

Board O'Gram

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

Student Recognition/Performance: Members of the Rome High School Chorus performed prior to the Board meeting being called to order. Ms. Jennifer Williams, teacher, was accompanied by the following students: Leah Barton, Kelsey Buchholtz, Kaytie Calabro, Rebekah Detweiler, Thao Do, Allison Hamley, Kristill Hester, Miranda Brooks, Pam Turner, Maelee Thompson, Nikki Vaughn, Brittany Dupuis, Kayla Crabbe, Sarah Storey, Sarah McDaniel, Kane Wear, Cody Fox, Josh Huggins, Cooper Pinson, Chase Anderson, Sean Goulding, and Daniel Henson.

Georgia Historical Records Competition: Mr. Will Wood presented certificates to the Rome High School students who earned an *Award for Excellence in Research Using Historical Records*. Last spring the Georgia Humanities Council nominated three Rome High School students for this award presented by the Georgia Historical Records Board. The students were nominated and recognized for their research on their National History Day Group Exhibit Project entitled "Talking Leaves" about the Cherokee alphabet and printing. The 11th grade students, Ashley Alred, Colleen Fries, and Page Dickson, will travel to Macon in October to receive the award from the Governor.

Young Georgia Authors' Writing Competition: Mr. Clark presented three Rome City Schools students with certificates for being named Region Winners in the Young Georgia Authors' Writing Competition. The Young Georgia Authors' Competition is a student writing contest sponsored by the Georgia Department of Education for students across the state in grades K-12. Public school students in all grades may submit original writing entries of short stories, poetry, essays, journals, or personal narratives for judging. The entries enter school level, system level, regional level, and finally state level competition. RCS students who won their grade level competition on the regional level were Christopher Fincher, a second grader at East Central Elementary School; Caleb Neibar, a third grader at West Central Elementary School; and Elizabeth Bibb, a ninth grade student at Rome High School.

Second Month Attendance: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the second month of school. He stated that West End Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 98.44 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 96.91 percent of student attendance for the second month of school. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was North Heights Elementary School at 97.65 percent.

New Personnel: On a Collins/Clark motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendations for certified employment 2005-2006 and support employment 2005-2006.

Certified Employment: Heather Whitfield/RTA

Support Employment: Jeff Hargett/49% Instructional Technology/CO ; Deloris Ash/Part-time Duty Free Parapro/NH ; and Whitney Mosley/Clerical/CO

Focus on Student Achievement – Elm Street: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Moss presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Elm Street Elementary School. Dr. Moss first demonstrated the growth in student membership by reviewing the membership over the past four years. She stated that there has been more than a 25 percent increase in Elm Street's student population during those four years, 2002 to the present. Dr. Moss then reviewed the CRCT results for each grade level in the areas of math and reading. She said that while the scores are not as high as she would like them to be, it must be remembered that all grade levels exceed the requirements for AYP. Dr. Moss said that an emphasis on math will be the focus of instruction this year. She stated that the teachers can't work any harder than they have been working, however they can work smarter. The teachers will apply skills that they learn through staff development. Dr. Moss closed her presentation by explaining Elm Street Elementary School's motto: World Class Experience – everybody learns from everybody else. This school reflects a community of learners and teachers.

2005-2006 Math Staff Development Program: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Brenda Erwin, Math Specialist, presented the 2005-2006 Math Staff Development Program. Mrs. Erwin stated that the increased emphasis on math is driven by four factors: the demand for technical skills in the workplace, new research that has become available on how students learn math, the world economy, and the demands brought on school systems by the No Child Left Behind federal mandate. In order to progress as a system, Mrs. Erwin stated that the teachers will continue to work on the five content standards of the Georgia Performance Standards, but they will also

be incorporating the five process standards as well: problem solving, reasoning, representation, connection, and communication. School goals will be accomplished through professional development, common planning, and access to a variety of resources. Efforts will be given on-site administrative support and teachers will be encouraged to learn and apply their new skills to instruction.

Professional Learning In-Service Day: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Baldwin presented Rome City Schools Professional Learning In-Service Day activities agenda for October 10, 2005. Teachers received additional information and staff development in the areas of Life and Physical Science, English Language Arts and Mathematics in the state prescribed grade levels. Trainers and support personnel conducted each training staff development session at one of nine centers. The training/staff development session was a huge success and, as one person stated it, teachers left the sessions with a sense of purpose and a feeling of enthusiasm.

Construction Update: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mr. Jim Pinson, reported on the progress of renovations, modifications, and new construction at Main Elementary School and West End Elementary School. Mr. Pinson said that both schools have several items left on the final punch lists which will be completed in a timely fashion. It is hoped that the West End addition will be ready to be occupied by Thanksgiving break. Most of the work still to be completed is cosmetic in nature.

SPLOST Update: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the July 2005 collections of \$438,589.75 were \$21,484.27 over projections.

Announcements: In other business, Dr. Cooper announced the away football games against Hiram and Gordon Central on October 14th and October 21st respectively. He also reminded the Board members that the Peach State Marching Festival will be held October 22nd at Barron Stadium. Additionally, he said that the "Sound of the Seven Hills" (Rome High School's Band) will be playing at Barron Stadium before the Rome Rotary Club on October 27th at noon. And finally he reported that Rome Middle School's Girls' Softball team recently won a championship tournament.

In Other Board Actions: On a Wood/Clark motion, the Board unanimously approved (with Mrs. Collins abstaining) Dr. Cooper's recommendation to purchase property adjacent to Anna K. Davie Elementary School from Mr. Bill Collins.

On a Wood/Collins motion, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the September 13, 2005 regular Board Meeting, financial, and other reports.