



# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 15*

**EFFECTIVE January 18, 2021**

WHEREAS, Significant evidence indicates that strong school library programs led by credentialed Library Media Specialists add value to the academic development of students; and

WHEREAS, Library Media Specialists provide opportunities for students to achieve academic success and personal growth by inspiring students to engage in inquiry-based learning and to explore personal interests; and

WHEREAS, Library Media Specialists are needed to maintain school libraries and to provide equitable access to online resources while teaching unique skills including literature appreciation where young children learn to develop a love for reading using print and electronic resources in multiple formats; and

WHEREAS, Library Media Specialists inspire students to gain an appreciation for fiction and nonfiction literature and encourage students to write and create their own works of literature for a variety of purposes; and

WHEREAS, Students benefit when Library Media Specialists teach students to engage in inquiry-based learning where they ask questions based upon observations, use evidence and reflection to investigate questions, work individually on research, and collaborate with others in order to gain respect for different perspectives within the group; and

WHEREAS, Students are given an opportunity to retain the knowledge gained in the classroom when they apply skills in the library, and through those experiences students are able to use their imagination, research information, explore personal interests, and call upon prior knowledge as a basis for constructing new meaning; and

WHEREAS, Library Media Specialists teach research strategies, internet safety, media literacy, and how to evaluate resources, along with many other 21st century skills; and

WHEREAS, Library Media Specialists are required to hold a Master's in Library & Information Studies and acquire teacher certification through the Rhode Island Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Library Media Specialists in the Providence Schools use the 2018 National Standards from the American Association of School Librarians (AASL); these standards of practice guide us to, "help our students to be innovators, creators, problem solvers, and thinkers"; and

WHEREAS, The AASL passed a resolution in support of school libraries and librarians in June 2012 and they note that librarians teach skills that are not taught in the classroom, and they reference "significant evidence" that indicates that research shows that "value is added to student's academic development by the presence of a strong school library program led by a credentialed librarian"; and

WHEREAS, Every Providence School has a Library Media Specialist assigned to work in the school library however currently there are 2 vacancies at the middle school level; these positions have been vacant for 4 months and there is concern that the positions will not be filled. Additionally, 3 more positions have just become vacant. It was noted in discussions regarding

the budget at a school board meeting that some savings could be made with attrition and therefore members of this profession are concerned that libraries will remain closed at some schools and that Library Media Specialists will not be hired for the vacant positions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence hereby recognizes the value of school libraries and the contributions of Library Media Specialists within Providence Schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Providence City Council calls on the Providence Public School District to work with the City Council to allocate adequate funding and staffing of all PPSD school libraries for the Fiscal Year 2022 budget and beyond.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon the passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Superintendent of Providence Schools, all members of the Board of the Providence Public School District, The RI Department of Education, and the President of the School Librarians of Rhode Island.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 07 2021

READ AND PASSED

*Sabrina Noto*  
PRES.

*Shawn Selleck*  
CLERK

Effective without the  
Mayor's Signature

*Shawn Selleck*

Shawn Selleck  
City Clerk