



Speech to the Board

2 March 2016

By Amanda Fanning

Good Evening Dr. Lovely, Members of the Board,

For the past 19 years, the NEA has promoted and celebrated Read Across America Day in honor of Dr. Seuss' Birthday. This year, President Obama signed a proclamation making March 2, 2016, Read Across America Day. President Obama has stated that, "As a Nation, one of our greatest responsibilities is to ensure every American child can experience the transformative power of reading...As we recognize the importance of literacy, let us resolve to play a part in developing the next generation of readers and writers... we can raise our voices to support the resources our students need in classrooms."

As an educator, I know what the most important resource is for the children we work with. And they are standing right here, in this room with me.

"A study from the National Institute for Literacy found that a person who is not at least a modestly-skilled reader by the end of third grade is quite unlikely to graduate from high school" (CTA.org).

As educators, we take this responsibility seriously. We know our students depend on us at every level to teach them the skills necessary to be successful both in and outside of the classroom.

Educators are "literacy experts," and without teachers, books are simply inert piles of paper with words written on them. It is our responsibility to make literature come alive for our students, and we work diligently to do so.

We appreciate the resources you continue to fund: piloting new textbooks, increasing access to technology, sending educators to professional development, and allowing us to develop new, innovative, curriculum. However, the most important resource is the person standing in front of students, working with them constantly to help them to overcome any and all struggles to become life-long learners.

We, as educators, acknowledge that we have been entrusted with this community's most precious resource, and ultimately, its future.

We ask that this board recognize its role to respectfully acknowledge our daily work and recognize *our* place as the primary resource for student learning in Carlsbad.

Thank you.