Transforming Board Members into Library Champions

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Librarians need the support of decision makers for the success of their library programs.

Presenting to boards helps librarians increase their visibility and promote their value to community decision makers and stakeholders who then can be more supportive as they gain knowledge about the library.

Show up.
Attend board meetings and other events regularly.
Show interest. Introduce yourself, and make small talk with decision makers.

Practice.
Run through your presentation in front of friends and family using layman’s terms.
Be open to critiques. Watch your timing.

Know your audience.
Learn about the backgrounds and interests of board members.
Why are they serving on the board? How have they voted in the past? What issues are they passionate about?

Present with confidence.
Dress professionally. Show up early.
Do your best.
If you make mistakes, keep going. Thank the board for their time.

Collaborate.
Work together and present with other librarians.
Invite library patrons to come to the presentation and share their favorite resources and events with the board members.

Follow up.
Send a thank you card or email to all board members.
Post photos and a recap of the presentation to your library’s social media accounts.
Invite board members into your library for the next event.

Do the work behind the scenes.
Get approval to present. Get scheduled on the calendar and in the agenda notes. Turn in an outline and any other required documents.

For more details:
tinyurl.com/ycymdgxx

Questions?
Please email me! maranyos@burrell.k12.pa.us