

Faith Collins continues to head Rome BOE, Cheryl Huffman returns to vice chair

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Faith Collins will continue to helm the Rome Board of Education and Cheryl Huffman will return to a leadership position as vice chair.

Collins and Huffman were elected unanimously during Tuesday's board of education meeting.

"I'm really pleased and thankful that my fellow board members are giving me the chance to lead the board," Collins said.

Huffman said she was proud to take on a leadership role again, having served as board chairwoman for several years previously.

"I enjoy working on the board in whatever capacity," Huffman said. "We are lucky to have such a congenial board that works well together. Someone has to be in charge of course, but we all do our part."

In other business, the board heard an update about education local option sales tax collections for the month of November.

During November, the system collected \$416,697, which was \$17,303 less than the anticipated amount of \$434,000.

Since the start of ELOST 4, the system has collected \$13,516,633, which is \$371,367 less than the expected \$13,888,000.

Interim Superintendent Lou Byars said he expects the collections for December will be stronger.

He also reminded the board that schools in the system will close for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday.

Collins also said that the board expects to begin interviewing candidates for the superintendent position Jan. 21.

The board received 46 applicants for the superintendent position. They received the applications in November and members have been reviewing them.

Byars — **Rome City Schools'** chief operations officer — has been acting as interim superintendent since mid-September. He took the helm after former superintendent Michael Buck retired from the city school



Faith Collins

Faith Collins, chairwoman of the Rome Board of Education

system in September because of family obligations.

Byars said he did apply for the superintendent position.