

**May 17, 2023 Agenda Review Committee Meeting Written Comments  
Received between Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>  
Submitted via Written Comments Form**

1 To the Chicago Board of Education and the Administration of Roberto Clemente Community Academy High School:

As the only professional organization of school librarians in the state of Illinois, the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE) would like to commend Roberto Clemente High School for the decision to employ a certified school librarian for the first time in thirteen years. Ms. Townhouse has already earned your school recognition with the impressive renovation grant received that will surely provide an advantage to your students in the immediate future.

School libraries positively benefit learning communities. Research continues to prove conclusively that licensed school librarians contribute directly to student achievement. Studies by researchers Keith Curry Lance and Debra E. Kachel show that strong school library programs support student success including graduation rates and mastery of academic standards.

These studies have clearly illustrated that staffing a library with a certified school librarian - not a clerk, aide or volunteer - correlates directly to increased standardized test scores even when variables such as economics and demographics are taken into account. Licensed school library media specialists are rigorously trained to teach media literacy, credible sourcing, research, and increased reading comprehension, along with allowing students to explore and grow via STEM programs, makerspaces, book groups, and much more. It is critical to student success- especially in today's digital world- that this education begins in the primary grades and continues at all levels.

AISLE recognizes the work being done at Roberto Clemente to provide students with the educational rewards a certified librarian provides to the school community, and we are confident that both students and staff at this building will benefit from this decision in a myriad of ways.

As your organization continues to support professional library staff, AISLE is ready to help provide support and professional development opportunities unique to school librarians. For more information and resources on the roles and responsibilities of certified school librarians, please visit our website at [www.aisled.org](http://www.aisled.org).

With thanks,  
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