

# Board O'Gram

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

Mrs. Sims was unanimously elected as Board Chairperson for 2005 and Mr. Greer was elected unanimously as Board Vice-Chairperson.

**One-Act Play Awards:** The Board recognized the Wolf Pack Players for their successes. On Friday, November 5, 2004, the RHS Wolf Pack Players attended Region 7-AAAA One-Act Competition at Murray County High School. Twelve (12) of the 13 schools in the region competed. The Wolf Pack Players very successfully presented "*The Actor's Nightmare*" by Christopher Durang. The cast received the Best Ensemble Award and placed Second in the Region overall. Out of 12 school casts, ten students were chosen as members of the All-Star Cast for exceptional performances. Three of those ten were from the RHS cast. Those All-Star Cast members are: Larry M. Lassiter for his portrayal of Mel, the Stage Manager; Chase Anderson for his portrayal of George Spelvin; and Kara Cox for her portrayal of Sarah Siddons.

**Rome High Yearbook Award:** Mr. Wood recognized the 2004 *Capitolium* sponsor, Mrs. Amanda Howell, and her staff for earning First Place in the ASPA Yearbook Competition.

**Rome Wolves Recognized:** The Board recognized Rome Wolves Head Football Coach, Mr. David Humphreys, the coaching staff, and team for their tradition of success. David Humphreys has been a Rome Coach for 11 years, the last four as Head Coach. The Wolves earned their fourth straight 7-AAAA Region Championship and the team finished sixth in the State AJC poll. There were 14 seniors on the team. This was the winningest senior group in school history. Six players were voted to the All-Region Team: Otis Spivey, Tymon Hudson, Marcus McClure, Clyde Moore, Jeremy Thompson, and Toryan Smith. The Wolves have finished in the Top 10 final poll three of the last four years.

**The Board Recognized AP Scholars:** The Board recognized the students who succeeded in the Advanced Placement courses at Rome High School. Twelve students at Rome High have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level AP Exams for the 2003-2004 school year. Christopher Poe, a junior last year, earned the College Board's highest honor for AP scholars by being named an AP Scholar with Distinction. Students qualify for this award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all exams taken, and a grade of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Christopher is currently enrolled in three additional AP courses the current school year, making a total of eight AP courses taken while at Rome High School.

**National Board Certificated Teachers Recognized:** The Board also recognized three Rome City School teachers who have achieved National Board Certification. The three are Joyce Gaston and Barbara Kobek, teachers at Elm Street Elementary; and William Alford who is a teacher at Rome Middle School.

National Board Certification is a rigorous process, taking up to three years, through which the best teachers achieve National Certification status. In order to achieve National Board status, a teacher must create a portfolio comprised of lengthy written analyses of student work across subject areas, provide videotapes of lessons, and prove a high level of professional collaboration. They must also take a comprehensive standardized test in the summer.

These teachers bring the number of Nationally Board Certified teachers at Elm Street to seven and at Rome Middle School to three. This gives Elm Street the greatest number of Nationally Board Certified teachers of any area system and also, it's believed, in the state of Georgia. Others at Elm who are certified are Ann Petersen, Brea Mead, Pat Gaston, Beth Williams, and JoAnn Moss. Mr. Alford joins Debbie Scoggins and Kim Owens at Rome Middle with this distinction. Theda Byrd at East Central Elementary and Bonnie Goulding at Rome High School have also achieved National Board Certification.

**Student Attendance:** Dr. Cooper reported on attendance for the fourth month of school. He reported that West End Elementary School reported the highest percent of student attendance for the system at 97.35%. For the secondary schools, Rome Middle School reported an attendance of 96.53% for the month. The staff with the highest percent of attendance was Southeast Elementary School at 98.17%.

**New Personnel:** The Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendations for Certified and Support staff hiring for 2004-2005.

Certified: Crystal Maynor / MN and Courtney Thornbury / ES

Support: Ann Rhinehart / Clerical / RMS; Sharon Kendrick / Parent Educator / RMS; Lisa Bishop / Clerical / RMS; Ruth Miller / Parent Educator / ES & WC; Tina Hiles / Clerical / CO; Virginia McClure / Clerical / RTA; Glenda Kidd / SNP / RHS; and Melissa Howard / Parapro / RHS

**Spotlight on Southeast:** At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Buffi Murphy presented a report on Southeast Elementary School's student achievement. Mrs. Murphy reported that Southeast Elementary School received Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP) from efforts made by the faculty and staff at the school. The school is continuing to utilize the training and philosophy of the America's / Georgia's Choice program. Benchmarking is an important component of Southeast's success in that the teachers and students are assessing progress on a monthly basis. Mrs. Murphy discussed their Leadership Team approach in grades three-six. They are looking for students with good grades and good character habits. According to Mrs. Murphy, another important component to their success is their efforts in their Inclusion Model. Southeast has become a model school demonstrating this important strategy. Mrs. Murphy summarized her successes when she said that the keys to her success rested on the parents, students, teachers, central support and Board members.

**Georgia Performance Standards:** At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Baldwin discussed Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). Dr. Baldwin reported that the Georgia Performance Standards are much more than just a reworking of the former Quality Core Curriculum. It actually represents a new curriculum. It is about what students learn more than how teachers teach. It is a series of statements of clear expectations rather than a comprehensive reform package. The emphasis is on a few important objectives to be well understood by the students rather than an extremely wide curriculum with minimal understanding. The employees of the Rome City Schools are undergoing a great deal of staff development which is being conducted by a redelivery team comprised of Lora Young, Melissa Graney, Erin Strickland, Sandye Ashley, Jack Chestnut, Rochelle Myers, Hollye Smith, and Mary Jo Harvey. A system-wide training took place Friday, December 17, 2004, during teacher inservice day.

**SPLOST Revenues:** Dr. Cooper gave a report on SPLOST II revenues. He stated that September '04 collections of \$422,399.65 were \$20,441.98 more than projections. He reported that the net collections to date are \$64,728.91 over projections.

**Winter Holiday Renovations:** Dr. Cooper discussed renovations to take place during the winter holidays at Rome High School, Rome Middle School, Rome Transitional Academy, Main Elementary School, and West End Elementary School.

**Other Announcements:** Dr. Cooper announced that the Rome High Swim Team will be hosting a Meet on Thursday, December 16, 2004 at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Cooper stated that the *Rome News-Tribune* Basketball Tournament will take place during the winter holidays: dates, times, and locations to be announced.

**GSBA Report:** At Mrs. Sims' request, Mrs. Huffman reviewed several of the sessions she attended at the Georgia School Boards Association meeting. Mrs. Huffman said that the demographic composition of the Georgia General Assembly is changing and that those changes may alter the legislative process. She also reported that funding is continuing to be a concern that will need to be addressed in the supplemental budget and during the 2005 legislative session.

**2005 Board Meeting Schedule:** On a Clark / Wood motion, the Board members present unanimously approved the 2005 Rome City Schools Board Meeting monthly 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.

**Consolidation Taskforce Report:** Mr. Greer reported on the Consolidation Committee: Education Sub-Committee meeting. He stated that the committee is having difficulty finding a qualified person or firm to conduct a study on school consolidation for the Rome / Floyd County area.