

June 22, 2017

Dear Super School Librarians,

First, Thank you! WLA members for the emails and calls supporting our request for the Professional [Educator Standards Board](#) (PESB) to change the library endorsement requirements back to Pathway 3 which requires an endorsement program. Second, I put together this report of the progress so far and next steps we may take.

There is a lot of information in this e-mail so I created a table of contents to help you maneuver through the information:

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Background

In the past there were 3 pathways to add an endorsement to a teaching certificate. The Library media endorsement required a pathway 3 endorsement: program plus a test. Now, pathway 2 has been eliminated and there are just two pathways:

Pathway 1 is Test Only

Pathway 3 is Program + Test

Here is the PESB document defining the paths to receive an endorsement :

<http://www.k12.wa.us/certification/teacher/Endorsement.aspx>

Actions taken so far

Last month (May 2017) we learned that the PESB voted to change the [endorsement requirements](#) for librarians to Pathway 1 beginning at the end of June 2017. Many of us feel that a test does not adequately prepare a library information and technology specialist to run a high quality program. In response to this change, a WLA-ScLD task force was created from volunteers and led by Craig Seasholes, past-chair of the WLA-ScLD and current president-elect of the WLA.

The task force's first step was to send a letter to Jennifer Wallace, PESB Executive Director. Here is a [copy of the letter](#) that we sent earlier last week. Our thoughts and reasoning are in the letter which was sent out on the schoollibraries@wla.org listserv and many of you responded to with great ideas.

The second step was for the task force to meet with Jennifer Wallace to gain a deeper understanding of the changes and to learn strategies to return the endorsement to Pathway 3 (library program). So, on Wednesday, June 21st some members of the task force went to the beautiful OSPI building in Olympia to meet with Jennifer Wallace.

On the way to Olympia, Kim Mathey, Craig Seasholes and I read each of the emails we received from members about this issue and it helped us prepare our talking points for the meeting. The PESB task force also e-mailed and spoke with each other to prepare for the meeting.

Representing the school library division PESB task force at the meeting were:

- **Craig Seasholes, WLA President-elect**
- **Carolyn Logue, WLA lobbyist**
- **Dr. Christie Kaaland, Antioch Core Faculty and Associate Editor, *Teacher Librarian: The Journal for School Library Professionals***
- **Kim Mathey, Edmonds SD Library and Instructional Technology Manager**
- **Marianne Costello, WLA School Library Division Chair**
- **Erin Bethel, Recent Antioch Endorsement program graduate, teacher-librarian, Tacoma School District**

It was a productive conversation and we heard both the PESB rationale for removing the Pathway 3 requirements for completion of a librarian training program prior to

endorsement and were able to describe the multi-subject aspects of a high quality library information and technology program.

What we learned:

We learned that Pathway 3 endorsements are now required for subject areas that focus on either a specific population (ELL) or multi subject curriculum (Elementary teacher). During the past six months the PESB held several meetings to discuss changes to the endorsement requirements. There was no discussion of the teacher librarian job description at the PESB meetings. So, the fact that we teach a multi subject curriculum was not considered for Library Media and the endorsement requirement was changed to Pathway 1 (competency test only). The Technology Education endorsement is on the Pathway 3 list, so it is clear that the library endorsement should also be on Pathway 3.

On our side, we presented teacher librarian job descriptions from different districts, the [WLA ScLD \(formerly WLMA\) library information and technology programs framework and roles of the teacher librarian](#) and our concern for the impact of the decision on preparing our new school librarians to provide high quality support for student learning. We discussed the difference between a single subject endorsement and a library media endorsement in that school librarians are required to know multiple subjects in order to run a high quality, future ready Library Information and Technology Program.

Next Steps: Send an e-mail to the PESB Board

Write letters to the [PESB board \(PESB@k12.wa.us\)](mailto:PESB@k12.wa.us) describing the multi-subject work you do. I visualize this as the many hats we wear--we need to know all subject area curriculum adopted by our school along with being the information literacy teachers.

Please cc [Carolyn Logue](#) and [Craig Seasholes](#) when you send e-mails to keep them in the loop. Carolyn's e-mail is: carolyn.logue@comcast.net and Craig's is: seasholes@gmail.com.

Carolyn recommends these strategies for writing letters:

- Start with the benefits shown in the 2015 WLMA report, "The Washington State School Library Impact Study of having a [Quality Teacher Librarian](#)" or speak to the impact your program makes on your school or community.
- Describe the duties outlined in SSB [5294](#), school library information and technology programs or refer to your district's job description.
- Brag about your reading advocacy program and it's impact on lifelong learning.
- Emphasize all the non-teaching requirements such as knowledge of copyright law, digital citizenship, professional development, and leadership.

- Discuss the cross sections of students that you work with: different subject areas, special education, ELL, and other student services.
- Don't forget the leadership role you take as a technology specialist.
- Detail the impact of your primary responsibilities of being the information and technology literacy teacher for the school community.

Here are some examples of the multi-subject work I have done as a school librarian:

- **Attended a NGSS workshop so I could competently to provide resources for the science curriculum.**
- **Found websites and materials to support the Music program. Requiring a basic understanding of the music standards and learning targets.**
- **Working with the Learning Support teachers to develop reading plans for reluctant readers. This required I know reading curriculum and support strategies.**
- **Ran an after school math tutoring program. I did this for two years and it required I learn math standards in all grade levels and not only use math strategies with the group I tutored but also train the volunteers and assistants how to tutor math.**
- **Worked with school leadership to facilitate family nights for digital citizenship, coding, reading, STEM etc.**
- **Led Digital Citizenship planning and implementation in the school and community.**
- **Ran book fairs, wrote grants, created makerspace opportunities.**
- **Became a computer science facilitator so that I could teach teachers digital literacy and help them teach their students.**
- **Implement units for all students to learn about the constitution during Constitution week. This required I learn social studies standards around the constitution.**
- **Taught an advanced sixth grade reading group which required I learn a sixth grade reading curriculum unit.**

Next Steps: Attend the PESB Meeting

Attend in person or by webinar the next PESB meeting on July 18, 2017. Carolyn Logue will attend and be the spokesperson for WLA-School Library Division; it would be great to have as many members as possible attend and show her support. Here is information about the meeting and instructions for attending via webinar:

<http://www.pesb.wa.gov/meetings/next>

Teachers currently enrolled in an endorsement program:

The task force felt strongly that we were heard and that the endorsement will be changed back to requiring a program + test. We are hoping that this decision is made at the September [PESB meeting](#). We recommend that teachers currently enrolled in an endorsement program should not drop out. Not only will currently enrolled teachers benefit from the endorsement program but we believe that the library media endorsement will be returned to pathway 3.

Craig reminds us:

**We are all in this together.
Let your voice be heard.**

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break and hope to see some of you online at the next PESB meeting,

Marianne Costello, Chair

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