ISTC 789.102 Practicum in Library Media

Journal 2R

 During my high school placement, I was able to attend a few meetings and view the role of the media specialist. One meeting that I was able to attend was the county professional development meeting for media specialists and technology teachers. It was such a great experience to be able to meet other media specialists from around the county and attend professional development sessions on important topics. For example my mentor and I attended a professional development on flipping the classroom. All of the media specialists played a huge role in this session and volunteered several ideas of how they have used this technique or seen others use this skill in the past. They gave suggestions on specific technology tools that could be used, too. We also learned about recent curriculum trends and how media specialists can play a role in them. We brainstormed ideas about how to enhance lessons and incorporate more rigor in instruction. From this meeting, I learned that media specialists play a lead role in many aspects. They are clearly technology leaders in their schools, and love to share and administer professional development to their teachers about how to use tech tools in their classrooms. I also noticed that they are anxious to learn new ideas from other media specialists and share their knowledge with them. It is so important to network with other media specialists and taking the lead in communication and sharing, is another big role of a media specialist.

 Another meeting I was able to attend was a School Improvement Team (SIT) meeting. This meeting included the principal, an assistant principal, teachers, and a student. I was pleased to see that my mentor was on the committee and attended this meeting. I have learned in my coursework how important it is for media specialists to be a part of the school improvement team, in order to be seen as leader of change in the school. During this meeting we looked at data and found trends to determine areas of need and improvement for the school. My mentor added suggestions and ideas about how to help improve certain areas and discussed topics with other leaders in the school. It is crucial to get the media specialists’ voice heard, and my mentor was able to do that in this meeting, and be a part of a team that can help change the school and its students for the better.

 I was also able to attend a meeting focusing on the school’s website. Parents and staff have been complaining about the school’s website, so the media specialist and the technology teacher got together to figure out how to improve it. The meeting I sat in on included the principal, the assistant principal, the technology teacher, and a website creator from the county. This was a critical meeting to attend because I believe the media specialist should play a huge role in the creation and development of a schools’ website. This is where you can communicate with the community, and the media center should be a critical component on the site. My mentor gave ideas and suggestions about things to include on the site and how to improve it, in order to accommodate the wants and needs of the school. From attending all of these meetings, I have learned about the importance of a media specialist being heard and being an active member of the school community. If we want to advocate for ourselves and the media center services, we must be active and involved to relay how we can help improve the school and help our students succeed.