“Clear, Consistent, Inclusive, and Transparent”
“Clear, Consistent, Inclusive, and Transparent”
Book Banning

- National Coordinated Effort
- The Krause list
- Moms for Liberty
- Built on legitimate concerns
  - Parents rights
  - Materials appropriateness
- However, ultimately about imposing one view on many

Number of Attempts to Ban or Restrict Library Materials in the U.S. by Year

90% of all challenged books were part of attempts to ban multiple titles
Librarians Under Attack
Need to Evolve

“The librarian must be the librarian militant before he can be the librarian triumphant.”

-Melvil Dewey
Narrative and Partnerships
Narrative and Partnerships

The mission of librarians is to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation in their communities.
Why a New Narrative

- Parent’s Rights is a Loosing argument

- We don’t want to fight with parents

- Nuance and fidelity versus passion and simple perspectives
  - The power of a book versus “that one page.”
  - Normally requires “othering”

- You are not neutral

- BUT don’t back down on the rights of your students to learn and explore
Changing the Narrative

- **Ancient narrative:** school libraries build and manage collections

- **Really old narrative:** media specialists manage information and technology to improve learning and promote literacy

- **Old narrative:** school librarians are neutral organizers of information that enrich the curriculum and supports classroom teaching

- **New narrative:** teacher librarians are professional educators that align their information curriculum to amplify classroom achievement and student success through inquiry-based instruction
Truth to the Tale

• Largest classroom in the building
• Teacher of every student in the school
• Information literacy and inquiry learning
  • The slack in the “curriculum”
  • iTeams and building a student movement

Myth #2: U.S. Compete

• At grade 4, the U.S. was last in science.*
• At grade 8, the U.S. was last in science.*
• As adults, the U.S. was last in public understanding

Schooling can’t explain
Truth to the Tale

Myth # 2: U.S. Compared to World

• At grade 4, the U.S. was # 7 in the world in science.*

• At grade 8, the U.S. was # 23 in the world in science.*

• As Adults, the U.S. was # 1 in the world in public understanding of science.**

Schooling can’t explain this U-Shape result?

John H. Falk
Truth to the Tale

• Largest classroom in the building
• Teacher of every student in the school
• Information literacy and inquiry learning
  • The slack in the “curriculum”
• iT Teams and building a student movement

Myth # 2: U.S. Competence in Science

• At grade 4, the U.S. was 10th in science.*
• At grade 8, the U.S. was 25th in science.*
• As Adults, the U.S. was 17th in public understanding

Schooling can’t explain
Partnerships

- Parents
- Teachers and Administrators
- School Board
- Public Librarians
- Local Stakeholders
- Universities
- National stakeholders
Partnerships

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Partnerships

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Public Librarians

Short Term:

• Speak for you at school board meetings
• Connect to a larger community population

Long Term:

• Teacher check outs (books and people)
• Monthly dinners
• Recreating summer reading around literacy
Universities

Short Term:

• Speak for you at school board meetings
• Provide data and studies to inform the conversation

Long Term:

• “Your Seniors are our Freshmen”
• Library Scholars and building cohorts
• After School AI
National Stakeholders

Short Term:

• AISLE Intellectual Freedom Resource Toolkit
• ALA Intellectual Freedom Resources

Long Term:

• Texas House Bill 900 and publisher lawsuits
  • 3 for 3 on First Amendment Challenges
• Illinois HB2789
• Now is the time for better school library requirements
• Look for movement on obscenity laws and “affirmative defense changes”
Action Plan

• Develop community engagement skills
  • Leave the library, speak to groups
  • Workshops on AI, social media, intellectual freedom, YA literature
• Build a coalition of the willing
  • Parents, students, teachers, administrators, local business, universities
• Build your iTeam
  • Bring on students, teacher TA’s, share ownership
be BRAVE
be BRAVE
be BRAVE
be BOLD
be BRAVE
be BOLD
be RIGHT
be BRAVE
be BOLD
be RIGHT

Slides at https://DavidLankes.org