

Board O'Gram

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

2007-2008 Young Georgia Authors' Competition: At Mrs. Sims's request, Mr. Wood recognized the RCS 2007-2008 Young Georgia Authors' Competition winners. The purposes of this award 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. The winners included:

Katelyn Hernandez-Cruz, daughter of Deborah Cruz, Kindergarten at West Central wrote "Kindergarten";
John Butcher, son of Carmen Butcher, first grade at Elm Street wrote "One Sunny Afternoon";
Jamison Hood, daughter of Ray and Kim Hood, second grade at West End wrote "Jackie Robinson";
Gage Floyd, son of Misha Floyd, third grade at West End wrote "The Ghost Train";
Nya Roden, daughter of Randy and Yvonne Roden, fourth grade at North Heights wrote "My Pet Magic";
Evan Mather, son of Douglas and Lori Mather, fifth grade at West End wrote "Coming To A New World";
Lucy Maleni Avina, daughter of Luz Avina, fifth grade at Elm Street wrote "Flutter Woods Hoopia";
Samuel Moses, son of Paul and Janet Moses, seventh grade at Rome Middle School wrote "Take A Trip";
Debris Ash, daughter of Deloris and Darrell Ash, eighth grade at Rome Middle School wrote "Pathway to Death";
Amy Smith, daughter of Alicia Smith, ninth grade at Rome High School wrote "Childhood";
Emily Williams, daughter of Elizabeth Williams, ninth grade at Rome High School wrote "Expanse of Thought";
Patrick Brandin, son of Susan Brandin, 11th grade at Rome High School wrote "The Waiting Miller"; and
Julie Jones, daughter of Beth Paulson, 12th grade at Rome High School wrote "Life is a Forked Road".

2008 Parade All-American High School Boys Basketball Team: At Mrs. Sims's request, Mr. Swann recognized a RHS student named to 2008 Parade All-American High School Boys Basketball Team. Tony Woods of Rome High School was named to the 2008 PARADE All-American High School Boys Basketball Team. Established in 1957, it is the longest-running and most prestigious All-American designation that a high school athlete can achieve. Very few have what it takes to earn this special honor: talent, commitment, dedication and teamwork. This distinction puts Tony Woods in a league with such basketball greats as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant, Jason Kidd and LeBron James. Tony helped the Rome Wolves boys' team to an Elite Eight appearance in the Class AAAA playoffs this year. Tony will also play in the Jordan Brand All-American game in Madison Square Garden in New York City on April 19, 2008, to be televised on ESPN2. He will attend Wake Forrest University on a full basketball scholarship. Keeth Jones, Rome High School Boys Basketball Coach, was also recognized.

GACA Area Weightlifting Competition: At Mrs. Sims's request, Mrs. Collins recognized Rome High students who successfully competed in the GACA Area Weightlifting Competition. On March 8th, Rome High School football team traveled to Northgate High School in Newnan, GA to compete in the GACA Area 3 Weightlifting Competition. In the three years prior, Rome has placed fifth (2005), third (2006) and second (2007). This March, Rome won their first GACA Area Weightlifting Competition. P.J. Greene, Jamar Whatley, and Van Calhoun won their weight classes. David Creamer and Reggie Whatley placed third to secure spots at the State Competition. Damian Goosby (fourth), Tre Packard (fifth), and Zac Jones (fifth) were recognized at the Area Competition for their placements. In Perry, Georgia, at the State Fairgrounds, Rome High School won its first team State Championship. PJ and Jamar were State Runner-Ups, while Van finished fourth in their respective weight classifications. Rome finished with 20 team points. This was within three points of winning all five classifications, behind AAAA powerhouses Peachtree Ridge and Valdosta High Schools.

National History Day: At Mrs. Sims's request, Ms. Huffman recognized the Rome High School participants in the National History Day District Competition. National History Day (NHD) is a highly regarded academic organization for elementary and secondary school students. Each year, more than half a million students participate in the NHD contest. Students choose historical topics related to a theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews and historic sites. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions about their topics' significance in history, students present their work in original papers, exhibits, performances and documentaries. These products are entered into competitions in the spring at local, state and national levels where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators. The program culminates in a National Competition each June held at the University of Maryland at College Park. This district competition for NHD was held at Kennesaw State University on March

15, 2008. Rome High students dominated the competition, winning four out of six categories and taking eleven out of eighteen qualifying slots for the state competition to be held at Macon State College on April 26.

Group Exhibits

- 1) "From Voodoo to Pentecostalism"- Rebecca Gossett, daughter of Alan and Pam Gossett, and Regina Ringer, daughter of Xaivier and Rosemary Ringer.
- 2) "Good vs. Evil"- Anna Stuart, daughter of Mark and Alice Stuart, and Emily Williams, daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth Williams.
- 3) "Girls Best Friend Gone Bad"- Jessica Hook, daughter of Chris and Ann Hook, Megan Montgomery, daughter of Keith and Sandra Montgomery, and Sydney Waldrop, daughter of Donald and JoAnne Waldrop.

Individual Exhibits

- 1) "Easter Uprising"- Christopher Alred, son of Kelly and Susan Alred.
- 2) "Conflict in Missouri"- Abby Grout, daughter of John and Susan Grout.
- 3) "Make Do and Mend"- Laine Smith, daughter of Bryan and Jennifer Smith.

Group Video Documentaries

- 1) "The Son Tay Raid"- Dylan Schlaak, son of Marvin and Dolores Schlaak, Christen Holbrook, daughter of Janna Ash, Diego Torres, son of Raul and Maria Torres, and Drew Pearson, son of Jeffrey and Carole Pearson.
- 2) "The Evolution Battle"- Ben Woodard, son of Steve and Michele Woodard, Kerem Trolander, son of Paul and Zeynep Tenger Trolander, and Sawan Patel, son of Madhubev and Satur Patel.
- 3) "The Rebirth of the Klan"- Ben Hayes, son of Jeff and Karen Hayes, Adam Dorsey, son of Beth Hess, Spencer Hyde, son of Ron and Rachel Hyde, Hunter Selman, son of Rodney and Nancy Selman, and Gerson Castillo, son of Julio and Amanda Castillo.

Individual Documentary

- 1) "Henry Wriz" – Hampton Childres, son of Ferrell and Donna Childres.

Research Papers

- 3) "History of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict"- Zachary Gardner, son of Curtis and Robin Gardner.

7-AAAA Region Literary Competition: On Mrs. Sims’s request, Mr. Wood recognized winners in the 7-AAAA Region Literary Competition. Rome High School was well-represented at the 7-AAAA Region Literary Competition which was held on March 7 in Calhoun. Caleb Lewis won first place in the category of boys’ soloist, and the boys’ quartet also placed first at region. The boys’ quartet includes Andrew Smathers, Charlie Langlois, Ben Poplin, and Caleb Lewis. Also placing at the region literary competition were: Chani Maisonet, who placed second in the girls’ solo category; Magen Nicholson, who placed third in girls’ extemporaneous speaking; Jacobo Sebastian, who placed third in boys’ extemporaneous speaking; and the girls’ trio, which placed fourth. The girls’ trio includes Mary Sheeley, Sarah Godfrey, and Katie Price. After winning first place at the Region Literary Competition, the boys’ quartet and the boys’ soloist advanced to the State Literary Competition, which was held in Warner Robins on March 15. The boys’ quartet performed exceptionally well against some tough competitors and won first place at the State Literary Competition! Caleb Lewis also did an outstanding job, placing fourth at state in the category of boys’ soloist.

Attendance Report: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the seventh month of school. He stated that West End Elementary School had the highest elementary school percentage of student attendance at 96.83 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 98.43 percent of student attendance for the sixth month of school. The highest percent of staff attendance was West Central Elementary School at 95.16 percent.

New Personnel: On a Collins/Wood motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations:

Certified Employment 2008-2009:

Amie Brown/WE	Haley Ferguson/WE	David Cash/RMS
Chasidy Frady/MN	Holly Chaffin/WE	Amy Massey/EC
Lendy Collins/MN	Justin Pollard/RHS	Elaine Crouch/RMS (49%)
Alison Ross/SE		

Focus on Student Achievement for West End Elementary School: At Dr. Cooper’s request, Mrs. Buffi Murphy presented the Focus on Student Achievement for West End Elementary School. Accompanying Mrs. Murphy from West End were: fifth grade teachers; Mary Ann Turner and Vanessa Walker; Math Coach, Wendy Edelkind; Literacy Coaches, Cassandra Parson and Beth Herod; and Assistant Principal, Kimberly Findley.

To begin her presentation, Mrs. Murphy reviewed the results of West End’s CRCT scores and identified the grade levels she was especially proud of and the areas she reported that need additional work. Highlights of their results include: 99% met the standard in third grade math; 96% met the standard in fifth grade English Language Arts; 95% met the standard in fifth grade reading; 95% met the standard in fifth grade reading; 94% met the standard in fifth grade math; and 93% met the standard in fourth grade English Language Arts.

Mrs. Murphy discussed several programs designed to meet the needs of the students at West End. She discussed one program designed to meet the needs of their Challenge students: the Challenge program serves 9% of our student population. As a part of their Challenge experience, the students in grades one through six participated in a speech competition the week of March 10th through 14th. She said that their students are very successful in the competitions in which they participate. The sixth grade Challenge students placed eighth in the Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl out of the schools located in the Southeast.

Another dimension that Mrs. Murphy discussed was the activities that their students may participate in: West End Student Leadership Team; Million Word Campaign/Celebrations; Art, Music, Physical Education, and Computer Lab; West End football, basketball, baseball, and softball teams; Jump Rope for Heart; Math-a-thon; and Girl Scouts. They work to educate the whole child at West End.

They are proud of the computer technology that they employ at the school. She said that all students pre-K through sixth grade participate and work on literacy and math skills. They use various programs for presentations: Power Point, Microsoft Office Programs, and Internet Research.

Mrs. Murphy said that beginning in December they have had a pre-K program where students are provided an instructional day to prepare them with early literacy and math skills. In addition to strong instructional programs, West End has a strong parent group that has provided many necessary supplies and materials: refurbished the playground, upgraded the sound system; provided LCD televisions; provided three (3) SMARTBoards; and enhanced the closed circuit television system which allows for student lead morning show and announcement reminders in the hallways and cafeteria.

In conclusion, Mrs. Murphy quoted Robert Hutchins: "The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives." Through the programs at West End, we are *Leading the Pack for a Brighter Tomorrow!*

SPLOST II Report: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the January '08 collections of \$363,302.13 were \$74,197.87 below projections for the month (\$437,500.00). Dr. Cooper reported that overall the SPLOST receipts are above projections.

SPLOST III Resolution: On a Swann/Clark motion, the Board members present unanimously approved the proposed SPLOST III plans as presented by Dr. Cooper. Dr. Cooper presented the list of proposed projects that would be accomplished if a continuing SPLOST III were to be passed. He stated that each school would receive additional instructional space, technology upgrades, and that the system would purchase some new school buses and other school-related vehicles. The funds would also acquire the necessary property, both real and personal, to meet the growing needs of the system. The total benefit of a SPLOST III is projected to be \$30,163,770.00 should it pass.

Local Five-Year Plan and Resolution: On a Wood/Huffman motion, the Board members present, unanimously approved the Five-Year Local Facilities Plan as presented by Dr. Cooper.

On a Collins/Huffman motion, the Board members present unanimously approved a resolution on the Five-Year Local Facilities Plan as recommended by the Facilities Review Team and Superintendent.

2008-2009 Board Goals: On a Swann/Wood motion, the Board members present unanimously approved on second reading the 2008-2009 Board Goals:

1. Continue to support the instruction of the Georgia Performance Standards in all grades/subject areas that have been fully implemented.
2. Continue to train K-5 teachers on the Georgia Performance Standards for Social Studies and train high school teachers/administrators on the Georgia Performance Standards for Math II.
3. Continue implementation of Writing and Math Workshops in Grades K-8.
4. Conduct system-wide training in the effective teaching of reading in Grades K-8 through services and support of consultants and system literacy coaches.
5. Fully implement Math I support classes for ninth grade students requiring additional help for Math I class.
6. Continue to focus on student achievement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels and improve test scores in all subject areas.
7. Complete renovations at Anna K. Davie, North Heights, and Southeast Elementary Schools during the summer of 2008.
8. Improve reading performance in the primary grades such that 90% of students meet Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) grade level benchmark expectations on the following:
 - Kindergarten: Phoneme Segmentation Fluency
 - First Grade: Nonsense Word Fluency
 - Second Grade: Oral Reading Fluency.
9. Expand the Bridge Program, a dual enrollment collaboration of Rome High School and Coosa Valley Technical College, for students that wish to pursue a technical college degree.
10. Implement a Response to Intervention Program (RTI) in Grades K-8.

Teacher Appreciation Week Resolution: On a Clark/Collins motion, the Board members present adopted a resolution read by Mrs. Huffman in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4 - 10, 2008).

A.D. Black Scholarship Committee Appointed: Mrs. Sims appointed Mr. Clark and Mrs. Collins to work on the annual A. D. Black scholarship Committee with Dr. Buck. The scholarship is for a student attending Georgia Tech, who was born in Floyd County, and who has at least one parent who was also born in Floyd County.

NSBA Report: The Board members discussed what they found interesting at the National School Boards Association that they attended. Mrs. Collins said that the legislative updates given at the meeting were engaging and enlightening. She also was very impressed with actor Sidney Poitier. Mrs. Collins said that he did a great job of relating his life's experiences and emphasized that no matter what the circumstances, "it is not what you do when you fall, it's what you do when you get up" that counts.

Ms. Huffman related what Sandra Day O'Connor, former Supreme Court Justice member had to say. She stressed the importance of volunteer work in local communities and discussed laws related to children. She also related a message from Unalaska Alaska involving mentors in life. It is said that each person needs at least five mentors for a safety net looking out for them and after them.

Mr. Wood also mentioned stories shared by Sidney Poitier and the impact they had on him. He said it is important to remember and to thank those who help along the way.

Mrs. Sims concluded the discussion by saying that the meeting was very informative and we should all "Try to be a rainbow in the clouds."