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ELib 580

Program Administration Assignment

On March 19, 2012, Venice High School had their WASC walk through for their review.

Prior to this, Caroline and I discussed what the WASC accreditation is, and how she could prepare the library for the experience. She reread the school plan and we learned that the objective of the walk through was simply to make sure that whatever the school plan was, the school was following through.

While I was there, two men came to talk to Caroline. One clearly thought himself incredibly important and gave her advice on how to better do her job. He recommended that she read to students who need literacy support, and that teachers could send these students to her during the day. (Later, I asked Caroline who would be running around putting out fires as computers and printers went down or weren’t usable, students needed help finding or just checking out a book, scholars needing help finding information, etc. if she was tied up reading to students every single period.) The other was so gentle and incredibly excited about educating youngsters. I would love to work for someone like him. He was genuinely interested in what she was doing and utterly impressed with the library media center she ran. We talked about opening a private school, and I gave him my contact info “just in case.”

Each of them interviewed Caroline regarding the library, how she ran it, and how she collaborated with teachers to best serve the student population.

The WASC review seems like an important process. I can see how it would be easy to not follow rules, to not enforce the school plan, to just “let things go” in a school, if one were not vigilant, or did not have a vigilant leader—which Venice High School does. Caroline runs a tight ship in her library, but I’m sure that isn’t the case everywhere. I’m glad to have had this experience.