

Board O'Gram

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

Attendance Report: Dr. Cooper reported that the fifth month of school ends on January 16, 2007 and the attendance report will be given in February.

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: Robin Sanders/SE

Focus on Student Achievement - Elm Street: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. JoAnn Moss presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Elm Street Elementary School. The teachers who accompanied Dr. Moss from Elm Street were Melanie Arrington, Ceil Morrison, Jackie Weed, Merrimac Forsyth, and Kim Williams.

Dr. Moss stated that great achievement isn't possible if the children don't come to school, good attendance fosters good achievement. Elm Street is regularly recognized for their good monthly student attendance. Dr. Moss also said that good learning comes from good teaching. Elm Street Elementary School has seven National Board Certified teachers, thirty-one of their teachers have advanced degrees, and seven are currently working on their Educational Specialist degree.

Their test results tell the story. More than eighty-seven percent of their students met or exceeded state standards in 2006! Dr. Moss discussed the Reading and Math CRCT results, by grade, and then reviewed the areas of strength and areas they want to improve. Dr. Moss proudly stated that they have 19 self-contained EIP classes and serve 203 students in Direct Instruction in addition to the basal reading program. They have a full 90-minute block for math, allowing time for skills, conceptual lessons, and problem-solving.

Dr. Moss reported that success at Elm Street is not subgroup dependent. Of the 12 subgroups at Elm Street, all of them achieved or exceeded the AYP bar. Elm Street Elementary School is leading the technology curve as well. They are the National winner of the Beaumont Foundation technology grant to provide laptop labs, projectors, cameras, and printers. They also earned the HP grant award which provides upper grade teachers with tablet computers, projectors, printers, and staff development.

In the area of new programs, Dr. Moss said that they are excited about their brand new Pre-K program that began last Tuesday, January 2, 2007. She said that the class is already full and fully operational. They are excited because the children that they are serving will, for the most part, be attending Elm Street as Kindergartners next year.

In conclusion, Dr. Moss said that even though they are successful at Elm Street, they have as one of their goals to move students from the "meets" to "exceeds" category in every area.

STI Home: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mr. David Smith, Informational Technology Specialist, presented on STI Home. He reported that it is an internet web-based tool which parents can use to view their child's student data: attendance, grades, discipline, student schedule, and class averages.

Mr. Smith stated that the website can be accessed using Internet Explorer. The website is safe, secure, and uses IDs and PINs for access. The information is read only so none of the data may be changed by an unauthorized party. Information about this new communication tool is being sent home this week. The program is now "live" for Rome High School and Rome Middle School students and parents. Dr. Cooper reported that one Board Goal he is going to recommend this spring will be to implement STI Home in grades four through six for the 2007-2008 school year.

SPLOST Report: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the October '06 collections of \$279,066.71 were \$158,433.29 below projections for the month.

Dr. Cooper's announcements:

- Monday, January 15, 2007 Rome City Schools will have a school holiday to observe MLK Day. Community celebration activities may be found listed in the local paper.
- This Friday, January 12, 2007 Rome Wolves will go to Ringgold to play basketball.

Other Board Actions: The Board gave the Superintendent, Dr. Cooper, a satisfactory evaluation and extended his contract an additional year.