

# 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

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## **Monthly Attendance:**

Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the first month of school. West End Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 98.37 percent. Rome Middle School had a student attendance of 97.31 percent for the first month of school. Elm Street Elementary School had the highest staff attendance with 98.95 percent.

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

Certified Employment 2011-2012: Hilary Singleton/SE

Support Employment 2011-2012: Mark A. Benning/Maint.; Charnice M. Oliver/SE; Amanda Broman/Maint.; Grady James Wigley/Maint.; Stacie Buffington/NH; McKensy E. Wheeler/WC; Jenna B. Gable/WE; and James T. Williams/Maint.

**Focus on Student Achievement – East Central Elementary School:** At Dr. Cooper's request, Mr. Wilkinson presented East Central's "Focus on Student Achievement". Accompanying Mr. Wilkinson to the board meeting were Mrs. Scherich (Literacy Coach) and Mrs. Acree (Math Coach). Mr. Wilkinson began by reviewing the latest accomplishments of the school. East Central has earned Title I Distinguished School status for nine years in a row. The school was named a Georgia School of Excellence for two years (1999 and 2007). Also, East Central was named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2008.

The successes of the school are a result of several factors. First, hard-working, knowledgeable, and caring teachers make a huge difference. The Parent Teacher's Organization (PTO) is extremely supportive of the program, teachers, and students. Additionally, parent involvement plays a major part with volunteers coming to the school every day to help out by reading to students, running off copies, and other important functions and activities which help teachers perform routine non-instructional tasks. Mr. Wilkinson is very proud of the school's level of communication with parents and community members through the weekly and monthly classroom newsletters.

The 2011 CRCT Results for grades 3 through 6 in reading and math were reviewed and discussed. Results are very good, but East Central is going to make an effort to improve the sixth grade math scores. All CRCT scores showed an improvement from the prior year when looking at the individual students. Also discussed were the science and social studies achievements in each grade as well as the percent of students who exceeded the standards in reading and math.

The faculty and staff at East Central, under the leadership of Mr. Wilkinson, will continue to focus on students needs. They use collaborative planning, after-school tutorial, and academic scaffolding interventions to help students learn and apply the information they are trying to learn. Reading is a priority at East Central. Over 60 students participated in the summer reading program at the Sara Hightower Library. Hopefully more will participate next summer. In closing, Mr. Wilkinson stated that positive helpful relationships at East Central are an essential part of the school's culture.

**Health/Sex/AIDS Education Committee Recommendation:** On a Huffman/Collins motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's Health/Sex/AIDS Education recommendation as presented by Mrs. Debbie Downer. Committee members for the year are: Ms. Andrea Avery, East Central Elementary; Mr. Michael Barton, Elm Street Elementary; Ms. Helecia Brewster, Main Elementary; Ms. Lacey Dean, North Heights Elementary; Ms. Debra Roberts, Southeast Elementary; Mrs. Caroline Threadgill, West Central Elementary; Mrs. Erin Hernandez, West End Elementary; Ms. Deborah Carlton, Rome Middle School; Ms. Valerie Howard, Rome High School; Mr. Greg Shropshire, Rome Transitional Academy; Miss Peyton McElhone, Rome High School student; Mr. Michael Sanderfer, Rome High School student; Ms. Angie Colquitt, Health Care Representative; and Rev. Greg Tallant, Minister. The Committee is composed of parents, educators, health professionals, community representatives, and an 11th or 12th grade male and female student.

Mrs. Downer reviewed the process of the committee. The Advisory Committee meets each spring to examine *new* materials that teachers and counselors would like to incorporate into their instruction. The Committee then recommends the appropriate grade level for each approved item. The following recommendations were made by the committee:

For the elementary grades and middle school they recommended F.L.A.S.H. A Curriculum in Family Life and Sexual Health: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Selected Lessons (lessons 3, 5, 7 and 8). The high school pamphlets: Male Facts, Female Facts, Birth Control Facts, STD Facts, and Abstinence & Pressure. High school books included: AIDS & Science, Investigating STDS: Real


Facts for Real Lives, Epidemics & Society: AIDS, Epidemics: Syphilis & Other Sexually Transmitted Diseases. DVDs were also recommended for the high school: AIDS: Evolution of an Epidemic, Just Like You Imagined?, All Falls Down, Choices: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly, The Monster.

**Consolidated Application and Strategic Plan:** On a Collins/Jones motion the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper’s 2011-2012 Consolidated Application and Strategic Plan recommendation for Title I-A, Title I-C, Title II-A, Title III-A, IDEA and Vocational Education as presented by Dr. Robert Young.

**2011-2012 Fundraising Recommendations:** On a Jones/Wilson motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper’s 2011-2012 fundraising recommendations. His recommendation included requests from every school.

**RCS Five-Year Attendance History:** Dr. Cooper gave a detailed five-year history of Rome City Schools attendance. His analysis detailed the attendance trends, not only by the system but also by each school.

**Rome City Schools**  
**Five-Year Enrollment Comparison**  
All enrollments taken as close to September 1 as possible.



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
East Central	443	487	498	513	541
Elm Street	515	508	513	500	487
Main	227	237	235	231	244
North Heights	255	251	233	216	243
Southeast (plus AKD)	466	482	455	437	423
West Central	581	591	652	685	736
West End	715	761	767	767	768
Rome Middle School	837	776	794	811	799
Rome High School	1486	1485	1468	1478	1515
Rome Transitional Academy	52	34	42	31	17
Greenwood			20	16	8
Phoenix Learning Center				33	40
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>5577</b>	<b>5612</b>	<b>5677</b>	<b>5718</b>	<b>5821</b>

**2011-2012 Local Board Training Plan:** On a Huffman/Collins motion, the Board members present unanimously approved the 2011-2012 Local Board Training Plan as it was discussed in caucus and presented by Dr. Cooper. The approved training includes the GSBA School Law Workshop on December 1, 2011, and a Whole Board Training on Saturday, April 21, 2012, provided by Northwest Georgia RESA.

**SPLOST III Report:** Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST III revenues. He stated that the July 2011 collections of \$445,948.61 were \$56,780.89 below the anticipated collection amount. The anticipated amount was \$502,729.50 for the period. For the project to date figures, the collections of \$11,442,402.71 are \$2,131,293.79 below the anticipated amount of \$13,573,696.50. Dr. Cooper stated that as long as we build and pay as we go, the Rome City Schools SPLOST III Building Fund will be in great shape and financially sound. Dr. Cooper then used field report photographs to explain the progress being made at the high school band/choral expansion, gym addition, and auditorium renovation.

**Other Announcements:** Dr. Cooper announced the Rome High Wolves will go to Cumming, Georgia to take on the Forsyth Central Bulldogs on Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

The Board appointed Ms. Huffman to serve as the “2011-2012 GSBA Legislative Liaison” for the Rome City School’s Board of Education.

**Other Board Actions:** On a Collins/Wilson, the Board members present unanimously adopted, on first reading, Board Policy JGCD (Medication):

All medications other than the exceptions listed in this policy, whether prescription or over-the-counter, may be administered only in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the principal of each school. All medications must be taken by the student, parent or guardian to the school office immediately upon arrival at school and must be in original pharmaceutical containers, clearly labeled as to the name of the student, the name of the medication, the appropriate dosage, and the times for dosage. Any student possessing prescription or over-the-counter medication not in accordance with these guidelines will be considered in violation of the School District's drug policy and shall be subject to the discipline set forth in the student code of conduct and/or the student/parent handbook.

A student for whom the school has on file supporting medical documentation may carry at all times with parental/guardian permission inhalers for asthma, auto-injectable epinephrine for allergic reactions and medical needs for diabetes. Students authorized to self-administer such medications shall be instructed not to permit any other student to handle, possess, or otherwise attempt to use his/her medication and shall be informed that violations of such instructions will be dealt with in accordance with the student code of conduct.

In order for the student to carry and self-administer such medications, or in order for the school to store and administer the medication for students who are unable to self-administer because of age or any other reason, parents must provide a written statement from a licensed physician confirming that the student is able to self-administer the medication, if applicable, and written permission from the parent for the nurse or designated employee to consult with the doctor regarding any questions that may arise concerning the medication. Such permission shall release the school district and its employees and agents from civil liability for administering such medication to students, or if the self-administering student suffers an adverse reaction as a result of self-administration of such medication. Parents are encouraged to provide to the schools duplicate medication and supplies in the event a student is unable to self-administer or fails to bring the medication or equipment to school.

Nurses or other school employees are authorized to administer an auto-injectable epinephrine, if available, to a student who is having an actual or perceived anaphylactic adverse (allergic) reaction, regardless of whether the student has a prescription for epinephrine. Any school employee who in good faith administers or chooses not to administer an auto-injectable epinephrine to a student in such circumstances shall be immune from civil liability.

On a Collins/Jones motion, the Board members present adopted a resolution for waiver of personnel required according to State Board of Education Rule 160-5-111-.22 Section (2) (a) 10 and Section (2) (a) 13 (i). As a result of the waiver, two (counselors will be transferred (one from the high school and one from the middle school) to elementary school positions. Two additional elementary school counselors will be hired, making a total of four elementary school counselors to serve the seven (7) elementary schools.

On a Collins/Jones motion, the Board members present, unanimously approved the minutes as amended for the August 9, 2011, regular board meeting, financial and other reports.