Forsyth County Reading Association Meeting

Thursday, October 24, 2019 5:00 pm

Redeemer Church Cafeteria

Members enjoyed refreshments and visited with one another.

FCRA President Sabrina Secrest called the meeting to order at 5:25 pm.

Jeannie Evans provided the Secretary’s Report from our last meeting. It will be posted on the FCRA webpage. She reminded everyone to be sure to register online through the North Carolina Reading Association this year because that is how we are collecting information.

* + The link for doing so is <https://www.ncreading.org/state-membership>
  + Members may choose to pay online with a 50 cents charge or can bring $30 in cash or check to the first meeting they attend.

Cheryl Key provided the Treasurer’s Report.

Our starting balance for October was $666.54. Our ending balance was $970.57 after membership and

other expenses were paid.

Sabrina reminded everyone that the North Carolina Reading Conference will be held March 22-24, 2020 in

downtown Winston-Salem.

* + There will be speakers from all over the country and workshop opportunities.
  + We will be awarding $25 scholarships for attending the conference as door prizes throughout the year.
  + She talked some about the importance of connecting with others through conferences like this and the value of transformative meetings with authors like those at this conference.

Sabrina introduced our speaker for the meeting, Dr. Lois Huffman. Dr. Huffman has been a professor at NC

State and UNC-CH and is currently working with the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington DC.

Dr. Huffman’s talk was entitled [***Turbocharging Vocabulary Instruction to Build Word Wealth***](../Turbocharging%20Vocabulary%20Instruction%20handout.pdf), and a PDF of her presentation handout can be accessed through the link above.

She described turbocharging as increasing efficiency and output, which is what she wants to help

teachers do in their vocabulary instruction.

Word wealth refers to having a large, robust vocabulary and being able to have the right word at the

right time. This is what we want for students.

Robust vocabulary instruction includes four interconnected components:

1. Providing rich and varied language experiences

This can be done through using more complex words in teacher/student interactions, playing games, Information Gap/Barrier activities (handout linked [here](../Information%20Gap%20Activities.pdf)), Chat/Conversation Stations, Story Walk, Narrow Reading, and other activities.

1. Teaching individual words

“Assign, define, and test” method is not effective in the long run.

Choose good words to teach.

Resources: <http://www.vocabulary.com/lists/> or <https://wordsift.org/>

Give students “real stuff” experiences of words by showing examples or photographs.

Frayer model—students circulate and add information to vocabulary posters.

Do Feature Analysis to compare and contrast attributes of specific words.

1. Teaching word-learning strategies

Help students learn to use tools for figuring out word meanings

* Context—where in text, pictures, meaning beyond text
* Structure—analyzing word parts, teaching generative vocabulary of root words

and affixes to expand amount of vocabulary

* Reference—helpful in verifying word meanings, must teach how to figure out which definition to use

1. Fostering word consciousness—helping kids to enjoy words through fun books, word games, and fun activities

For our collaboration time, Dr. Huffman encouraged us to discuss with each other which vocabulary

instruction practices have been effective for us and which we plan to change.

The meeting ended at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Evans, Secretary

Reminder about Young Author’s Project: <https://www.ncreading.org/young-authors>

* + The Young Authors Project is sponsored by NCRA, which is comprised by 20-21 regions throughout the state.
  + Entries can be fiction, essays, poetry, and art.
  + Our council can send in 20 student entries plus one council choice entry.
  + We can send as many Young at Heart (adult) entries as we’d like, so Sabrina encouraged all members to participate.
  + Entries are judged in January.
  + Statewide winning writers will have their entries published in a book and will be honored at a special celebration on March 21 at the Benton Convention Center.
  + Our council hopes to print our own book of local entries and will host our own Young Authors Celebration for Forsyth County winners.
  + Sabrina encourages all teachers to have their students participate because it helps them have a purpose for their writing.