

To whom it may concern:

Albert Einstein once said, "The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library."

Libraries and librarians are a vital piece of public education. It is shameful that Superintendent Arntzen wishes to reduce the number of librarians and possibly eliminate libraries altogether in our public schools. While libraries offer books for students, books that many classroom teachers can't afford to purchase for their own classrooms, libraries and librarians provide much more than just these books. Librarians provide support with reading, writing, research, technology, and so much more. Our library even has a food pantry for students who don't get food at home. A major focus of our school is to build relationships with all students. A library is a place where my students tell me they feel safe and supported, where they feel they finally belong.

To show an example of the library at C.R. Anderson being the heartbeat of our school: I once had a student who struggled with most everything, anxiety, academics, home-life, and social situations in general. One day, this student did not come to class, and no one could find her. After looking many places, we discovered that she had found a little corner in the library, a place she could find comfort and peace to get her work done. The librarians supported this and worked with the teachers to help support this student and help her find success in the school. Eliminating libraries and the wonderful librarians, who work so hard to serve the teachers and students, would be detrimental to our students.

If Superintendent Arntzen is wishing to find more money in the budget, perhaps she could take a pay cut.

Thank you for your time.

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