

# Board O'Gram

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

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**National Board Certification:** Mrs. Collins presented National Board Certification recognitions to Jo Heller-Orr and Emerye Waits from Elm Street Elementary School. National Board Certification is a rigorous one to three year process that evaluates teachers on what an exceptional teacher should know and be able to do.

This process includes long and detailed analysis and reflection on teaching strategies and student work. Videotaped examples of classroom teaching, samples of student work and growth, and documented evidence of teacher accomplishments are all required in the teacher's portfolio that is submitted to the National Board for review. As if this is not enough, a national examination is then taken by the teacher in the summer after the portfolio is submitted. On the average, only 50% of those attempting National Board Certification succeed in their efforts and are certified.

As a school, Elm Street Elementary School has more Nationally Board Certified teachers than any other school in Rome, in Floyd County, and in all surrounding school systems. Nine Elm Street teachers have earned National Board Certification while there!

**2006 Spelling Bee:** Mrs. Collins presented Spelling Bee Runner-up Memo Moreno, a sixth grader at West Central Elementary School, and Spelling Bee Champion Austin Beacham, a sixth grader at East Central Elementary School, with a Certificate of Achievement for their 2006 Spelling Bee achievement.

The Rome City Schools participates in a 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. The System Bee winner will compete in the District competition on Saturday, February 25, 2006.

Under the leadership of Dr. Randy Phillips, Title 1 Director, the System 2006 Spelling Bee came off without a hitch. Special thanks go to Mr. Todd Wheeler and Mr. Russ Wheeler, of National Copier Exchange, for the Grand Prize of a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond and the Runner-Up Prize of a \$100 gift certificate to the Mount Berry Mall.

**Daughters of American Revolution Essay Contest:** Mr. Swann presented Rachel Cross, eighth grader at Rome Middle School, with a Certificate of Achievement for her Daughters of American Revolution (DAR) essay achievement. The Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored the essay contest Rachel Cross entered. Each year, members of the DAR choose a subject that coincides with what is happening that particular year. This year, the topic was Benjamin's Franklin's effect on the modern day world. Rachel's essay won the DAR contest for eighth grade at the local level. It also taught her some new things. Rachel said it is like the old saying goes, "You learn something new everyday."

**State Swimming Champion:** Mr. Will Wood presented Alex Coville, a senior at Rome High School, with a Certificate of Achievement for his swimming accomplishments. He won the 50 and 100 meter free style swimming races on Saturday, February 11, 2006, at the Georgia High School Association State Swim Meet. This accomplishment was in the wake of the same achievement last year when he was a junior; he is the two-time State Champion in both events. Alex has signed with Stanford University on a swimming scholarship and he was named as the Noon Optimist Club's Student of the Year in Athletics last week.

**Fifth Month Attendance:** Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the fifth month of school. He stated that West End Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance, 98.74 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 97.51 percent of student attendance for the fifth month of school. The highest percent of staff attendance was East Central Elementary School, 97.61 percent.

**New Personnel:** On a Clark/Wood motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's Support Personnel recommendations for 2005-2006: David Humphries/Custodian/WE and Dawn Levesque/Parapro/SE

**Focus on Student Achievement - West Central :** At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Sanders presented the Focus on Student Achievement for West Central Elementary School. Dr. Sanders reviewed the Reading and Math CRCT results for the past two years in grades one through six. He stated that the results show West Central Students performing above or close to the State results. He attributed the successes that he observed to the programs implemented at West Central, including the Math Coach Program which was implemented last year in the fifth grade.

Accomplishments that West Central has attained include Pay for Performance for two years, 1999-2000 and 2002-2003; Title I Distinguished School; and Continuous AYP for four consecutive years. Dr. Sanders also stated that West Central has received a three-year EMath Grant for classroom technology in grades three, four and five. This year's amount equaled \$108,000.

West Central's philosophy centers on: hiring the best personnel; maintaining high expectations for teachers; and maintaining high expectations for students.

**2006 K-8 Social Studies Textbook Adoption:** On a Swann/Clark motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's 2006 K-8 Social Studies Textbook Adoption as presented by Dr. Mary Baldwin. Dr. Baldwin reviewed the new State Textbook Adoption Cycle: 2005-2006, 6-12 Career Tech and Agriculture; 2006-2007, K-8 Math; 2007-2008, K-12 Science and 9-12 Math; 2008-2009, K-8 English and Language Arts and K-12 Health and P.E.; 2009-2010, 9-12 English and Language Arts and K-12 Foreign Language and ESOL; 2010-2011, K-12 Fine Arts and Social Studies.

Dr. Baldwin reviewed the committee members and the process that began in September, 2004, which lead up to the present recommendation. The 2005-2006 K-8 Social Studies Recommendation includes:

- K-5 Houghton Mifflin Social Studies - Georgia Edition  
Houghton Mifflin Company
  
- 6 Holt People, Places, and Changes: An Intro to World Studies; Western World  
Holt, Rinehart, and Winston
  
- 7 Holt People, Places, and Changes: An Intro to World Studies; Eastern Hemisphere  
Holt, Rinehart, and Winston
  
- 8 Georgia and the American Experience  
Clairmont Press, Inc.

**Policies on First Reading (Sections B & C):** On a Clark/Huffman motion, the Board unanimously adopted, on first reading, all recommendations to Sections B and C of the Rome City Schools' Board Policy Manual.

**2006-2007 School Calendar:** On a Swann/Clark motion, the Board approved, on first reading, the proposed 2006-2007 School Calendar as presented by Dr. Cooper. Dr. Cooper reviewed the process that was used to collect suggestions and evaluate calendar proposals. A prototype of the calendar was sent out to schools so teachers and administrators could offer suggestions, and then two calendar options were sent out based on suggestions to allow schools to vote on their preferred version. The version presented Tuesday won with a five-to-three vote, with two schools abstaining.

Dr. Cooper said, "The primary objective of the school instructional year calendar is to get as much instruction/learning in before the testing windows in March and April. Teachers and students are doing a great job and we do not want to do anything to hamper their efforts."

**SPLOST II:** Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the November 2005 collections of \$389,308.50 were \$27,796.98 below projections, but that the overall collections are still strong.

**2006 Black History Activities:** At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Baldwin reviewed some of the activities planned for recognizing Black History Month. Dr. Baldwin stated that most of the programs and activities have been designed around the Georgia Performance Standards across the curriculum. The programs found in all of the schools include performing arts, writing assignments, presentations, and assignments across all subject areas.

**Other Items:** Dr. Cooper announced that the Rome Wolves Girls 7 AAAA Basketball team will play Salem High School Friday night, February 17, at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday night, February 18, the Rome High Band Boosters will host the annual Night of Dreams at Rome High School.

**Old Business:** On a Swann/Collins motion, the Board unanimously adopted, on second reading, all policy recommendations to Section A of the Rome City Schools' Board Policy manual.

**Board Announcements:** Mrs. Sims reported that Monday, March 13, 2006, is "Board Day" at the Capitol. There are several issues that the legislature needs to be aware of: the 65% rule, Local Control issues, IDEA reauthorization, and vouchers, to name a few. She reported that Mrs. Huffman and Mr. Greer will be attending.

Mrs. Sims closed the meeting by saying that the Art Display was presented by Rome High School and the Board will be thinking about Dr. Bynes' mother as she recovers from an illness.