Approach with honesty and explain situation. Have all involved parties meet and hammer out expectations, roles, specifics. As far as job descriptions, "other duties as assigned" tends to cover everything. Ideally there will be constant communication and flexibility.

Mr. Hunter- Meet and determine what job description is, be proactive and honest.

Connie Smith-Clemens- What is expected of the library media specialist? How did you learn what they do/are capable of?

Dr. Cockley- Hudson is focused on literacy, so reading is a top priority, with technology as secondary. The role changes stem from the librarian's communication and asking to incorporate new skills.

Mr. Hunter- Media specialist suggested working with teachers directly. All administrators like to see kids reading- it's great for the culture of the building. Librarians need to show that they understand how they can assist with curricular goals.

Dr. Quallich- Admin discuss amongst themselves and are constantly comparing what their library staff does/doesn't do.

Mr. Hunter- Librarians need to be active when PD/PLC sessions are active. Best practices in your area are imperative.

Dr. Cockley- Hudson is learning about PBL (project based learning)- they are including media specialists in the training. Suggests learning about the programs the district is advocating.

Karen Bergen- What was one activity that your media specialist did that you took notice of?

Mr. Hunter- Integration with the English classroom- learned how LA teachers were assisting in book selection and modeled it in the library as well.

Dr. Quallich- Librarians work with teachers showing them how to integrate technology and use tech skills.

Dr. Cockley- Hudson holds a new title preview day set up like Barnes and Noble. Librarian asked gifted teachers to have their students preview titles and provide peer reviews, excerpts, etc. The project being service based caught her eye. Librarian is unbelievable at grant writing- she is carrying out district initiative of flexible furniture and STEM based learning. The flexible furniture has brought more class use and library is constantly full. Hudson is considering a new building- architects are suggesting no central library (pods model)- she can't imagine the library not being the heart of the building.

Dr. Quallich- Re-envisioning the space does a lot to aid the expectations. Bright, remodeled spaces that aren't silent fit in better to the modern building.

Tamra Dugan- How do you see the role of the librarian changing in the next five years?

Dr. Quallich- No librarian is being hired without tech skills.

Mr. Hunter- Working with teachers and technology

Dr. Cockley- She doesn't want focus on reading to go away. The tech piece is growing and changing. With change to interdisciplinary learning, the librarian can be the central uniting cog.

Connie Smith-Clemens- How do you balance need to keep abreast of new technology with teachers who are averse to change?

Dr. Cockley- Every building struggles with that challenge. Hudson has gone to Google- PD is an essential part of the change. Staff needs to understand why the technology is needed- for the students to be ready for their future. Reluctant staff need a lot of extra support because they are afraid of failure. Finding them an enthusiastic mentor in their PLC is often helpful.

Dr. Quallich- Reminds staff that there is a purpose behind integrating technology and how it fits curriculum.

Mr. Hunter- Don't swallow the whole elephant- find one small piece that the reluctant teacher can latch onto and start with that. Realistically, if they fight the change long-term, some of them will give into peer pressure, and some will choose to retire.

Tamra Dugan- What advice would you give to library staff who are struggling to get into the classroom/coteach?

Mr. Hunter- Find the district initiative and determine how to support that.

Dr. Quallich- Find a way to help with OTES evaluations and coteach/model.