

# Board O'Gram

Vol. 33  
No. 6  
Jan. 8, 2008

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

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Sims at 5:45 p.m. The roll was called and it was determined that the Board had a quorum.

**Minutes and Financials:** On a Clark/Collins motion, the Board members present unanimously approved the minutes for the December 11, 2007 regular Board meeting (as amended), financial, and other reports.

**Fifth Month of Attendance:** Dr. Cooper reported that the fifth month attendance would not be reported this month because the fifth month of school will not be completed until January 18, 2008.

**New Personnel:** On a Wood/Wilson motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations:

Certified Employment 2007-2008: Christopher Parker/NH

Support Employment 2007-2008: Suzanne Bray/WC; Stephanie Kelly/RMS; Barbara Ann Carroll/RHS; Wendy Mull/ES; Gene Evans/Maintenance; Ronnie Reed/RHS; Charles Hollis, Jr. /RHS; and Chastity Walters/NH

**Focus on Student Achievement - North Heights:** At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Rita Carter presented the Focus on Student Achievement for North Heights Elementary School. Accompanying Dr. Carter from North Heights were teachers: Esther Burger, Greg Moss; Literacy Coaches: Laura Gafnea, Anita Cole; Math Coach: Sunita Holloway; Secretary: Renea DeAngelus; Counselor: Nathalie Lizin; Parent Involvement Coordinator: Ginger Rowston; and School Council member: Jan Ferguson.

To begin her presentation, Dr. Carter reviewed the results of North Height's CRCT scores and identified three School Improvement Goals that the School Improvement Council identified for Reading, English/Language Arts, and Math.

Dr. Carter discussed the strategies that are employed at North Heights which attributes to the success that their students have enjoyed in testing. The strategies include Direct Instruction in addition to the regular reading program. At the primary grades, they employ DIBELS to progress monitor their students and develop teaching strategies focused on weaknesses observed. They also use group and individual teaching strategies with their students. They employ benchmark tools such as Diagnostic Reading Assessment (DRA) and DIBELS to pinpoint students' needs.

In the area of Mathematics, teachers at North Heights use Math Fact Fluency strategies and OAS testing to employ continual improvement in the classroom level as well as at home. Formative and benchmark assessments are used to provide a "snapshot" of student achievement at a given time. These are all ways that teachers determine their students' areas of weakness and strength.

In conclusion, Dr. Carter discussed the School Improvement Goals for this year in the areas of Reading, English/Language Arts, and Mathematics. She stated that the teachers are focusing instruction this year in an effort to ensure their attainment of their school-developed 2007-2008 Mission Statement.

**Rome High School - Seven Period Day:** On a Collins/Clark motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendation for Rome High School to run a seven period day beginning in August of the 2008-2009 school year. Dr. Cooper and Dr. Evans (with assistance from Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Phinney) discussed the need for and advantages of a seven period day at Rome High School.

The impetus for the change to a seven period day was the Georgia Department of Education's change in required units for graduation from 22 units to 23 units, beginning with the 2008-2009 freshman class. The implementation of a seven period schedule will provide students with more opportunities to take challenging academic electives as well as fine arts electives of interest. Students will also benefit by having more opportunities

to earn dual endorsement seals on their diploma. In addition, students will have more opportunities for credit recovery which may improve the high school graduation rate.

**SPLOST II Collections:** Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the October '07 collections of \$437,630.03 were \$130.03 above projections for the month (\$437,500.00).

**In Other Business:**

- Dr. Cooper announced that East Central Elementary School has been nominated by the State Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Kathy Cox, to be named a National Blue Ribbon School. Dr. Cooper stated East Central's application must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by February 15, 2008 before a final determination will be made at the national level.
- Dr. Cooper announced that the Rome Wolves basketball team will host Ringgold High School, Friday, January 11th, at 7:00 p.m. at Rome High School.
- Dr. Cooper announced that Rome City Schools will be closed on Monday, January 21st, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

**Superintendent's Annual Evaluation:** The Board members present unanimously approved the satisfactory evaluation of the Superintendent, Dr. Cooper, and the extension of his contract for an additional year.