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UTW Objects to Eliminating High School Librarians

The United Teachers of Wichita Representative Assembly, the governing body of the organization, objects to replacing licensed Library Media Specialists with clerks in the USD 259 high schools. According to UTW President Larry Landwehr, at the May meeting of UTW Pro Reps, a directive was adopted objecting to the action taken against librarians.

UTW objects to replacing licensed Library Media Specialists with clerks in the USD 259 high schools. An education license is a stamp of approval that the teacher has the education and training to teach the curriculum. It also means that the teacher has been trained in classroom management, grading procedures, privacy issues, and school law.

Contrary to what some people would believe, librarians do not just check out books and collect overdue fines. Today's librarians teach research skills, purchase appropriate teaching materials, work with classroom teachers to develop research assignments, manage thousands of dollars of taxpayer money and resources, promote reading and literacy, teach students how to use the internet effectively and safely, in-service teachers on new technology and resources, and much more.