

Board O'Gram

Vol. 30
No. 7
Feb. 8, 2005

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

Governor Purdue to visit Main Elementary School: At Dr. Cooper request, Dr. Marvin Bynes announced that Governor Sonny Perdue will be visiting Main Elementary School on March 2, 2005, in recognition of Main's outstanding achievement of having every child pass the third grade CRCT in 2004.

2005 Spelling Bee Winner: Mr. Greer presented Rome City Schools' 2005 Spelling Bee winner, Tyler VanRiper, with a certificate of achievement from the Board of Education. Ms. VanRiper is a seventh grade student at Rome Middle School. Mr. Greer reported that the Rome City School System participates in a local competition that ultimately leads to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Each elementary school and middle school sent one school champion to participate in the "Big Bee". The winner will represent Rome City Schools in the District competition to be held on February 26, 2005.

Mr. Greer then invited Mr. Tod Wheeler to make his presentations. Mr. Wheeler, on behalf of National Copier Exchange, presented Ms. VanRiper with a certificate of achievement and a \$500.00 U.S. Savings bond.

Coosa Valley Fair Association Art Grant: At Mrs. Sims request, Mr. Dan Scott introduced Mr. Colin Kelly, 2005 President of the Coosa Valley Fair Association, who presented Dr. Cooper and the Board of Education with a \$1,000.00 Art Supplies Grant from the Coosa Valley Fair Association. Mr. Kelly stated that he and the Fair Association wanted to encourage all Rome City Schools' students to prepare art projects and enter them in the annual Coosa Valley Fair, which is held in the fall of each year.

Fifth Month Attendance Winner – RHS! Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the fifth month of school. He stated that Rome High School had the highest percentage of student attendance, 98.55 percent. It was also noted that West End Elementary School had 98.46 percent of student attendance for the fifth month of school. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was Elm Street Elementary School, 98.98 percent. This is the first time in our memory that a secondary school earned top attendance honors for a month. Congratulations go to Rome High School!

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

Recommendation of 2004-2005 Personnel/Certified: Laura Gafnea, NH; Wanda Hunter, RMS; and Hattie Pettit, SE.

Recommendation of Personnel/Support for 2004-2005: Kelly Gaylor, Aide / SE

Rome Middle's Saturday School: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Phillips reported on a new program at the middle school: Rome Middle's Saturday School. Dr. Phillips said that the program runs from 10 a.m. until 12 Noon every Saturday from now through May 14, 2005. The program is available on a voluntary basis to all Rome Middle School students. The program is designed to help students with homework, school projects, studying for upcoming tests, getting organized for Monday morning classes, and basic reading and math skills.

The program is housed at six neighborhood sites: Lovejoy Baptist Church, Holsey Sinai Church, Graham Homes Community Center, Hight (formerly Desoto) Homes, "The Well" @ West Rome Baptist Church, and West End Elementary School. Dr. Phillips reported that each site has a certified teacher to assist students and that the program has gotten off to a successful beginning in that nearly 100 students participated in the first of the Saturday School sessions.

Focus on Student Achievement at West End Elementary School: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mr. Kyle Jones presented the Focus on Student Achievement at West End Elementary School. He reported on the successful results that the West End Elementary students had on the 2004 CRCT.

Mr. Jones attributed West End Elementary School's students' success on the CRCT by the teachers having high expectations of their students, modeling writing and academic techniques for students to pattern after, and causing the students to write and journal in all grade levels and in all subject areas.

2005 SACS Peer Review Visit: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Harris reported on the 2005 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) peer review team findings. Dr. Harris stated that all Rome City Schools' elementary schools just finished the 2005 National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE) process. On this past Sunday (2/6/05), Monday (2/7/05), and Tuesday (2/8/05), a team of educators from around Georgia visited our schools, reviewed each of the school's School

Improvement Plans, and interviewed school and community stakeholders.

Dr. Harris said that the NSSE School Improvement Plan is looking for information and documentation on the school profile, beliefs and mission, desired results for student learning, analyzing instructional and organizational effectiveness, and goals for improvement and action plan.

Although the school evaluations were school specific, Dr. Harris was able to overview the commendations that were prevalent in all of the school summary reports: high expectations for student learning; students were the number one priority for the school; exemplary schools; very dedicated staff; evidence of parent and community involvement; students feel safe at school; low pupil-teacher ratios; clean and well maintained facilities; positive and productive working environments; student work was prominently displayed; implementation of Learning Focused Schools strategies was evident; teachers conduct home visits; abundant resources; high level of communication between all stakeholders is evident; high level of expectations for student learning, discipline, and attendance; administrator support was evident in schools as expressed by teachers, students, and parents; parent facilitators strengthen the home / school connection; and excellent teaching strategies are evident.

In conclusion, Dr. Harris thanked a host of people who were responsible for the success achieved during the SACS peer review visit. Dr. Cooper and the Board then thanked Dr. Harris for organizing and leading the system through the NSSE peer review process.

2005-06 School Calendar: The Board unanimously approved on first reading the proposed 2005-06 School Calendar as presented by Dr. Cooper.

SPLOST II Report: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that November '04 collections of \$367,905.13 were \$34,052.54 under projections. Dr. Cooper reported that the actual revenues-to-date for the system are ahead of projected revenues by \$30,609.24.

Black History Activities: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Baldwin reported on activities that will take place at the schools in celebration of Black History Month. Some of the activities she reported include: Anna K. Davie will hold a Career Day with black professionals from Rome and the surrounding area. They will also have a Black History Game Show on February 15, 2005. East Central Elementary School will emphasize various African cultures and the impact that those cultures had throughout history. They will have a school-wide presentation on ECTV (closed circuit television) about a famous black person several times during the month.

Elm Street Elementary School will display figurines and artifacts depicting people and events from black history in the Reader's Theatre. They will also hold a Black History Bowl at the end of the month. At North Heights, books are selected for read-aloud, guided reading groups, and social studies that highlight people and themes of Black History. Southeast Elementary School will have a spotlight on a famous African-American on their morning show. They will also have a guest speaker, Mr. Bernie Abrams, come to their school on February 17, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.. West Central Elementary School will have a "Good morning, West Central" show that will spotlight a black American each day. A series of questions will be presented for students to do some additional research on famous black Americans.

Rome Middle School will have a Black History Assembly featuring student musical production numbers and dramatic reading selections portraying African-American Culture. Seventh grade Language Arts / Literature Classes will be having a month-long study of short stories by African-American authors. The science department will incorporate focused studies of famous African-American scientists and their specific contributions to science. Finally, Rome High School will incorporate Black History activities into National History Day Projects, World History classes, Economic classes, Government classes and American History classes.