

Board O'Gram

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

2007 Spelling Bee: The Board presented Spelling Bee Runner-up Jacob Sanborn, a Rome Middle School student, and Spelling Bee Champion Mike Castellanos, a West End Elementary School student, with a Certificate of Achievement for their 2007 Spelling Bee achievement.

Rome City Schools participates in the local competition that ultimately leads to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. All eight elementary schools and Rome Middle School send one school champion and one alternate to the System Spelling Bee.

Special thanks go to Dr. Randy Phillips, Title I Director, who coordinated the System 2007 Spelling Bee and to Mr. Todd Wheeler and Mr. Russ Wheeler, of National Copier Exchange, for the Grand Prize of a \$500.00 U.S. Savings Bond and the Runner-up Prize of a \$50.00 gift certificate to Mount Berry Mall.

Fifth Month of School: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the fifth month of school. He stated that Anna K. Davie Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 96.20 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 95.18 percent of student attendance for the fifth month of school. The highest percent of staff attendance was Elm Street Elementary School at 97.76 percent.

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

Focus on Student Achievement: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Tonya Wood presented the Focus on Student Achievement for East Central Elementary School.

Mrs. Wood began by discussing student achievement at East Central: Title I Distinguished School for four years, School of Excellence, and 2006 Platinum Award. Then she discussed the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests results. She said that all of their scores were very good except the reading scores from the third grade group. When the scores from the same group were compared from the previous year it was revealed that they were low as well.

According to Mrs. Wood, the good test scores for East Central Elementary School are a product of several efforts being made at the school. Mrs. Wood said that they have an extremely strong parent involvement group at the school. Parents are involved with the yearbook, mentoring students, working, and reading with students. Mrs. Wood reported that East Central has 258 trained parent volunteers.

Mrs. Wood reported that there were additional programs designed to increase student achievement. They include Math Workshop, Hands on Science, and "Becoming a Published Author" program. In conclusion, Mrs. Wood said that the faculty and staff are simply the best!

Proposed 2007-2008 School Calendar: On a Swann/Clark motion, the Board approved, on First Reading, the proposed 2007-2008 School Calendar as presented by Dr. Cooper. Dr. Cooper reviewed the process used to collect suggestions and evaluate calendar proposals. He stated that the Superintendent's Advisory Committee was asked to serve as the Calendar Committee. This gave each school an opportunity to make suggestions for the calendar. Dr. Cooper reported that the principle governing calendar proposals was: "What is best for the students in Rome City Schools in regard to their educational experience and achievement." Dr. Cooper also stated that the proposed 2007-2008 School Calendar will be posted on Rome City Schools website.

Policy IHF (Graduation Requirements): On a Collins/Huffman motion, the Board unanimously approved on First Reading, amendments to Board Policy IHF (Graduation Requirements) as presented by Dr. Cooper. Dr. Cooper stated, “We need to amend our policy to remove the “Career Technical Prep” program out of IHF. Career Prep has been a basic skills program for some of our tech students. We need to increase the rigor of our graduation rule by having all students interested in a vocational technical endorsement take the more rigorous Tech Prep program. The Tech Prep program integrates academic and vocational studies.” Dr. Cooper also stated that the amendments are a proactive approach to meet the new Georgia Performance Standards as they roll out from the Georgia State Board of Education.

Policy JBC (Transferring Credits): On a Clark/Wood motion, the Board unanimously approved for First Reading amendments to Board Policy JBC (Transferring Credits). This amendment will permit high school students to transfer up to four (4) units per semester.

SPLOST II Revenues: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the November ‘06 collections of \$399,166.52 were \$38,333.48 below projections for the month. Dr. Cooper stated that the overall collections are still well above the anticipated amount.

Black History Celebrations: In Other Items, at Dr. Cooper’s request, Dr. Baldwin discussed the activities and celebrations taking place in Rome City Schools in recognition of Black History Month. Dr. Baldwin reviewed events from each of the schools. Some of the highlights include: February 19, Rome Middle School’s Black History Extravaganza, starting at 7:00 p.m.; February 23, Anna K. Davie’s Special Guest Performance of “Ain’t I A Woman,” starting at 1:00 p.m.; February 26, Southeast’s Black History Celebration, starting at 6:00 p.m.; and February 27, Main’s Black History Month Program, starting at 9:30 a.m.