

# Board O'Gram

Vol. 32  
No. 12  
July 10, 2007

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

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

Certified Employment 2007-2008: David Adams/RHS; Chet Lindemann/WC; Faith Cole/EC; Laranda Moore/MN; Jason Colts/RHS; Jerilyn Payne/AKD; Jennifer Crisp/RHS; Melanie Weber/AKD; Susan Fincher/EC; David Williams/NWGRH; Mary Jo Harvey/RHS (49%); Nicole Williamson/ES; Therese Laurell/ES; Lori Wilson/MN; and Donna Lee/SE

Support Employment 2007-2008: Angela Guy/WE; Vester Morrow/RHS; and Suzette Willis/ES

**Construction Projects Update:** At Dr. Cooper's request, Mr. Jim Pinson, Construction Manager, discussed progress on summer renovations, modifications and new construction. He reported that progress at East Central is about a week ahead of West Central and that both will be completed within four weeks. At East Central crews are awaiting the arrival of cabinet work and getting ready to complete the corridors. At West Central the ceiling grids are in and crews are awaiting the installation of the ceiling tile. Mr. Pinson stated that the cabinets will arrive next week and the floor covering is progressing nicely. At West Central, the six classroom addition has been laid out and the footings have been started. Mr. Pinson reported that he is very confident that the renovations and modifications at both sites will be ready for the first day of school, August 3, 2007.

**Lunch Prices Unchanged for 12 Years:** On a Clark / Collins motion, the board members present approved Dr. Cooper's milk bid and lunch price recommendations as presented by Dr. Barbara Carter. The milk bid was awarded to Mayfield and the lunch prices will remain at the same level as they have for the past 12 years!

**2007 Young Scholars Program - Wonderful Success:** At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Randy Phillips, Title 1 Director, discussed the 2007 Young Scholars Program. He stated that the program was held from June 25 – 29, 2007. The rising fifth grade program was held at Shorter College from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the sixth grade program was held at Georgia Highlands College from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Carole Payne was the fifth grade program director and Susannah Yoder was the sixth grade program director. Two teachers from every elementary school participated, one in each program (Shorter / GHC): AKD – Monica Landis, Melissa Graney; EC – Laurie Jones, Deborah Johnson; ES – Jackie Weed, Pam Gilmer; Main – Carol Green, Joe McKenzie; NH – Natalie Wolbert, Ginger DeAngelus; SE – Tiffany Abbott, Meagan Ray; WC – Daphne Johnson, Brandi Tripp; and WE – Keith Summerlin, Kathy Rood. The fifth grade program covered ecology and alternative fuel sources while the sixth grade program studied astronomy and space science. The culminating activity for each program was the Family Night activity. The fifth grade program held its Family Night activity on Thursday, June 28th from 6-8 p.m. and the sixth grade program held its Family Night activity on Friday, June 29th from 6-8 p.m. In conclusion, Dr. Phillips reported that Dr. Carter and the SNP staff kept the students and teachers well fed and happy and that the 2007 Young Scholars Program was a wonderful success.

**Board Launches the "Bridge Program":** On a Clark/Collins motion, the board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendation to enter into an agreement with Coosa Valley Technical College to implement the "Bridge Program" during the 2007-08 school year. Dr. Cooper identified the "Bridge Program" as dual enrollment collaboration between Rome High School (RHS) and Coosa Valley Technical College (CVTC). Dr. Cooper stated that the program was designed to provide students who wish to pursue a technical college degree a jump start into that college program. The program is designed so that a student will take his/her morning classes at RHS and then be shuttled to CVTC for his/her two segment technical course before returning to RHS for the remainder of the school day. He stated that each student will complete an application to CVTC and take the required three battery career admission assessment (reading, writing, and mathematics). If they pass the battery, they will earn the Hope Scholarship toward their tuition to CVTC and will receive a \$100 book voucher each semester. Students who satisfy entrance requirements will receive both high school credits toward high school graduation and college credits toward their technical college degree. The Fall Semester '07 pilot program courses include Health Occupations and Carpentry / Construction. The Winter Semester '08 pilot program will introduce the Certified Customer Service Specialist course.

Dr. Cooper introduced Dr. Craig McDaniel, president of CVTC. Dr. McDaniel expressed his complete support of the Bridge Program between RHS and CVTC. He stated that the main focus of CVTC is Workforce Development. He stated that the dual program will be a tremendous boost toward that effort and will strengthen both educational systems. Dr. McDaniel said, "The quality of life is a function of the quality of education an individual has accomplished." With 10,000 students served by CVTC, the college has experienced a 90-95% completion rate for students entering their program and a 96% employment placement rate. In conclusion, Dr. McDaniel echoed Dr. Cooper's statement of program goals: improve the high school graduation rate, increase the number of RHS students entering CVTC, and improve the workforce development in the Rome and Floyd County area by graduating more students with a technical college diploma.

**SPLOST II Receipts:** Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the April '07 collections of \$460,057.85 were \$22,557.85 above projections for the month (\$437,500.). Dr. Cooper also showed the Board that Rome City Schools received the semi-annual Pro Rata distribution amounting to \$10,928.19. In conclusion, Dr. Cooper stated that the overall collections are still well above the anticipated amount by \$152,232.29.

**Superintendent Announcements:** In Other Business, Dr. Cooper announced that the 2007-08 Administrative Workshop will begin on Wednesday, July 18, 2007. The 2007-08 Teacher Pre-planning will begin on Monday, July 30, and RCS students' first day of school will be on Friday, August 3, 2007.

**Amendments to Policies JGCA & JGCB are Adopted:** On a Collins/Clark motion, the board members present unanimously adopted on second reading amendments to Policy JGCA (Physical Examinations) and Policy JGCB (Student Inoculations). The amendment to JGCA changes the time children must have their Certificate of Eye, Ear, and Dental Examinations to the school officials from four (4) months to thirty (30) calendar-days. This revised timeline better aligns with other system policies. The amendment to Policy JGCB changes the duration of an immunization waiver from ninety (90) calendar-days to thirty (30) calendar-days. The amendment also adds hepatitis B and varicella to the list of diseases that the child must be immunized against. The policy additionally states that a medical exemption for a child must be renewed annually.

To view any Rome City School policy, go to the Rome City Schools website: <http://www.rcs.rome.ga.us/>. From there, go to Board of Education, then Board Policies, then Select a Policy Section, and then open the policy you wish to view.

**Recreation Board Appointment:** Under New Business: Mr. Greer appointed Mr. Clark to serve on the Rome/Floyd Recreation Board as the Rome City Schools Board of Education representative.

**GSBA Report:** At Mr. Greer's request, Ms. Collins, RCS 2007 GSBA Delegate, reported on the GSBA Summer Conference that she attended in Savannah on June 22-23, 2007.

Ms. Collins stated that liability of custodial parents for their children's behavior at school was a topic with challenging discussion. It was finally decided that they would not endorse a bill that would hold foster parents or legal guardians liable for their children's unruly behavior at school. Ms. Collins reported that State Superintendent of Schools, Kathy Cox, discussed the need for local board of education members to be more actively involved in the efforts to reduce the dropout rate and increase the graduation rate in their respective school system. Ms. Collins stated that Ms. Cox is on her way to China to learn about methods that they utilize which produces their excellent graduation rate. Finally, Ms. Collins reported that former University of Georgia football coach, Vince Dooley, spoke about the need for children to receive a good sound education