

Board O'Gram

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

Meeting Recognitions:

- A Rome High School saxophone trio played a musical interlude as the Board members, staff, and visitors gathered for the meeting. The trio was comprised of Ashley Anglin, a 12th grader; Alex McGinnis, an 11th grader; and Terrence Hight, an 11th grader.
- Dr. Cooper began the meeting by introducing the administrative staff in the audience: principals, assistant principals, and Central Office staff.

New Personnel: The Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendations for certified employment 2005-2006, support employment 2005-2006, resignations, and releases.

Certified Employment 2005-2006: Beth Lumpkin / RMS; Bryan Aspera / RHS; Jonathan Musgrove / RHS; Nicole Tilmon / EC; Glenda DeAngelus / RMS; Candi Hyde / RMS; Jerome Parks / RTA; Debbie Downer / CO; and Brenda Erwin / CO.

Support Employment 2005-2006: Jenni Blackburn / Parapro / EC; Jason Colts / Parapro / RTA; Curlene Robinson / Parapro / SE; and Cheryl Allen / After-School / EC.

2005-2006 New Teacher Induction Workshop Report: At Dr. Cooper's request, Ms. Hamilton reported on the 2005-2006 New Teacher Induction Workshop. She stated that, to date, the Board has hired 53 new employees for the 2005-2006 school year, including returning retirees, new veteran teachers, new beginning teachers, and employees returning from a leave of absence. Ms. Hamilton discussed the purpose of the three-day workshop, stating that the approach was from a macro to micro presentation – big picture first with the finer details last. Ms. Hamilton then briefly discussed the Induction Notebook that every new employee received and passed a sample around for the Board members to inspect.

Student Enrollment: Dr. Cooper reported on student enrollment for the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year. He gave a three-year history of the beginning of the year enrollment for each of the three levels of school: elementary, middle, and high school. In summary, he stated that on average the Rome City Schools pupil enrollment at the beginning of the year is about 5,000 students. He reported that it may vary one hundred students either way, but as a rule it has remained very stable over the past 20 years. Our system enrollment as of Day Three was 5,017.

Focus on Student Achievement – AKD: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Merritt presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Anna K. Davie Elementary School. Dr. Merritt reviewed the CRCT results and the 5th Grade Writing Assessment, stating that while the scores are good the school is striving to do better. To begin her presentation, Dr. Merritt handed an information booklet to each of the Board members. The booklet contained the school's Mission, Belief Statements, and statements directing the schools' instructional focus. These statements include a performance-based standards and assessment, aligned instructional system, high performance leadership, professional learning communities, and parent and community involvement. As she made her presentation, Dr. Merritt discussed the instructional strategies that are used at Anna K. Davie Elementary School including, but not limited to: Reader's Workshop, Writer's Workshop, Skills Block, Math Workshop, and Science Workshop. She stated that all instruction is based on student needs rather than a prescribed curriculum. It is this strategy that Dr. Merritt attributed to Anna K. Davie's successes: achieving Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) three consecutive years, recognized as a Distinguished Title I School, and being recognized at the national level for their Parent Involvement Program. Dr. Merritt stated, "Our mission is that all students will meet or exceed state standards and be prepared for middle school without remediation. We want them to walk into whatever course they have, ready to do what needs to be done.... We believe all students have worth and can learn. I love it, and it's what we do every single day."

2005-2006 NCLB & AYP: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Phillips reported on No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Standards for 2005-2006 and how Rome City Schools will meet the challenges set forth. Dr. Phillips was quick to state that during the past two years Rome City Schools met AYP standards as a system and with every elementary school and high school. Few systems in the state can echo that claim. While the Rome City Schools have enjoyed hard earned successes, Dr. Phillips pointed out that the standard or bar is continuing to be raised and Rome City Schools must continue to be proactive in reaching the new challenges.

SPLOST II Report: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the May '05 collections of \$427,387.32 were \$10,281.84 over projections. Dr. Cooper then stated that the overall SPLOST II collections are \$129,114.68 over anticipated. Dr. Cooper briefly reported on the status of the Main Elementary School and West End Elementary School summer construction projects. While the schools were not quite fully completed, the students were able to safely return to both schools on August 5.

Board Members Receive GSBA Certificates: Dr. Cooper presented each Board member with a Certificate of Achievement from the Georgia School Boards Association recognizing them for successfully completing their Board training during the 2004-2005 School Year.

Announcements:

- Dr. Cooper announced that the Rome High Wolves will be hosting a scrimmage football game with the Coosa High Eagles at 7:30 p.m., on August 11, at Barron Stadium.
- Dr. Cooper announced that the first 2005 regular season football game will be played against Murray County High School at 8:00 p.m., on August 19, at Barron Stadium.
- Mrs. Sims briefly discussed the West 3rd Street Development Project with the Board and visitors. She stated that it is important to remain involved and pay attention to the developments of this project because of the potential impact it has for the community.

Other Board Actions:

- The Board unanimously approved the minutes for the June 14, 2005 regular Board meeting, financial and other reports.
- Mrs. Sims placed amendments to Policy IHE (Promotion and Retention of Students), as presented by Dr. Mary Baldwin, on First Reading.