

# Board O'Gram

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

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**Newest Board Member, Dr. Bruce Jones:** Mr. Wood introduced the newest member of the Board to the audience: Dr. Bruce Jones.

**New Administrators:** Dr. Cooper introduced Ms. Garnica Lewis, Principal at Anna K. Davie Elementary School and Mrs. Anita Cole, Assistant Principal at West Central Elementary School.

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

Certified Employment 2008-2009: Candace Hammond/RHS, Brooke Helms/AKD, and Ashlie Snead/WE

Support Employment 2008-2009: Cynthia Allmon/ES, Peter Barron/Technology, Leanne Hammonds/RHS, Sherri Murray/ES, and Yolanda Pack/SE

**Focus on Student Achievement - Rome High School:** At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Evans presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Rome High School. Dr. Evans began his presentation by introducing his assistants: Associate Principal, Mrs. Wallace; Assistant Principals Ms. Felton, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Wilkinson.

Dr. Evans discussed test results and trends for the End of Course Tests (EOCT), Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT), 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 GHS GT. 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.

Two new innovative programs that they are employing this year are a seven period day and Dr. Molly Howard's "A, B, C, and NY" formative assessments. Dr. Evans said that they will provide a three-week progress assessment for their students. Students not quite meeting expectation will receive a "NY" (Not Yet) report and scaffolding to boost them up to expectations. He said they have 302 seniors this year, and that they are going to do whatever it takes to see that they graduate at the end of the year.

According to Dr. Evans, process change can be made overnight but cultural change takes years. Dr. Evans said that he feels that the culture of Rome High School is on the cusp of changing into a more service, child-centered culture.

**Amendment to Board 2008-2009 Goals:** On a Collins/Huffman motion, the Board members present unanimously amended the "2008-2009 Board Goals" to include an additional goal:

- Improve student achievement in mathematics by implementing a system-wide math assessment tool and instructional interventions.

For a complete listing of the 2008-2009 Board Goals, go to the Rome City Schools website. From the "Home Page", go to "Board of Education", and then to "Board Goals for 2008-2009".

**SPLOST II Report:** Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the May '08 collections of \$443,212.25 were \$5,712.25 above projections for the month (\$437,500.00).

**Other Items:** Under Other Items, Dr. Cooper presented members of the Board with an Achievement Certificate by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) for successful school board training during the 2007-2008 school year.

- Dr. Cooper announced that the Rome High School football team will have its first league game on Friday, August 29th hosted by East Paulding.
- Dr. Cooper also said that the opening of school this year has been very smooth.
  
- Dr. Cooper announced the dates and times for Open House:
  - ✓ Rome Middle School Open House will be from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on Monday, August 25, 2008.
  - ✓ Elementary Schools Open House will be from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (eastside) and 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (westside) on Tuesday, August 26, 2008.
  - ✓ Rome High School and Rome Transitional Academy Open House will be from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 28, 2008.

**Unfinished Business:** Under Unfinished Business, on a Swann/Huffman motion, the Board members present unanimously approved, on Second Reading, amendments to Board Policy GCRG (Classified Personnel Leaves and Absences).

**New Business:** Under New Business, on a Collins/Wilson motion, the Board members present unanimously decided to rescind Board Policy GBAA (Professional Personnel Merit System), on First Reading.