

## Sheridan Library Collection/Budget Report

I visited all three libraries January 6, 2012. All three library assistants are providing great service to their clients; both staff and students. However, the middle school library is not being utilized to it's full advantage. No classes are scheduled on a weekly basis.

The average age of the collections range from 1984 to 1991. This needs to be addressed. Non-fiction collections need to be more current. An additional increase to each of their budgets could address updating their collections.

### Sheridan High School

Dolly Bagwell has a great grasp on her clients needs and wants. She keeps a running list of requests from the students and staff, and uses her budget to buy these items. She has said that if there isn't money available, and a need arises, she will purchase it herself.

#### Facts:

- \*Student enrollment is 240
- \*There are 7452 items in her collection
- \*Average age of collection is 1984
- \*Monthly checkouts range from 250-350 items
- \*Average age of non-fiction ranges from 1969 to 1987
- \*The two top areas of use in non-fiction are the 300's (Social Sciences) and 900's (Geography and History), with average age of 1982 & 1981
- \*Average age of fiction is 1990

#### Opinion:

The non-fiction section needs to be updated. Several areas should be focused on and updated with input from the staff and students about which areas affect the curriculum the most.

\$2500 currently support Dolly's purchasing power. This is about \$14 per student, which may not be the average cost of one book. Dolly's budget of \$2500 is marginal in regard to any purchase or replacement issues.

### Faulconer Chapman School

Poli Vandewettering, upper school, has been continually organizing her library. Much of her work can't be seen, as it is computer centered. She is working on making records complete and accurate, weeding outdated books, and updating the patron database. This work makes accessing information quicker and more accurate for the user. She also keeps a running list of student and staff requests.

Liz Hawk is librarian in the lower school. She is the only library assistant that has scheduled lessons where she reads to the students and gives lessons on library use. Several classes per day visit her library.

Poli and Liz run several book fairs each year. The proceeds from these fairs came to over \$4800 for the 2010-2011 school year. They buy books directly from Scholastic and get several hundred books for immediate use by the students. These books are not the highest quality and do not last as long in young eager reader's hands, but meet the need of getting new and exciting books in student hands.

Goals for Faulconer Chapman include continuing data entry and corrections to make access more student friendly. Both libraries want to work on the "friendly" atmosphere aspect. And equally important is wanting to improve their collections; purchasing new books and weeding out outdated and never used items. This goes a long way into making the library more attractive.

#### Facts:

Student enrollment is 648

There are 19977 items in the 2 libraries

Average age of collection is 1991

Monthly check outs range from 1500 to 2500 items

Average age of non-fiction ranges from 1984 to 1996

The top two areas in non-fiction are 500's (Animals) and 700's (Sports), with average of 1991

Average age of fiction is 1993

### Opinion:

The upper school is under utilized. Poli does not have any scheduled times with classes. Students stop by in between classes, and come from class one at a time.

\$1500 to the upper school and \$1000 to the lower school provides less than \$5 per student. This doesn't cover replacing books that are beyond repair, lost and stolen books, and the need for purchasing current titles.

### Recommendations:

In 2001 the median per pupil expenditure for all school libraries for books was \$8.87 for elementary, \$8.60 for middle, and \$9.55 for high schools. \*

Since then everything has increased in price. Increasing book purchasing brings in more clients, and studies show that the highest achieving students come from schools with good school library centers. \*\*

E-readers are coming of age. If the library purchased several to start with, developed a contract for student use, exposure to outside resources would increase. Students would then have access to bigger county libraries and all of the online collection.

Simply put, Sheridan's libraries are adequate right now. The need to keep current should be addressed. There also may be a future in new technology. Money put into E-readers will help students go to the next level in regard to accessing information and reading for enjoyment.

\*Miller and Shontz, "The SLJ Spending Survey," School Library Journal, Oct. 2003.

\*\*Lance, Rodney and Hamilton-Pennell, How School Librarians Help Kids Achieve Standards, 2000.

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