

Board O'Gram

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

One-Act Play Awards: Ms. Huffman recognized the students and Drama Coach, Mr. Taylor Buice, for accomplishments in the One-Act Play Competition.

The theatre department's production of You're A Good Man Charlie Brown placed first at the Region One-Act Play competition on November 1st. Chip Byars was recognized as Best Actor for the overall competition. Chase Anderson, Amy Williams, and Cooper Pinson were chosen as members of the "All Star Cast". Rome High School came in fourth place in the State One-Act competition in Valdosta. Mr. Buice said,

"It was very surprising how impressive our students were at this State competition. They represented the school very well and were extremely proud of their accomplishment. Rome High School has not won region one-act in nine years. It has been a wonderful experience for all that were involved and all who came to support the show."

Rome High School One Act Play Participants won First Place:

- Chase Anderson as Charlie Brown
- Laura Kate Steadmon as Lucy
- Chip Byars as Linus
- Amy Williams as Sally
- Cooper Pinson as Snoopy
- Winnie Wright as Frieda
- Chip Byars won Best Overall Competition
- Chase Anderson, Cooper Pinson, and Amy Williams won All Star Cast

State competition was held Saturday, November 11, 2006. RHS won Fourth Place:

- Chase Anderson as Charlie Brown
- Laura Kate Steadmon as Lucy
- Chip Byars as Linus
- Amy Williams as Sally
- Cooper Pinson as Snoopy
- Winnie Wright as Frieda

Fourth Month of Attendance: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the fourth month of school. He stated that Anna K. Davie Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance, 97.57 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 95.84 percent of student attendance for the fourth month of school. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was Elm Street Elementary School, 98.23 percent.

New Personnel: On a Clark/Wood motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendations for Certified and Support Employment 2006-2007:

1. Certified Employment 2006-2007: Juanita Haynes/EC ; Sue Lee/RHS ; Ashley Biggee/ES ; and Pam Hamilton/CO.
2. Support Employment 2006-2007: Barry Stephens /ES ; Regina Turner /WC ; Carolyn Carroll /ES ; William Underwood /Maintenance ; and Walter Agan /MN.

Focus on Student Achievement – North Heights: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Rita Carter presented the Focus on Student Achievement for North Heights Elementary School. Accompanying Dr. Carter from North Heights were teachers Esther Burger, Laura Gafnea, Joycelyn Willis, and Amie Wilson.

To begin her presentation, Dr. Carter reviewed the results of North Height's CRCT scores and identified three School Improvement Goals that the School Improvement Council identified: one for each Reading, English Language Arts, and Math.

Much of Dr. Carter's presentation was spent talking about how North Heights teachers know what instruction their students need. She discussed ways that they assess their students against benchmark expectations and standards.

Formative and benchmark assessments are used to provide a "snapshot" of student achievement at a given time. They use this to guide instructional decisions. Tools to assist teachers in working with their students include daily assessment, Developmental Reading Assessment, Running Record, and Online Assessment System (OAS) benchmarks. These are all ways that teachers determine their students' areas of weakness and strength.

By applying the four tiered Pyramid of Interventions they address the needs of their children with the appropriate level of intervention. Another important component of their success strategy is to involve and inform their parents through a host of communication venues. All of this effort is to work toward meeting the schools stated mission “to educate each student so that he or she will meet or exceed grade level performance as measured on state and national testing.”

RTA Student Behavior Point System: At Dr. Cooper’s request, Ms. Esther Vaughn, assisted by Dr. Dawn Kemp, presented on Rome Transitional Academy Student Behavior Point System.

Students and parents have the five step system explained to them when the student arrives at Rome Transitional Academy. The system rewards the student for appropriate behavior in the classroom and school. When the student first arrives, they have no privileges but as they demonstrate an ability to follow the rules, they begin to earn more freedom and responsibility. Successful completion of step five advances the student back for an opportunity to return to the regular school setting at the beginning of the subsequent semester.

The benefits of this system include accountability and reward. A student takes the responsibility for his / her own behavior and controls the experience (s)he will have while at the Transitional Academy. As the student maintains satisfactory behavior, (s)he is rewarded with additional freedoms and autonomy. If a student fails to behave satisfactorily, (s)he will lose privileges and freedoms. The beauty of the system is, the student knows upfront what the expectations are and what the rewards and consequences are for meeting or not meeting the expectations.

SPLOST II Revenues: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the September ‘06 collections of \$594,370.29 were \$161,546.14 above projections for the month.

Board Recognized as Board of Distinction: Dr. Cooper reported that, before a group of around 1,000 attendees, the members of the Rome City Schools Board of Education were recognized at this years Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) conference in Atlanta as a “School Board of Distinction.”

Special Education Department Earns two state awards: Dr. Cooper recognized the Special Education Department, Directed by Dr. Dawn Kemp, for distinctions earned at this year’s Special Education Directors’ meeting held in Savannah on November 10, 2006. Rome City Schools Special Education Department earned two honors. First they earned a certificate for being among the top 10 percent of Georgia Districts that Exhibited the Highest Performance by educating young children in the least restrictive environment. They also were recognized for being among the top 10 percent of Georgia Districts that demonstrated the most improved performance by increasing the percentage of students who meet or exceed state achievement standards. Dr. Kemp graciously accepted the certificates of recognition on behalf of all the special education teachers in the Rome City Schools.

Dr. Cooper’s announcements:

- This Friday, December 15th, Rome Wolves will host NW Whitfield in basketball at Rome High.
- Dr. Cooper announced that student holidays for Winter Break begin Friday, December 15th through Monday, January 1, 2007. School resumes on Tuesday, January 2, 2007.

Election of Board Officers: Mrs. Sims turned the meeting over to Mr. Byington, Board Attorney, to conduct the elections for the 2007 Board Chairperson. On a Clark/Swann motion, Mrs. Sims was nominated to serve as 2007 Board chairperson. On a Wood/Huffman motion, the Board unanimously decided to close the nominations, electing Mrs. Sims as Chairperson by acclamation.

Mr. Byington turned the meeting over to the newly elected Chairperson, Mrs. Sims. On a Wood/Collins motion, Mr. Greer was nominated to serve as 2007 Board Vice-Chairperson. On a Swann/Clark motion, the Board unanimously decided to close the nominations, electing Mr. Greer as Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.

Board selects regular meeting date, time, and location for 2007: On a Clark/Swann motion, the Board unanimously approved the 2007 Rome City Schools Board Meeting date, time, and location. The regular monthly meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month. The caucus will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the superintendent’s office and the regular session will begin at 5:45 p.m. in the Boardroom.

Board members discuss highlights from GSBA conference: Some of the Board Members reflected on the meetings they attended at this year’s GSBA conference.

- Mr. Clark discussed issues that were presented in the law session. He attended a session where inclusion was discussed. He said that he was proud to share with attendees that the Rome City Schools have already been using inclusion with special education students in regular classrooms.
- Mr. Wood shared that board members with 15 and more years of experience were recognized at the state meeting. Four of Rome City Schools Board Members were included in the recognition: Mr. Clark, Mr. Greer, Mrs. Sims, and Mr. Swann.
- Ms. Sims said that most of what she heard was about “Best Practices” and that she was proud that Rome City Schools always seems to be ahead of the curve with innovations.
- Dr. Cooper reported that Mrs. Sims was instrumental at the meeting and she had a place at the head table.