

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

2011 YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHORS WRITING COMPETITION: Ms. Huffman recognized the system winners of the 2011 Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition. The Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition is open to all students currently enrolled in Georgia public schools, kindergarten through twelfth grades. In Rome City Schools, each school is asked to send one entry per grade level and selections are made by a panel of judges who select the best in each grade category for state competition.

The purposes of the competition are to encourage students to develop writing that represents their best efforts, to provide a context for schools to support and celebrate the writing successes of all students, and to encourage and recognize student achievement in writing throughout Georgia.

The Board is pleased to recognize these system winners whose work will advance to state level competition through our RESA district. Ms. Debbie Downer announced the system winners:

Grade Level	Student Winner	Parents	Title of Entry	School
Kindergarten	Levi McDaniel	Jerry McDaniel and Shannon Morgan	<i>The BeBe Gun</i>	WC
First	Molly Carpenter	Daniel and Jenny Carpenter	<i>Snow!</i>	WC
Second	Kendall Murphy	Todd and Buffi Murphy	<i>The Lake</i>	WE
Third	Lillian Hubbard	Pepper and Jesse Powell and Reggie Hubbard	<i>The Road to Freedom</i>	WE
Fourth	Lauren Murphy	Todd and Buffi Murphy	<i>The Dragon's Tail</i>	WE
Fifth	Amy Guzman-Reyes	Rene and Leticia Guzman	<i>The Book That Changed Everything</i>	Elm
Sixth	Naja Stocks	Renoxder Stocks	<i>My First Homerun</i>	WC
Seventh	Lauren Moye	David and Rebecca Moye	<i>Madelyn and the Crescent Moon</i>	RMS
Eighth	Evan Mather	Doug and Lori Mather	<i>The Beach</i>	RMS
Ninth	Rhesa Detweiler	Mark and Regina Detweiler	<i>Black and White</i>	RHS
Tenth	Cameron Hendrix	Eric and Kellie Hendrix	<i>The Journey to Shuteye Town</i>	RHS
Eleventh	Hannah Kent	Robert and Ann Kent	<i>Our Love</i>	RHS
Twelfth	Jessica Alexander	Leon and Cindy Haygood	<i>I Lie</i>	RHS

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB POETRY CONTEST: At Mrs. Sims' request, Dr. Jones recognized the National Garden Club Poetry Contest State Winner. 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. This year a poem by Peyton Wilson, a fifth grade student at East Central Elementary School, was submitted to the Federated Garden Club of Rome, "Thistle", through one of its many local clubs. In April 2011, Peyton Wilson won first place for her poem entitled *Field of Daffodils*. The poem has been submitted to the "Deep South" competition. This competition includes entries from six surrounding states. Dr. Jones asked Mrs. Tonya Wood, principal of East Central Elementary School to present the winner.

Mrs. Wood recognized Peyton Wilson, daughter of Chris and Sabrina Wilson.

SMOKEY BEAR AND WOODSY OWL STATE POSTER CONTEST: While Peyton Wilson was still standing before the group, Mrs. Sims asked Mr. Wood to recognize the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest State Winner. Each year the US Forest Service and The National Garden Clubs, Inc. give students the opportunity to demonstrate, through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl, their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental

conservation principles. In April of this year, Peyton Wilson placed second in the state for her poster entitled "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land". Her teacher is Ms. Ann Banks. Mrs. Tonya Wood recognized Peyton Wilson, daughter of Chris and Sabrina Wilson.

2011 GEORGIA MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATION'S ART CONTEST: At Mrs. Sims' request, Mr. Wilson recognized the winner of the 2011 Georgia Manufacturing Association's Art Contest. The contest is sponsored by the Technical College System of Georgia and Quick Start. A seventh grade Rome Middle School student was recently awarded second place. The student was recognized at a Governor's luncheon where she received a plaque, a \$300 scholarship and her poster was framed. At Mr. Wilson's request, Mr. Greg Christian, principal of Rome Middle School, announced that the winner was Lauren Moye, who is the daughter of David and Rebecca Moye.

RETIRING PERSONNEL: Mrs. Sims recognized the retiring personnel: Support Staff: Sue Clark, custodian, ES; Susan James, parapro, RMS; Debbie Ledbetter, parapro, WC; Larry Martin, general maintenance, Maintenance Department; and Carmen Pittman, parapro, WE. Certificated Staff: Sandye Ashley, gifted math, RMS; Ken Barton, special education, SE; Cheryl Burch Miller, counselor, RMS; Joanna Chesnut, gifted ELA, RMS; Ronald Angelus, health/P.E., WE; Linda Sue Deese, first grade, WE; Jeanne Dwight, language arts, RMS; Pam Gilmer, fourth grade, ES; Brenda Hayes, ISS, RMS; S. Larue Huckaby, math, RHS; Merita Humphrey, business education, RHS; Latrelle Jones, fifth grade, WC; Cynthia Langham, Literacy Coach, ES; Louise Lovelace, sixth grade, WE; Janice Merritt, Principal, WC; Elaine Price, Media Specialist, RMS; Marilyn Turley, Kindergarten, SE; Joyce VanLeuven, first grade, WE; and Jamie Wallace, Associate Principal, RHS.

EIGHTH MONTH OF ATTENDANCE: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the eighth month of school. Elm Street Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 97.93 percent. Rome Middle School had 96.80 percent of student attendance for the eighth month of school. The highest percentage of staff attendance was Southeast Elementary School at 96.84 percent for the month.

PERSONNEL: On a Wilson/Wood motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations for certified re-employment for 2011-2012.

On a Jones/Huffman motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations:
Certified Employment 2011-2012: Kristen Bell/RMS; Emily M. Mobbs/RHS; Gregory F. Brown/RHS; Cody Patterson/RHS; Jared Lane Hughes/WE; Theresa Quilici/RMS; Whitney Quinn Kelley/RHS; Debra Summerville/WE; Nancy Amanda Loorham/RTA; and Keith Thrash/RHS

Support Employment 2010-2011: Larry "Jason" Smith/Maintenance

FOCUS ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – PHOENIX PLC : At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Jennifer Perkins presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Phoenix Performance Learning Center. A number of faculty, staff and sponsors were present to support Mrs. Perkins in her presentation: Dotty Davis, Matt Dunn, Ryan Sweeney, Elizabeth Yount, Ann Rhinehart, all from PLC, along with Nancy Griffin and Greg Wooten from Communities in Schools.

Mrs. Perkins listed some important and relevant facts about the PLC:

- A PLC offers another road to graduation for high school students and parents.
- A PLC is geared toward students who can be more successful in a non-traditional high school setting. Students have the opportunity to catch up academically, work at an accelerated pace, achieve mastery learning, and even graduate early.
- Learning is self-paced and teachers provide individualized instruction.
- Businesses provide mentors, guest speakers, and job shadowing via local CIS.
- Qualified students are offered dual enrollment at a technical or community college.
- A PLC helps increase the graduation rate.

Selected student criteria are used determine eligibility for the program: the student must be at least 16 years old; must have completed at least one year of high school; may have credit deficiencies; social issues; employment issues; or other issues (teen parents, health issues, etc.). The process begins with a referral from a teacher, counselor, self, or parent. Then the student must submit a PLC Student Application which includes a student essay and two letters of recommendation. Following the application there is an interview with a panel that consists of the PLC principal and/or counselor, PLC teacher, CIS representative, and a RHS faculty member. If the student is accepted he/she will receive an acceptance letter. After signing a parent and student PLC contract, an informational packet will be given to the student and parent. Before the first class the student attends a PLC new student orientation meeting.

Mrs. Perkins listed the three scheduling options for the students during their four-day week (Monday through Thursday):

- Option 1: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - 5 classes
- Option 2: 8:30 a.m. - 2:40 p.m. - 4 classes
- Option 3: 10:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - 4 classes

According to Mrs. Perkins, the 2010-2011 Calendar was divided into four mini-mesters: August 2-September 30; October 11-December 16; January 4-March 10; and March 14-May 19.

There were 33 students enrolled the first mini-mester, 39 students enrolled the second mini-mester, 38 students enrolled during the third mini-mester, and 47 students for the current mini-mester. **A total of 14 students have completed their requirements for graduation and as many a 9 more will before May 19, 2011, bringing the total to 23 students!**

AMENDED 2011-12 SCHOOL CALENDAR: On a Wood/Wilson motion, the Board members present unanimously approved on first reading, Dr. Cooper's recommendation to amend the 2011-2012 school calendar to include eight non-scheduled work days and 178 student school days. The non-scheduled work days will reflect the same days as the current year plus two additional days during the week of Thanksgiving Holiday (November 21 and 22, 2011).

BOARD ACTIONS FOR BUDGET REDUCTIONS: On a Wood/Huffman motion, the Board members present, unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendation to reduce the local certificated salary supplement from 7 percent to 6 percent.

On a Jones/Wood motion, the Board members present, unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendation for reduction in force by eliminating all elementary school counselor positions, all elementary school assistant principal positions, the assistant superintendent position, and a part-time art teacher position.

AMENDMENTS TO POLICY IHF (GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS): On a Collins/Jones motion, the Board members present unanimously approved on first reading, Dr. Cooper's recommendation for amendments to school board policy IHF – Graduation Requirements.

2011 SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES: Dr. Cooper reported on the 2011 K-8 Summer Opportunities Program for 2011. The goals of the Summer Opportunities Program are to help students be successful on the CRCT retakes and to reduce retentions in all grades. Schedules, dates, and times for the program were reviewed. Rome City Schools tries to give every student as many opportunities to succeed as possible.

The daily schedule will be from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. from May 25 – June 22. Students will receive breakfast and lunch each day. Rome Middle School students will go to Southeast, West Central, and Rome Transitional Academy (RTA) for classes. The Special Education students in grades 3 and 5 will go to Main Elementary and 8th graders to RTA.

SPLOST III RECEIPTS: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST III revenues. He stated that for the tax period of February 2011 collections of \$429,893.10 were \$72,836.40 below the projections for the month (\$502,729.50). The total collections to date equal \$9,735,060.47. Dr. Cooper showed updated construction photos on the progress of the work at Rome High School.

2011-2012 BOARD GOALS: On a Collins/Huffman motion, the Board members present unanimously approved, on first reading, 2011 - 2012 Board Goals:

1. Increase the high school graduation rate of all subgroups.
 - Expand Projection Acceleration.
 - Expand the Phoenix Performance Learning Center.
 - Continue a Response to Intervention Program (RTI) in Grades K-12.
 - Continue the Bridge Program with Georgia Northwestern Technical College.
 - Collaborate with Georgia Northwestern Technical College and Georgia Highlands College through the Phoenix Program.
2. Improve student achievement in Grades K-12.
 - Implement the CLASS Keys teacher evaluation instrument in PreK-12.
 - Fully implement Math IV course options for 12th grade students.
 - Continue to implement the READ 180 Program in Grades 7-12.
 - Continue to focus on student achievement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels and improve test scores in all subject areas.
 - Continue system-wide benchmark assessments of math and reading through universal screening (i.e. DIBELS).

- Expand system-wide benchmark assessments to include science in Grades 3-11.
3. Improve professional learning activities with all personnel.
 - Utilize the student longitudinal data system (SLDS) to analyze student achievement data.
 - Continue to support the instruction of Grades K-12 Georgia Performance Standards (GPS).
 - Continue the instructional support for integrated high school mathematics with a math coach at Rome High School.
 - Develop strong educational leaders through system-level training and the Georgia State University Principals Academy.
 - Continue implementation of Reading, Writing, and Math Workshops in Grades K-8.
 4. Improve workforce readiness skills.
 - Increase graduation rate in the Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Program.
 - Expand Cosmetology Program at Rome High School.
 - Improve Asset Test results in 10th grade.
 5. Implement capital outlay project.
 - Begin planning and construction of Anna K. Davie Elementary School with SPLOST III funds.

END OF YEAR EVENTS

- May 15, 2011 (Sunday) - RHS Baccalaureate, held at Fellowship Baptist Church at 4:00 p.m.
- May 20, 2011 (Friday) – Last Day of School.
- May 21, 2011 (Saturday) – RHS Graduation at the Forum at 10:00 a.m.

A. D. BLACK SCHOLARSHIP AWARD: Dr. Cooper reported on the decision of the A. D. Black Scholarship committee (Mrs. Collins, Mr. Swann, and Dr. Cooper). Six 2011 Rome High School graduates will be attending Georgia Tech. However, none of the graduates meet the parents and student residency requirements of the A. D. Black Scholarship. Therefore, Spencer Hyde and Hunter Selman who are currently attending the university each will receive \$5,000.00 for FY 12.

OTHER ITEMS: Congratulations to Rome High School! This March was the first time the high school math assessment was based on the more rigorous Georgia Performance Standards. The first time test takers, our high school juniors at Rome High School, did very well on the math section of the Georgia High School Graduation Test. Rome High School juniors had a 94% pass rate on the math test compared to 84% in the state. In addition, our African-American subgroup improved from 55% in 2009-2010 to 88.5% in 2010-2011! Our students and math department did an outstanding job!

OTHER BOARD ACTIONS

On a Wood/Huffman motion, the Board members present unanimously approved the minutes for the April 12, 2011 regular Board meeting, financial and other reports.