

8. READING FIRST NOTTOWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Reading First is an ambitious national initiative to help every young child become a successful reader. The *No Child Left Behind Act* signed into law by President Bush in 2002 established Reading First as a new, high-quality evidence-based program for the students of America. All states are eligible to receive Reading First grants and once they receive their funding, they may award sub-grants to local school systems on the basis of a competitive process. Nottoway Elementary School was the recipient of a Reading First grant in June 2006.

Based upon its success, Nottoway Elementary School was one of two schools selected to represent the Commonwealth at the federal review of the Virginia Reading First Program in March of 2009.

Following the federal review, Nottoway Elementary School was highly commended by the U.S. Department of Education Review Team and the Virginia Department of Education as an excellent model for the Reading First Program.

In May 2009, ALL third grade students at Nottoway Elementary School are reading at or above their grade level, indicated on the Virginia Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening. As a result of their success, the Reading Coach (Kelli Gillette) and a 2nd grade teacher were asked to videotape a small group session in order to help train other reading coaches across the Commonwealth.

I've invited Ms. Debra Hicks (Nottoway Elementary Principal), Ms. Kelli Gillette (Nottoway Elementary Reading Coach), and Ms. Laura Vick (Southampton County Schools Reading First Contact) to share with you the exciting results of their efforts.

Following their presentation, I've prepared a resolution for your consideration, commending Nottoway Elementary School for its outstanding achievement.

MOTION REQUIRED:

If the Board is so inclined, a motion is required to adopt the attached resolution.