

Board O'Gram

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Report of Rome Board of Education — Action Compiled by Dr. Robert A. Young, Dir. of Administrative Services

Musical Interlude: Two Rome High School seniors played a jazz duo interlude as the Board members, staff, and visitors gathered for the meeting: Matt Smith played the drums and Patrick Jones played the keyboard. Last year at a Texas competition, Matt Smith competed in the world's fastest drummer competition and earned first place.

Auston Thomas Recognized for Rodeo and Calf Roping: Mr. Greer presented Auston Thomas with a Certificate of Recognition for his many accomplishments in rodeo competitions. Representing Rome High School, the City of Rome, and the entire state of Georgia, Auston Thomas has recently been named to the National Wrangler High School Rodeo All Star Team in the calf roping competition. This award is presented to only two high school students in each state. In the official press release it was reported that Auston was chosen based on his rodeo ability, academic eligibility, and his leadership qualities.

Auston has earned many titles during his career. In 2005, competing in the "00" division, he was the Georgia State Champion, Southeastern United States Champion, and competed in the Dodge World Finals in Stephenville, Texas. Auston was the top money winner in the Southeast with over \$12,000 in earnings.

In 2006, he competed in the "#2" division of the United States Calf Ropers Association. Auston was the State Champion, Southeastern United States Champion, and finished 8th in the Dodge World Championships in Stephenville, Texas.

At the 2007 National High School Rodeo Championship in Springfield, Illinois this summer, Auston was recognized for being named to the National Wrangler High School Rodeo All Star Team.

Thus far, Auston has received rodeo scholarships or official visits to over 30 colleges in 14 states throughout the nation including Texas, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Alabama, just to name a few; not bad for a junior classman.

Even though Auston excels in calf roping, it is important to realize that he also excels in other sports as well, in particular, baseball where he plays third base for the Rome Wolves.

Mr. Greer said, "On behalf of the Board of Education, it is my pleasure to present you with a Certificate of Recognition for your extraordinary accomplishments in Rodeo and Calf Roping."

Camille Barton - Six (6) State Poem Winner: Mr. Wood recognized Camille Barton for earning First Place in the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.'s poetry contest. Camille was a second grader at the time of the competition, April 2007, and won First Place in the Georgia competition and First Place in the six (6) state "Deep South" competition. Her poem is entitled "My Garden of Many Colors".

Mr. Wood stated that the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. sponsor an Environmental Poetry Contest each year. Students in kindergarten through ninth grade may participate. Winners are selected at each grade level. Camille's poem was submitted to the Federated Garden Club of Rome "Thistle" through one of its many local clubs. Congratulations go to Camille Barton for a job well done.

New Personnel: On a Greer/Collins motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations:

Certified Employment 2007-2008: Cheryl Ayers/NH; Greg Moss/NH; David Brooks/RMS; Dollene Ray/RMS; Priscilla Jones/SE; Sarah Simpson/RHS; and Billy Martin/RHS

Support Employment 2007-2008: Stacey Bonner/WE; Tabitha Jackson/NH; Laura Downs/RHS; Terri Jordan/RHS; Lori Drake/RMS; Gina Lee/RHS; Juanita Dunlap/WC; Margie Miller/SE; Audrey Franklin/WE; Sarah Smith/NH; Nikki Gallimore/WC; and Tyrone Griffin/RTA

Ms. Hamilton reports on New Teacher Orientation: Ms. Hamilton reported on the 2007 New Teacher Orientation. Ms. Hamilton discussed the purpose of the three day workshop, stating that the approach was from a "macro to micro" approach - big picture first and then the finer details last. Ms. Hamilton first took a couple minutes to thank the many individuals who assisted her in this important orientation program. Then Ms. Hamilton briefly walked the Board members through the three day workshop, touching on the program highlights. She showed the Board members a sample of a school "New Teacher

Workshop Agenda". She stated that each school principal designed an agenda to provide their new teachers an orientation for the school climate and normal operating procedures.

Focus on Student Achievement - Rome High: Dr. Evans presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Rome High School. He discussed test results and trends for the End of Course Tests (EOCT), Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT), Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), Advanced Placement classes, and Adequate Yearly Progress indicators.

Dr. Evans stated that the focus at Rome High School is on Academics, Athletics, Fine Arts, and Students. He reported that they are pinpointing students who are in danger of not succeeding in the high stakes tests: EOCT and GHSGT. The faculty and staff are using test scores, class grades, and teacher recommendations to select 9th and 11th grade students for a Skills Study Program. This program is specifically designed to scaffold the students in English/Language Arts, Reading, and Math. The 11th grade students will be given an extra period of instruction in their weakest academic area. The 9th grade students will be given an additional ELA class and an extra mathematics class in lieu of electives.

Finally, Dr. Evans stated that while the three legs of the educational stool are important (Academics, Athletics, and Fine Arts), he feels that "Process" undergirds everything they do. He said that it is the little things that count and that "Students are People". He said that we cannot forget the human element amidst the preponderance of testing data.

Attendance up from last year: Dr. Cooper reported on enrollment for the fourth (4th) day of school. He stated that the school system has gained 172 more students this year than the same time last year. The growth is across all grade levels K-12. While a couple of schools (Anna K. Davie Elementary and Main Elementary) have lost a few students, the rest of the schools have gained additional students. Dr. Cooper stated that Rome City Schools enrollment has consistently ranged from 5,000 to 5,300 students. He said we have had a slight increase in students and we will be hiring two additional teachers, one for kindergarten at East Central and one for kindergarten at North Heights.

SPLOST II Receipts: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the May '07 collections of \$477,536.39 were \$40,036.39 above projections for the month (\$437,500.00).

2007-2008 Board Goals Amended: Dr. Cooper reviewed the 2007-2008 Board goals and recommended two additional goals:

- Improve reading performance by the completion of second grade such that 90% of students meet DIBELS grade level benchmark expectations.
- Implement the Bridge Program, a dual enrollment collaboration of Rome High School and Coosa Valley Technical College, for students that wish to pursue a technical college degree.

On a Wood/Clark motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendation.

For a complete listing of the 2007-2008 Board Goals, go to the Rome City Schools website. From the "Home Page," go to "Board of Education" and then to "Board Goals for 2007-2008."

Board approves Five-Year Local Facilities Plan Resolution: Mr. Clark presented the "Five-Year Local Facilities Plan Board Resolution". Mrs. Sims stated that, according to Georgia state law O.C.G.A. 20-2-206, each local school system is required to develop a Five-Year Local Facilities Plan. This plan is designed to identify facility needs in regard to renovations, modifications, and new construction. This plan is used by the local system to prioritize their facility improvement efforts and used by the GADOE in preparing Capital Outlay appropriations.

The Board of Education's first step in the Five-Year Local Facilities Plan process is to adopt a resolution stating their intent to develop such a plan.

When the Board adopts their Five-Year Local Facilities resolution, in effect, the Superintendent will be charged with developing and submitting an adopted plan to GADOE by the end of March 2008, for State Board of Education approval.

Board approves Maximum Class Size Board Resolution: Ms. Huffman presented the "Maximum Class Size Board Resolution". Mrs. Sims stated that SB123, passed in the 2007 legislative session, empowered local boards of education to set their maximum class size in Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts for grades 9 through 12. The primary stipulation is that the maximum class size shall not exceed the funding class size by more than 39 percent.

The resolution presented to the Board this evening is an official notice that the Rome Board of Education acknowledges their right and responsibility to set the maximum class size as stipulated in law.

Other Announcements and Introductions:

- Mrs. Sims welcomed members of the Junior Service League.
- Dr. Cooper introduced the Rome Middle School leadership team to the Board: Assistant Principals Brian Evans and Leslie Dixon, and Principal Greg Christian.
- Dr. Cooper thanked the teachers and administrators for a great beginning of the school year. He said that a good beginning such as we have enjoyed this year doesn't just happen, it takes hard work and dedication.
- Dr. Cooper announced that Friday, August 31st, in their season opener, the Rome Wolves will host the Decatur Bulldogs at 8:00 p.m. at Barron Stadium. Dr. Cooper said that in addition to a wonderful football program, spectators will have the privilege to see and hear the "Sound of the Seven Hills" taking the field during the half-time activities, and watch the athleticism of the varsity cheerleading squad perform their cheers. He encouraged everyone to come out and support the Wolves!