

Board O'Gram

Vol. 34
No. 5
Jan. 13, 2009

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

Fifth Month 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 16, 2009.

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

Support Employment 2008-2009:

Emily Dawson/WC

Teresa Frazier/RMS

Heather Smith/MN

Shelley Elliott/WE

Lisa Shaw/ES

Jackie Watters/SE

John Stephen Evans/RHS

Sandy Singh/ES

Robert Scott Gaylor/RHS

Focus On Student Achievement - Southeast Elementary School: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mr. Doug Long presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Southeast Elementary School. Accompanying Mr. Long were faculty members: Carol Maxey, Amy Turner, Stephanie Guyant, Becky Kemnitz, Veronica Cole, and Darnell Williamson.

Mr. Long thanked the Board for the wonderful renovations the students and faculty have enjoyed at Southeast Elementary School. He stated that they feel like they are working and learning in a new school. It has had a positive impact on everyone who comes into the building.

Mr. Long reminded the audience of accomplishments that Southeast has earned: named a Distinguished Title I School AYP for five consecutive years; named a 2008 No Excuses School by Georgia Public Policy Foundation; and awarded the State Superintendent's Achievement Award for Improvement in Reading Scores for Second Grade.

The CRCT scores were then reviewed for each grade level. Mr. Long showed that students at Southeast Elementary improved their CRCT scores in both reading and math in the first grade, second grade, fourth grade, and sixth grade! He also discussed the scores in the third and fifth grades that did not appear to be as successful. Mr. Long stated if the scores included the summer school retakes, the scores were significantly better. It was also revealed that if the scores were compared longitudinally with the same children, their scores actually showed a growth from the prior year.

Mr. Long then discussed how they plan to create change and improve the achievement for all of their children:

- Efficient and effective use of all teachers and paraprofessionals;
- RTI groups at each grade level, sometimes across grade levels;
- Flexible Scheduling allowing more math time;
- After School Tutorial for Grades 1-6;
- Friday Math Academy beginning in January;
- Collaboration with Georgia Highlands and Shorter College to provide reading tutors for struggling students.

In conclusion, Mr. Long stated they are a "No Excuses School", and that they only have "Great Students"!

Proposed Diploma Nomenclature Change: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Dawn Kemp discussed the proposed diploma nomenclature change from "Special Education Diploma" to "Occupational Diploma". Dr. Kemp emphasized the system is being proactive in removing possible stumbling blocks for students as they attempt to achieve their postsecondary aspirations.

Special Education Certificate of Recognition: Dr. Cooper then presented Dr. Kemp with a Certificate of Recognition from the Georgia Department of Education. The recognition was awarded to the Rome City Schools in recognition of meeting state target as follows: Educating young children and students in a Least Restrictive Environment; Students meeting/exceeding state achievement standards for Reading/English Language Arts; and Transitioning students to their desired post-secondary outcomes.

SPLOST II Report: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the October '08 collections of \$403,044.18 were \$34,455.82 below projections for the month (\$437,500.00). He further stated that overall the system has collected \$468,888.87 above the projected amount.

Rome High School - 2008 Bronze Award!: Dr. Cooper presented Dr. Evans, Mrs. Wallace, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Felton, and Mr. Wilkinson with a certificate of achievement from the *U.S. News & World Report* for Rome High School earning the 2008 Bronze Award! Dr. Cooper stated the award is especially significant because it is a national recognition for Rome High School and Rome City Schools. The recognition is for excellence in:

- Student performance on state test(s).
- Performance of economically disadvantaged students.
- School's success in providing college-level coursework.

GSPRA Gold Award: Dr. Cooper recognized Dr. Mike Buck, Dr. Randy Phillips, and Mrs. Mary Hall for achievements in public relations. The Georgia School Public Relations Association (GSPRA) presented Rome City Schools with a Gold Award for excellence in the Public Relations and Marketing Campaign. Dr. Cooper again stated this is very significant because the recognition is an external agency evaluating our school marketing program.

Other Board Action:

- On a Collins/Wood motion, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the December 9, 2008, regular Board meeting, financial, and other reports.
- On a Jones/Wood motion, the Board unanimously approved, on First Reading, Dr. Cooper's recommendation to amend Board Policy IHF (Graduation Requirements).
- The Board gave Dr. Cooper a satisfactory evaluation.

Announcements:

- Dr. Cooper announced that Rome High School will be playing basketball at Cartersville on January 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
- Dr. Cooper also reminded everyone that Rome City Schools will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2009 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.