

Board O'Gram

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Report of Rome Board of Education — Action Compiled by Dr. Mike Buck, Assistant Superintendent

New Administrators: Dr. Cooper introduced Mr. Kelvin Portis, Principal at Anna K. Davie Elementary School and Mr. Parke Wilkinson, Principal at Main Elementary School.

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

Certified Employment 2009-2010: Joshua Muse/RMS and Helene "Lisa" Peck/RMS

Support Employment 2009-2010: Clara Kidd/WC, Marie W. Rice/CO, Kathleen Rood/WE, and Kathy Teat/EC

Focus on Student Achievement - Rome High School: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Evans presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Rome High School. Dr. Evans began his presentation by introducing his assistants: Associate Principal, Mrs. Wallace; Assistant Principals, Ms. Felton, Mr. Johnson, and Dr. Williams.

Dr. Evans discussed test results and trends for the End of Course Tests (EOCT), Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT), Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), Advanced Placement classes, and Adequate Yearly Progress indicators.

Dr. Evans focused his discussion on the importance of success for every child. He reported that Rome High School earned AYP last year. Only 47% of the 357 high schools in Georgia achieved this accomplishment. One student made the difference between achieving AYP or not.

In reviewing the (GHS GT) results, he reported that 68.1% of the students exceeded standards in mathematics and 63.9% exceeded in English/language arts. Dr. Evans is pleased with the progress he has seen, but knows there is still room for improvement.

Dr. Evans reported on the Advanced Placement Program at the high school. One hundred and twenty students were enrolled in one or more of the courses. This past year, more than 200 tests were taken by students in one or more areas. Of the tests taken, more than 76% of the results were a three or greater. This past year, enrollment in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) courses increased by 29%.

More than 50% of the seniors at Rome High School take the Scholastic Aptitude Test each year. Even so, students at Rome High School averaged 1051 last year while the national average was 1017. Over the past three years, Rome High School ranked fourth, first, and fifth in Georgia!

Process is critically important to Dr. Evans as he leads the instructional program at Rome High School. It is his belief that in order to be successful, there must be a critical mass of buy-in and support by the faculty and staff at the high school. This is especially true when new initiatives are being implemented.

In that regard, a very important new initiative being implemented is the Advisee Group process. Each faculty member will be given a random selection of 15 students from each grade level. The faculty members will work with their advisees until they graduate from high school. Following up with the advisee / advisor relationship, each faculty member is required to attend a minimum of 10 activities during the year. There are more than 280 different activities that will take place during the year! All of these activities are designed to foster positive relationships with the students.

As Dr. Evans closed his report, he reminded the Board and audience that in 2008, *U.S. News & World Report* named Rome High School "One of the Best High Schools in America". The entire Rome

community should be very proud of Rome High School! The faculty, staff, and students are second to none.

Dr. Cooper thanked Dr. Evans and the staff at Rome High School for the student achievement gains and an excellent report.

Health/Sex/AIDS Materials: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Downer gave a brief presentation on the Health/Sex/AIDS materials review committee and the process utilized by the committee. On a Swann/Huffman motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's Health/Sex/AIDS materials recommendation as presented by Mrs. Downer. The recommendation included:

- *About You: Fifth (5th) Grade Puberty Education Program* (Video)
- *Reality Matters: Sex and STD's* (DVD)
- *The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make* (Book)
- *Human* (Book)
- *Reducing the Risk: An Adolescent Pregnancy & HIV/AIDS Prevention Program*

Reduction in Annual Work Day Schedule: On a Collins/Wood motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendation to apply furlough days on July 31, 2009, October 5, 2009, and December 18, 2009, to all certified and support personnel.

On a Swann/Wilson motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendation to distribute the salary reduction resulting from the furloughs during the months: September 2009, October 2009, November 2009, and December 2009. This process will more equitably distribute the salary reduction.

SPLOST III Report: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST III revenues. The May '09' collections of \$438,278.31 were \$64,451.19 below projections for the month (\$502,729.50). Dr. Cooper expressed cautious optimism regarding future SPLOST collections. He also announced the anticipated groundbreaking in September for the classroom additions at Rome High.

Other Items:

- Dr. Cooper presented each member of the Board with an Achievement Certificate by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) for successful school board training during the 2008-2009 school year.
- Dr. Cooper announced that Rome High's football team will play its first region game on Friday, August 28, 2009, against the East Paulding Raiders at Barron Stadium. Kickoff will be at 8:00 p.m.
- Dr Cooper also congratulated the students, teachers and administrators on a great start to the new school year.
- New Business: Under New Business, on a Jones/Collins motion, the Board unanimously decided to enter into a contract with the Rome City Commission to hold a Rome City Schools Board of Education election in November 2009.