

50 East Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2795
USA

Telephone 312 944 6780
Fax 312 440 9374
Toll Free 800 545 2433
E-mail: ala@ala.org
www.ala.org

ALA American Library Association

May 10, 2021

J. Scott Cascone, Ed.D., Superintendent
Board of Education Members
West Orange Public Schools
179 Eagle Rock Avenue
West Orange, NJ 07052

Dear Superintendent Cascone, President Trigg-Scales, and Board of Education Members:

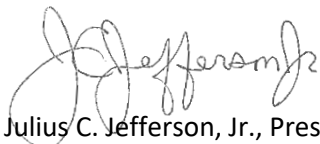
We are writing to thank you for restoring school librarians in West Orange Public Schools' 2021-2022 budget.

Equitable access to resources, technology and opportunities for academic and personal growth is fundamental to every child's education and the mission of school librarians. Developing a continuum of literacies across grades and content areas is fundamental to every child's education and the mission of school librarians. Discovering a safe space to explore questions, new ideas and hands-on learning is fundamental to every child's education and the mission of school librarians. Participating in a community that celebrates reading and nurtures inquiry is fundamental to every child's education, and the mission of school librarians.

As you heard through public testimony and individual conversations, West Orange librarians are integral to the fabric of their learning communities and to West Orange's resilience from impacts of COVID-19 and this past year of loss, unrest, isolation, and uncertainty.

On behalf of our members in New Jersey and across the country, we appreciate your responsiveness to feedback, and please know that we are available to support your librarians as they serve the West Orange learning community in the months and years to come.

Sincerely,



Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., President
American Library Association



Kathy Carroll, President
American Association of School Librarians

cc: Beth Thomas, President, New Jersey Association of School Librarians
Jen Schureman, President, New Jersey Library Association