Forsyth County Reading Association Meeting

Thursday, February 25, 2020 5:00 pm (rescheduled from 2/18/21)

Zoom Meeting due to COVID-19 Quarantine

FCRA President Sabrina Secrest called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

Sabrina welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Icebreaker: Members and guests (speaker Tonnye Fletcher, NCRA president Denise Owens, and Tar River Reading Council member Jett Harrell) shared their favorite things to do on a snow day.

Sabrina introduced Denise Owens, NC Reading Association president.

Denise shared about some of the things NCRA is currently doing.

20 for 2020 virtual professional development opportunities currently being offered

Planned virtual mini NCRA Conference in June with several keynote speakers

Secretary’s Report—Jeannie Evans

Membership Updates—Jeannie

As of this meeting, we have 23 members.

20 in 2020 Professional Development Opportunities--Jeannie

NC Reading Association chapters across the state are offering virtual access to their speaker

presentations.

[List of presentations being offered](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HksUMrOPcCTLxcurD72Oh1CWtARTziJm3FDGlJt8D0/edit?usp=sharing):

Treasurer’s Report—Laura Brock

Our starting balance for February was $938.71.

After paying the speaker honorarium and reimbursement for door prizes and receiving our

portion of dues money from NC Reading Association, our current balance is $973.71.

Sabrina reminded everyone about this year’s service projects.

Read Write Spell Book Donations

**We have three ways to donate books that ReadWS will put in the hands of**

**children in Forsyth County:**

1. Bring gently used children’s books to any of our in-person meetings.
2. Purchase books from ReadWS’s wish list at Bookmarks using this link: <https://www.bookmarksnc.org/wishlist/151>

In the notes, say that these books are a donation for ReadWS, and Bookmarks will make sure they get to them.

1. Purchase books from ReadWS’s wish list on Amazon using this link: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1C8K1YMXEPB6B/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex>

**Incentives for book donations:**

1. 1 extra door prize ticket per book purchased from online wish lists--must

complete [Google form](https://forms.gle/6T1eFeJciLXkkXXx6) for documentation

1. 1 extra door prize ticket for every 3 gently used books donated

Ronald McDonald House

Members can bring soda pop tabs for our in-person meetings.

Young Authors Project

Sabrina reported that we submitted 12 entries to the state competition.

Of these, 4 students were winners: Ezequiel Gonzales, Caleb Portman, Finleigh Watson (all

4th grade students of Cheryl Key) and Ashley Ferguson (11th grade homeschooler).

Two of these students were awarded Judge’s Choice honors.

We will have a brief celebration for these Forsyth County authors at our final meeting on

Thursday, April 15. Details will be announced later.

Sabrina Secrest introduced our speaker, Tonnye Fletcher. Tonnye is a former classroom teacher and

currently works as a music teacher in Robeson County. She has been involved in NCRA leadership and is also an author. She is passionate about literacy and the arts.

Tonnye shared a presentation about using the arts to build literacy and other important skills.

Her presentation is linked here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Vwh-ZHaUiNzOXnqydHv_RIsZWx5O0zGN3M4cpZudqLI/edit?usp=sharing>

**These are some of the highlights of Tonnye’s presentation:**

The arts are vitally important in helping students learn

\*Motivation

Helps students get involved in their learning

Can be a reward for completing other tasks

Provides a fun way to build listening skills

Tonnye shared a story about one of her students with whom she built a

connection around music and literacy.

\*Material

Can be a vehicle for delivering material that needs to be taught and practicing it

Teaching listening skills—Tonnye led us in doing a directed drawing activity to experience this.

First Grade Blue Skies has great resources.

Introducing a concept/story

Readers’ Theatre—great for fluency practice

Resources: You Read to Me; I’ll Read to You and Joyful Noise

Heidisongs on YouTube—songs to learn letters, colors, counting, and behavior

Fluency—use song lyrics and karaoke-type programs to build it.

\*Management

Can help with transitions

You Tube has timers you can use—either with music or quiet

Use quiet music for work times

Can be found on websites like Yellow Brick Road Cinema, Tim Janis, or

Ambient Worlds (has Harry Potter scenes/music, Lord of the Rings scenes/music)

Don’t use music with words or scenes that are changing/distracting.

\*Merriment

Use the arts for relationship-building

Songs about global customs and traditions

Songs to go with books

\*Memorization

Singing helps build memory.

“T-U-R-T-L-E Power”—can do with other consonant-le

“It isn’t any trouble just to S-M-I-L-E…” song

Days of the Week song—teaches spelling and syllabication

Ideas for integrating music from Edutopia:

Songs to teach academic vocabulary

Lyrics as poetry

Songs as writing prompts

Music to aid in role-playing

Developing playlists to teach narrative

Looking at advertising jingles to teach persuasive writing

Using music for literary analysis

Using music to take “synnaps”

Tonnye also shared an article about integrating art and literacy—including the idea of having

kids use pictures as writing prompts.

Suggested process for integrating arts and literacy in your teaching

1. Look at your objectives and class routines.
2. Think about how you can integrate arts with instruction to make it more engaging.
3. Make a goal of testing one or more new arts-related strategies each week or month.
4. Watch children enjoy learning!

Tonnye also shared her Pinterest boards with ideas for integrating music and literacy

and suggested that we check out Google and Pinterest for other resources and

ideas.

We had a Question and Answer time.

CDs that Tonnye mentioned were “Bibbidi Bobbidi Bach and Heigh-Ho Mozart.

She also mentioned Cuckoo Kangaroo—a singing and dancing group.

Jeannie reminded everyone that our next meeting will be Thursday, March 18. Deb Fidali, Flat

Rock Middle School media coordinator, will share about the NC Book Award books.

We drew for three $10 Panera gift cards as door prizes, and Stephanie Kiel, Dolores Flores de

Valgaz, and Jessica Thomas were our winners.

The meeting was adjourned at about 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Evans, FCRA Secretary