

# Board O'Gram

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

**GEMA Recognizes School Safety Plans:** Mrs. Sims recognized Mr. Tod Keys, Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA). Mr. Keys presented each school principal with a Certificate of Approval for their School Safety Plan. Mr. Keys then introduced Mr. Scotty Hancock, Floyd County Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), who shared his congratulations to the school principals for a job well done on their School Safety Plans.

**New Personnel:** On a Greer/Wood motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations for 2006-2007 employees, transfers, resignations, and retirements.

Certified Employment 2006-2007: Erin Karch / RHS and Ryan Morrie / MN

Support Employment 2006-2007: Earl Drummond/SE ; Brandi Nixon McDaniel/SE ; Shannon Duncan/NH ; Miya Mitchell/SE ; Carol Hurt/WC; and Lavada Turner/RMS

**New Teacher Orientation:** Ms. Hamilton reported that 87 new educators were hired for the 2006-2007 school year. The increase in the number of newly employed teachers is the result of the system's implementation of further reductions for mandated class sizes as well as the hiring of eight additional academic coaches. The increase in instructional personnel is expected to result in even greater individualized attention for students.

Ms. Hamilton discussed the purpose of the three day workshop, stating that the approach was from a macro to micro presentation - big picture first, then the finer details last. She showed the Board sample school New Teacher Workshop Agendas which the principals designed to orient the new teachers to their respective schools. In conclusion, Ms. Hamilton said that the business of education is all about building relationships.

**Focus on Student Achievement - RHS:** At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Evans presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Rome High School. Dr. Evans began his presentation by describing the roles of his assistants. Associate Principal Wallace will work with math, social studies, science, and fine arts curriculum. Mr. McDaniel will work with Career Tech and P.E. curriculum. Ms. Phinney will work with English/language arts and foreign language curriculum. Mr. Johnson will work with discipline, class referrals, and facilities.

Dr. Evans discussed test results for the Advanced Placement classes, the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHS GT) and End of Course Tests (EOCT) showing the trends and successes of Rome High School students. Seventy-nine percent of Rome High's Advanced Placement students passed the Advanced Placement exam to earn college credit!

Dr. Evans also reported that they have identified 70 students, from test data and class progress reports, that they feel are borderline students that need additional instructional interventions. In an effort to improve their chances of being successful in the EOCT and GHS GT, these students will be given an extra period of instruction in math or English rather than an elective.

Finally, Dr. Evans discussed how counselors will be utilized this year in guiding their students academically. The mission of Rome High School is to "Build Good Citizens Today for a Better World Tomorrow".

**Student Enrollment:** Dr. Cooper discussed the system enrollment for "Day Three". He stated that overall Rome City Schools has 21 fewer students this year than the same time last year. It is common to have new students arrive during the first week or two of school. By the end of the second full week of school, we should have a very good idea of just how many students we will have at each of our schools.

**Amendments to Policy IHE (Promotion and Retention):** On a Clark/Swann motion, the Board members present unanimously approved on First Reading Dr. Cooper's recommendation on amendments to Policy IHE (Promotion and Retention) as presented by Dr. Mary Baldwin.

**Lt. Col. (ret.) David Wright presents Digital Planetarium:** At Dr. Cooper's request, Lt. Col. (ret.) David Wright, GYSTC Director, gave a presentation on the Digital Planetarium Projector. Assisted by Ms. Suzannah Yoder, he projected the planetarium on the screen and walked them through a short lesson on the seasons, solar system objects, and deep sky objects. Lt. Col. Wright asked the audience, "Why study astronomy?" He answered by saying that the study of astronomy is required by Georgia Performance Standards. It also covers basic principals of energy, atomic structure, laws of force and motion, global positioning satellites, math, culture and history, space program spin-offs, and, most importantly, it helps boys and girls imagine and think out of the box.

**SPLOST II Report:** Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the May '06 collections of \$464,639.72 were \$31,815.57 above projections for a total of \$513,511.13 above year-to-date anticipated revenues for SPLOST II. Dr. Cooper also reported that the SPLOST dollars have been well spent. This summer's renovations included three (3) roofs and two (2) kitchens.

**Four Schools named Title I Distinguished Schools:** Dr. Cooper presented Title I Distinguished Schools certificates for earning AYP for three consecutive years to Mrs. Wood, East Central Elementary School; Dr. Moss, Elm Street Elementary School; Dr. Carter, North Heights Elementary School; and Mrs. Williams, Main Elementary School. Dr. Cooper reported that Anna K. Davie and West Central Elementary Schools have each earned AYP four years in a row.

**New Administrators are Welcomed by BOE:** Dr. Cooper recognized new administrators to the Rome City Schools: Dr. Ware, principal at Anna K. Davie Elementary School; Mr. Parke Wilkinson, assistant principal at East Central Elementary School; Mrs. Dawn Williams, principal at Main Elementary School; Mr. Doug Long, principal at Southeast Elementary School; Mr. Kelvin Portis, assistant principal at West Central Elementary School; Ms. Kimberly Findley, assistant principal at West End Elementary School; and Ms. Jennifer Phinney, assistant principal at Rome High School.

**General Announcements:**

- Dr. Cooper thanked teachers and administrators for a great school opening. He stated it was truly a team effort and he appreciated everyone's efforts to have a great school year.
- He also mentioned that the Board Policy Manual is now online and can be found by going to the RCS homepage and clicking on "Board of Education" and then on "Board Policies". This is a wonderful resource that can be used by anyone with internet access. Anyone can view all of the Board policies and can even search by topic to find policies.
- Finally, Dr. Cooper announced the Wolves' first scrimmage is with Coosa High School at Coosa on Thursday, August 24th at 7:00 p.m.
- The Rome Wolves first regular season football game is with Decatur on Friday, September 1st at Barron Stadium beginning at 8:00 p.m.