

Board O'Gram

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

Art Grant from Coosa Valley Fair Association: At Mrs. Sims request, Mr. Frank Shropshire (President of the Coosa Valley Fair Association), accompanied by Mr. Dan Scott, former President, presented Dr. Cooper and the Board of Education with a \$1,000.00 Art Supplies Grant from the Coosa Valley Fair Association. Mr. Shropshire stated that he and the Fair Association want to continue to encourage all Rome City Schools students to prepare art projects and enter them in the annual Coosa Valley Fair, which will be held this fall, October 2-6, 2007.

7AAAA Literary Competition: Mr. Greer recognized the Rome High School 7AAAA Literary Competition Winners and presented them with a Certificate of Achievement. Mr. Greer stated that Rome High School was well represented at the Region 7-AAAA Literary Competition held in Calhoun on March 9, 2007. Chase Anderson, Cody Fox, Caleb Lewis, and Cooper Pinson placed First in Boys' Quartet. Chase Anderson placed Second in Boys' Solo and Dramatic Interpretation. Chani Maisonet, Adair Moore, and Mary Sheeley placed Third in Girls' Trio, and Adair Moore placed Third in Girls' Solo. Rachel Wallace placed Fourth in Extemporaneous Speaking. The RHS Literary Coordinator is Jeanne Bohannon, and the RHS Literary Music Coach is Jennifer Williams.

Georgia State Science Fair Winners: Mr. Swann recognized Rome Middle School's Georgia State Science Fair Winners, Farhan Momin and Jacob Bowman, and presented them with a Certificate of Achievement. The students earned First Place in the Northwest Regional Science Fair and Second Place at the Georgia State Science Fair. Mr. Swann stated that the process for entering the science fair began in September. Originally, 26 students signed up for the project. Of this number, ten (five pairs) turned in a project for acceptance by a local judge. Three groups won approval to advance to the regional level. Two of the groups dropped out due to scheduling and family conflicts.

The remaining group advanced to the regional competition in February and placed first among a group of over 20 entries comprised from approximately five middle schools. In addition to placing First, the regional judges recommended advancement to the state fair in Athens. This is significant because not all groups that won recognition were recommended for advancement to the state level. The State Science Fair occurred during our system's spring break over a four-day period (Thursday-Sunday). The group received their Second Place award for their science project at the end of the fair.

Farhan Momin and Jacob Bowman received inspiration for their project from a Discovery Channel program. However, their final product consisted of an original plan involving the affects of Mentos candy dropped into different soft drinks of different temperatures. Both students received a minimal amount of help and guidance from their parents and their teachers, and as such, should be recognized for the outstanding level of independence, initiative, and insight that they displayed.

East Central's Sixth Grade Quiz Bowl Team: Mr. Clark recognized East Central's Sixth Grade Quiz Bowl Team for earning Fourth Place in the State and Fifth Place in the Southeast Region. Mr. Clark stated that Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl is a company formed in 1989 by Harvey and Shirley Kimble. Both were avid Trivial Pursuit players and Mr. Kimble coached very successful high school quiz bowl teams. No company offered computer quiz bowls for elementary schools, so the Kimbles formed a company.

The intent behind the Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl is for students to have fun while doing a scholastic, computer team competition at their own school. The number of students per team is up to the teacher and schools may have as many teams as desired.

Contests at the fifth and sixth grade level are offered in all 48 continental United States. The 100 multiple-choice questions cover math, geography, government, sports, spelling, science, literature, English, history, general information, and just plain fun trivia.

East Central had fun placing Fourth among the 42 sixth grade teams and placing Fifth among the 107 fifth and sixth grade teams that entered the contest in the Southeast region. The East Central members outperformed participants from Fairfax, VA, Hot Springs, AR, Marietta, GA, Phenix City, AL, and Gulfport, MS. Congratulations for a job well done!

2007 Young Georgia Author Winners: Mrs. Collins recognized the 2007 Young Georgia Author Winners for Rome City Schools and presented them with Certificate of Recognition.

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

Students may submit essays, stories, or poems to be judged on criteria such as imagination, originality, and correctness. Mrs. Collins stated, “We are pleased to recognize these system winners whose work will advance to state level competition through our RESA district.

<i>Grade.....</i>	<i>Student.....</i>	<i>Composition Title</i>	<i>School</i>
K	Rebecca Parson	“Winter”	NH
1	Cameron Johnson.....	“I Remember When . . .”	Main
2	Gage Floyd	“The Legend of the Sea Serpent”	WE
3	Nya Roden	“Dalila’s Dinosaur”	Main
4	Malik Slaton	“Don’t Be a Wreck”	Main
5	Angelina Mendez.....	“A Lesson to Learn”	SE
6	Deanna Bagwell.....	“The Mystery of the Haunted Race Track”	NH
7	Debris Ash	“Dark Despair”	RMS
8	Brittany Lynn Reynolds.....	“Running Away”	RMS
9	Emily Williams	“Accidentally”	RHS
10	Kerri Jo McDaniel	“An American Poem”	RHS
11	Whitney Robinson	“A Light in the Lingering Night”	RHS
12	Laura Hatcher	“Fluff”	RHS

Attendance for the Seventh Month: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the seventh month of school. He stated that West End Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 97.09 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 94.55 percent of student attendance for the seventh month of school. The highest percent of staff attendance was Anna K. Davie Elementary School at 96.50 percent for the month.

New Personnel: On a Collins/Clark motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations: Certified Employment 2007-2008: Amanda Lee/RHS; Jaclyn Morang/AKD; Jeffrey Cavaness/RHS; Brenda Coult-Bailey/WE; Denesha Rabel/RMS; Amy Dingler/RMS; Mary Ann Turner/WE; William Blake Gilbert/RHS; Jennifer Bressette/WE; Jacqueline Griffin/ES; Amber Fennell/AKD; and Joy Harrison/RMS.

Support Employment 2006-2007 : Frances Dempsey/Maintenance

Main Elementary - Focus on Student Achievement: At Dr. Cooper’s request, Dr. Dawn Williams presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Main Elementary School. Dr. Williams had a number of her faculty and staff along with her in support of her presentation: Teachers - Carol Green, Lisa Johnson, Barbara Ford, Julie Martin, Donna Cook, Angela Bloodworth; Coaches - Laura Gafnea, Deborah Childs; and Secretary - Teresa McPherson.

Dr. Williams reported that Main Elementary School has been the recipient of several recent awards: 2006 National Blue Ribbon School, and Title I Distinguished School for four years running (2003-2006). These accomplishments are a product of the strong Georgia CRCT scores that the Main students have accomplished. Six times in the past three years, 100 percent of Main’s students in a grade level earned minimal competency in Reading and/or Math: first grade Reading and Math in 2006; third grade Reading in 2004 and Math in 2005; fifth grade Reading in 2004; and sixth grade Reading in 2005.

Dr. Williams was quick to state that they have several areas that they want to improve but they are proud of their accomplishments thus far, which also includes three (3) winners in the 2006 Georgia Young Authors. (See above.)

Using a “Can’t Fail” approach with a “Never Give Up” persistence and working with what they have, Main Elementary School faculty and staff have made a difference in the lives of their children. Dr. Williams said that they use the tools that work with their students. There is “No school-wide abandonment of programs or interventions.”

In the future, Main will work to maintain high passing rates on the CRCT, increase average scores and the number of students who exceed standards, and increase the number of “Extending Writers” in the Fifth Grade Writing Assessment. This will be accomplished in part by applying the Five Steps to a Structured Positive Climate which will earn students tickets: be here, be prepared, be respectful, be responsible, and follow directions. The tickets that the students earn can be used to buy prizes at the end of the nine-week session.

In closing, Dr. Williams said that they are celebrating their successes and maintaining a focus on continual growth. She also said that Main Elementary was featured on the U. S. Department of Education Television Production which can be accessed through the Main Elementary School homepage.

All Elementary Title I Distinguished - First in Georgia: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Randy Phillips reported on Title I Distinguished Schools. He first stated that Title I Schools that attain Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for three (3) or more consecutive years are recognized as Title I Distinguished Schools.

In addition to recognition, Title I Schools that attain AYP for four (4) or more consecutive years also receive monetary awards that are used at the discretion of the school's staff.

Dr. Phillips reported that Rome City Schools has distinguished itself by being the only school system in the State of Georgia, with more than one elementary school, to have 100% of its elementary schools named Title I Distinguished Schools: Southeast Elementary, three years; East Central Elementary, four years; Elm Street Elementary, four years; Main Elementary, four years; North Heights Elementary, four years; West End Elementary, four years; Anna K. Davie Elementary, five years; and West Central Elementary, five years.

Primary Student Interventions: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Dawn Kemp reported on Interventions for Primary School Students. Accompanying Dr. Kemp were employees from several service providers: Brenda Hay, Valerie Howard, Jamie Dawson, Nancy Edwards, Kim Holly, Beverly Almaroad, Elizabeth McLemore, and Linda Hess.

Dr. Kemp identified an exhaustive list of interventions that are employed to meet the needs of children between the ages of three through seven with Disabilities: Phonemic Awareness, Language Development, Pre-K/Kindergarten Readiness Camp, Pre-K Inclusion for Developmental Delay, Pre-K Speech Services, Summer Tutorial/Speech, SDD/SI Diagnostics, Camp Discovery, Severe/Profound Intellectual Disabilities, Highly Supported Classrooms for Students with Moderate Disabilities, Transportation to Services, Paraprofessional Support for Pre-K and K, K Inclusion for Developmental Delay, Vision and Hearing Impaired Services, Occupational & Physical Therapy, and BCW Referral Intakes and Health Department Referrals.

The children eligible for these services are between the ages three through seven with Disabilities: Significantly Developmentally Delayed, Speech Impaired, or any other category of disability. The programs also address "At-Risk" children with high poverty, medically at-risk (i.e., premature), and/or English Language Learners (ELL).

The programs are provided by Speech Pathologists, Developmental Delay Teachers and Special Education Teachers and Diagnosticians, Paraprofessionals, and Related Service providers (Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Hearing Impaired, and Vision Impaired).

Dr. Kemp shared several actual case studies that demonstrated the successes experienced with children who received early intervention. She also shared several testimonials from service providers, saying that they appreciate the support and programs offered by Rome City Schools that provide such improvement in their children. Dr. Kemp summarized the findings in a single sentence, "Early intervention is working!"

SPLOST II Receipts: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the January '07 collections of \$390,503.98 were \$46,996.02 below projections for the month (\$437,500.00). Dr. Cooper stated that the overall collections are still well above the anticipated amount by \$75,056.44.

Tour de Georgia: Tour de Georgia is wheeling into Rome on Tuesday, April 17, 2007, around 3:00 p.m. Dr. Cooper reported that elementary schools will be dismissed at 2:15 p.m. Rome Middle School and Rome High School will be dismissed at 3:00 p.m.

Other Board Actions and Announcements: On a Greer/Clark motion, the Board unanimously adopted, on Second Reading, Rome City Schools 2007-2008 Board Goals. The Board Goals can be viewed from the Rome City Schools website.

On a Wood/Swann motion, the Board unanimously adopted, on Second Reading, amendments to Policy IHF-Graduation Requirements. This policy can be viewed from the Rome City Schools website.

Mrs. Sims appointed Mr. Clark and Mrs. Collins to serve with Dr. Buck on the 2007 A. D. Black Scholarship Committee in naming this year's recipients.