

Board O'Gram

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Report of Rome Board of Education — Action Compiled by Dr. Robert A. Young, Director of Title I / Testing

Region and State AAAA Literary Competition: Mr. Wilson recognized the Literary Competition winners. The literary competition is an annual event sponsored by the Georgia High School Association. It showcases students who excel in music, drama, public speaking, and essay writing. Students from local schools first compete at the region level. The first place winners of each event then progress to state-level competition. There are 15 schools in the local region and 88 schools in the AAAA division statewide. In musical categories, each ensemble or soloist is required to perform two selections from memory. Students are judged and scored on their performance and given a ranking.

Several students from Rome High School were rewarded for their outstanding performances at the Region and State AAAA Literary Competitions, which were held on March 4 and March 19 respectively.

Dr. Evans called the winners forward.

First Place Winner Region AAAA Literary Girl's Solo Competition: Hannah Campbell / Rome High School – daughter of David and Susan Campbell.

Second Place Winner Region AAAA Literary Boy's Solo Competition: Andrew Smathers / Rome High School – son of Jeff and Patricia Smathers.

Second Place Winner State AAAA Literary Essay Writing Competition: Katie Price/ Rome High School – daughter of Danny and Tammi Price.

Second Place Winners AAAA Region Literary Boys' Quartet Competition: Jacob Bowman / Rome High School – son of Timothy Bowman and Joni Turner; Peter Clay/ Rome High School – son of Marc and Michelle Clay; Charlie Langlois / Rome High School – son of David and Marcela Langlois; and Andrew Smathers / Rome High School – son of Jeff and Patricia Smathers.

Third Place Winners AAAA Region Girls' Trio Competition: Hannah Campbell / Rome High School – daughter of David and Susan Campbell; Tairesha Garrett / Rome High School – daughter of Kelvin and Keisha Rucker; Jerica Maisonet / Rome High School – daughter of Eduardo and Tammi Maisonet.

Second Place Winner AAAA State Girl's Solo Competition: Hannah Campbell/ Rome High School – daughter of David and Susan Campbell.

The music students are under the direction of Jennifer Williams, choral director at Rome High School, and Lance Godfrey, literary coordinator for Rome High School.

(HOSA) State Championship Medical Spelling Competition: Mr. Swann recognized a Rome High School student for winning the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Championship in "Medical Spelling." Mr. Swann reported that a Rome High School senior, Kelveisha Harper, became the state champion in medical spelling after competing against 80 other students. She has competed at the HOSA State Leadership Conference in medical spelling for three years and has been enrolled in the Healthcare Science courses at RHS for four years. Kelveisha has taken Introductory to Healthcare Science, Applications of Therapeutic Services, Nursing Essentials, and is currently taking General Medicine. Becoming a nursing assistant last year, she works at Chulio Hills nursing home as a CNA on the weekends. As an active member of HOSA for four years, Kelveisha has been an officer for two years and is currently the RHS HOSA president. She will attend the HOSA National Leadership Conference this summer in Anaheim, CA, where she will compete in the national medical spelling competition.

Dr. Evans called the Kelveisha Harper of Rome High School and daughter of Kelvin Harper and Shamekia Adams forwarded and presented her with a certificate.

Other Recognitions:

- Mrs. Sims recognized West End Elementary School as having provided the Boardroom artwork for the month;
- Mrs. Sims recognized members from Leadership Rome for being in attendance for the Board meeting;
- Mr. Byington for serving as Board attorney for 25 years;
- Mr. Wilson is celebrating his birthday; and
- Dr. Cooper is celebrating his birthday.

Attendance Report: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the seventh month of school. He stated that Elm Street Elementary School had the highest elementary school percentage of student attendance at 97.125 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 96.10 percent of student – attendance for the seventh month of school. The highest percent of staff attendance was West End Elementary School with 96.26 percent.

New Personnel: On a Jones/Huffman motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations:
Certified Employment 2010-2011: William Lee Boyles/RHS
Certified Employment 2011-2012: Hannah Akin/ RHS; Bill D. Singleton/ RHS; and Jessica White/RMS

Focus on Student Achievement - West End: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Buffi Murphy presented the Focus on Student Achievement for West End Elementary School.

There were several faculty and staff members of West End Elementary School accompanying Mrs. Murphy: Wendy Edelkind; Tiffany Abbott-Fuller; Beth Herod; Brenda Bailey; Lisa Shaw; Vanessa Walker; Kathy Rogers; Tammi Price; Cassie Parson; and Anita Cole.

The title of their presentation was: "The Journey of Success Begins at West End." Mrs. Murphy said that she realized a number of the students who were recognized earlier in the meeting for their achievements in the literary competition were former West End elementary students.

Mrs. Murphy discussed CRCT results from the prior year. West End is proud of their scores and they are focusing on not just meeting standards, but working hard to exceed the state standards in every area in every grade.

The journey to success begins with teacher collaboration. *Comprehension and Collaboration* by Stephanie Harvey drives the professional learning at West End. Each year the faculty focuses on cutting edge research-based instruction. They use *Comprehension and Collaboration* strategies in all content areas and apply it to new learning daily. Mrs. Murphy discussed how they are utilizing Lucy Caulkins' reading research in units of instruction, along with Stephanie Harvey's *Comprehension and Collaboration*.

Application of skills in student research and presentation to their peers helps students develop applied knowledge in subject areas, as well as providing experience in speaking before others. The reading strategies in instruction are not limited to reading content; they are incorporated in science and other areas to merge thinking across the curriculum.

Additionally, inquiry and immersion strategies develop reflective student thinking and analyze author's craft, as they research their topics. There is an effort to build a bridge for the gifted students entering Rome Middle School and Rome High School, preparing them for the challenges offered in advanced placement classes.

From kindergarten until a senior in high school, students are taught critical thinking, problem solving, and collaborative skills which yields success. In conclusion, Mrs. Murphy stated that application of the differentiated and inclusion models of instruction impacts all students in all content areas.

RCS Honor Code: On a Collins/Swann motion, the Board unanimously adopted the Honor Code as presented by Dr. Cooper. Dr. Cooper stated that the code would become effective August 1, 2011. Each student and parent will sign a copy of the code and return it to school at the first of the school year. The code has several salient character points:

- Tell the truth and not mislead others;
- Ensure that the work submitted is my own;
- Respect the property of others; and
- Expect honorable behavior of myself and others.

Dr. Cooper stated that part of the job of education is to train students to be good citizens. Honesty and integrity should be taught in the home and in our schools.

SPLOST Results: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST III revenues. The February 2011 collections of \$429,839.10 were \$72,386.40 below projections for the month (\$502,729.50). He reminded the audience that Rome City Schools has a pay-as-you-go philosophy, and that the projects at the high school are going along smoothly. Dr. Cooper showed some field report photos and reviewed the progress of the auxiliary gym, as well as the band and choral room expansion at Rome High School

2011 Teacher Appreciation: The Board accepted the Teacher Appreciation Week Resolution (May 1- 7, 2011) as delivered by Mr. Wood. Mrs. Sims stated that the Board members will be delivering apples and service pins to the teachers on Tuesday, May 3, 2011.

- Mrs. Judy Sims North Heights
- Mr. Will Wood Rome High School/Rome Middle School
- Mrs. Faith Collins West Central/West End/Greenwood Learning Center
- Ms. Cheryl Huffman..... Southeast
- Dr. Bruce Jones Main/Rome Transitional Academy/Phoenix Learning Center/Technology Center
- Mr. Dale Swann..... Maintenance/Elm Street
- Mr. Chris Wilson East Central/Central Office/Annex

Other Board Action:

- On a Wood/Collins motion, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the March 8, 2011 regular Board meeting, financial, and other reports.
- Mrs. Sims appointed Mrs. Collins and Mr. Swann to work on the annual A.D. Black Scholarship Committee with Dr. Cooper. The scholarship is available to students attending the Georgia Institute of Technology who were born in Floyd County and have at least one parent who was also born in Floyd County. Each student must be in good standing academically.