

Board O'Gram

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

STAR Student/Teacher named: (Christopher Poe and Wesley Styles): The Board recognized the STAR Student and STAR Teacher. Christopher Poe, a high school senior, has been named 2005 PAGE STAR Student for Rome High School. The announcement was made February 9, by Jan Ferguson with the Rome City Chamber of Commerce, local sponsor of the Rome STAR program. Christopher, the son of Kevin and Anne Poe of Rome, selected Wesley Styles, physics teacher at Rome High School, as his STAR teacher.

The PAGE Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program, in its 47th year, is sponsored by the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Foundation, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Department of Education. Since its inception, the STAR program has honored more than 19,000 students and the teachers they have selected as having had the most influence on their academic achievement. Students are selected on the basis of their SAT scores and class standing/scholastic averages.

Governors' Honors Recipients named: The Board recognized the 2005 Governor's Honors recipients. Rome High sent a total of seven students to the state interviews to be finalists and two were selected: Sarah Harrell in German and William Madden in math.

Sarah is highly interested in becoming fluent in German and plans to continue through college with her study of languages. She would like to study abroad in Germany and is also learning French and Japanese.

William Madden has a true enthusiasm and love for mathematics. In his Algebra II class William wrote a program for finding logarithms with any base on the graphing calculator. He often goes beyond just doing assignments in math to exploring how the topic applies to real-world situations.

The Governor's Honors program is a six-week summer instructional program designed to provide intellectually gifted and artistically talented high school students challenging and enriching educational opportunities not usually available during the regular school year. GHP has been funded by the state of Georgia since 1964. Students study in the major instructional area of the nomination and also get to choose other areas of interest as minor studies. The program is at Valdosta State University and the instructors are among the most qualified high school and college teachers.

Students are nominated by their high school teachers and transcripts of grades and records, nomination forms, endorsements and other pertinent information is submitted to substantiate the nominations. Local nominees may have a local interview/audition and all have a state level interview/audition. The areas of nomination include all academic areas including foreign languages, and the fine arts areas of visual art, theatre, music, and dance. It is a very competitive program and to be a finalist is a great honor.

Region Literary Competition winners: The Board recognized the winners of the Region Literary Competition. The Region Literary Competition was held on March 11, 2005 at Calhoun Baptist Church. There were approximately ten schools in our region that competed and Rome High students represented their school well in the area of music.

- Melissa Powell, a senior, received first place in the Girls' Solo category and competed at the state level on March 19.
- Larry Lassiter, also a senior at RHS, received second place in the Boys' Solo category.
- The Boys' Quartet, comprised of Daniel Moses, Larry Lassiter, Cooper Pinson, and Chase Anderson, placed second in the region as well.

Students competing in the literary music categories were sponsored by Jennifer Williams, RHS and RMS chorus teacher.

National Geography Bee award: The Board recognized the National Geography Bee winner. Walker Evans was one of 100 competitors participating in the State Level National Geography Bee April 1st. State wide over 4000 students participated in the school level Bee. Each Bee consisted of seven preliminary rounds, a final round with the top ten, and a championship round with the top two.

Walker Evans triumphed over 84 other competitors at Rome Middle School. He then took the state qualifying test where he successfully became one of the top 100 in the state. Congratulations to Walker Evans for representing Rome City Schools.

The Rome Middle School Geography team sponsor is Ms. Sandye Ashley.

Attendance: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the seventh month of school. He stated that Southeast Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance, 97.69 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 96.61 percent of student attendance for the sixth month of school. The Central Office had the highest percent of staff attendance, 96.14 percent.

Personnel: The Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendations for new and returning Certified staff hiring for 2005 – 2006:

A. Recommendation of 2005-2006 Personnel/Certified:

Lorraine DeRamus, EC
Aneatra Caldwell, RMS
Megan Pearson, RMS
Brain Sauls, RHS

Jane Byars, SE
Susan Chastain, RMS
Haley Barnard, RHS

Daphne Johnson, WC
Thomas Layfield, RMS
Brandon Johnson, RHS

Dr. Mike Buck named Assistant Superintendent: The Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendation to name Dr. Mike Buck as Assistant Superintendent for the Rome City Schools. Dr. Buck has 22 years of experience in education and was an elementary school principal in Columbia County prior to coming to Rome City Schools. He served as Rome High School's principal for seven years and was assigned to the Central Office as Title 1 Director this past year. Dr. Buck's new role will become effective July 1, 2005.

Spotlight on Rome Middle School: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Phillips presented the Focus on Student Achievement at Rome Middle School. Dr. Phillips stated that the school is upgrading their web site and soon will have video virtual school tours that can be taken online. He also stated that the music program is expanding to include a new choral instructor.

Dr. Phillips then reported on the 2004 CRCT results. He attributed Rome Middle School's students' success on the CRCT on the special programs that they are being offered at the middle school. The instructors are using SRA Direct Instruction with special education students, providing them additional assistance in the areas of Reading, Writing, and Language Arts.

The Connection Reading and Math Classes offered with Title 1 funds provide additional instruction for identified boys and girls. The teachers at Rome Middle School use Bench Mark Testing strategies to constantly monitor student achievement in order that they may rapidly identify and remedy student academic difficulties. The After-School program provides additional support and educational assistance for students.

The Scantron Performance online system provides an opportunity for students and parents to work on skills at home at their individualized instructional level, K-12. The middle school has one, and will soon be getting a second, mobile computer lab that is connected to the internet through wireless technology. Other strategies that the middle school employs include special education tutoring, ESOL computer lab, Title 1 Parent Involvement Coordinator, and Rome Middle School Saturday School.

Dr. Phillips reported that 120 students (one of every seven students in their school) voluntarily attend Saturday School in an effort to receive special assistance with their assignments, planning their school week, and generally getting ready for their next week of school. In conclusion, Dr. Phillips recognized his assistances in the program, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Ware.

2005-06 Board Goals: The Board unanimously adopted on first reading the 2005-06 Board Goals as presented by Dr. Cooper:

1. Teach the new Georgia Performance Standards in Grades K-12 English Language Arts; Grade 6 Math and Earth Science; Grade 7 Life Science; Grades 9-12 Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry, and Physics.
2. Train teachers in the new Georgia Performance Standards in Grades K, 1, 2, and 7 Math and Grades 3, 4, and 5 Science.
3. Focus on student achievement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels and improve test scores in all subject areas.
4. Develop and implement the Young Scholars Program for rising fifth grade students in Rome City Schools.
5. Review and update Rome City Schools Board Policy Manual.
6. Implement a photo identification system for all Rome City Schools employees.
7. Begin construction projects at East Central and West Central when adequate SPLOST II funds have been accrued.

SPLOST Update: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that January '05 collections of \$418,526.17 were \$1,420.69 over projections. Dr. Cooper reported that the actual revenues-to-date for the system are ahead of projected revenues by \$85,284.86.

Astronomy Day Celebration, Saturday, April 16: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Young announced National Astronomy Day. Dr. Young reported that the Rome City Schools' are working in concert with Georgia Youth Science and Technology Centers, Floyd County Airport Commission, and Northwest Georgia Astronomical Association to recognize and celebrate this day. National Astronomy Day is Saturday, April 16, 2005. It is planned for every one of all ages. It will take place at West Central Elementary School from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and, weather permitting, there will be a Star Party at Richard B. Russell Airport starting at 8:00 p.m. The activities of the day include PowerPoint presentations, solar telescope demonstrations, videos presentations, StarLab presentations, guest speaker presentations, telescope demonstrations, free lunch and snacks provided to visitors, and free Astronomy T-shirts for all who attend.

Teacher Appreciation Week (May 1-7, 2005): Mrs. Sims read a prepared resolution recognizing and announcing Teacher Appreciation Week, May 1 – 7, 2005. She reported that the members of the Board will be going to each of the schools to distribute recognition service pins and apples on Tuesday, May 3, 2005.

Other Board Actions and Announcements:

- Mrs. Sims read a prepared resolution of the Construction Completion of Elm Street Elementary School.
- Mrs. Sims appointed the A.D. Black Scholarship Committee, Mrs. Collins and Mr. Greer to work with Dr. Harris in naming this year's recipients.