

Board O'Gram

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Report of Rome Board of Education — Action Compiled by Dr. Mike Buck, Assistant Superintendent

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 19, 2010.

New Personnel: On a Jones/Collins motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations: Support Employment 2009-2010: Sarah Locklear/ ES

Oglethorpe Power Corporation Supports AP Seminar: Dr. Cooper presented Mrs. Diane McClearn (Director of Community Relations for Oglethorpe Power Corporation) and Mr. Bill Tharp (Plant Manager for Oglethorpe Power Corporation) with a plaque of recognition for Oglethorpe Power Corporation's support of the AP Seminar program.

Focus On Student Achievement – Southeast Elementary: 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, and Marian Williams. While discussing accomplishments earned by Southeast Elementary, Mr. Long noted that the school has been named a Distinguished Title I School for six consecutive years, and Ms. Danielle Tapp is the runner-up for System Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Long reviewed 2009 CRCT scores and concluded with three observations. The primary grades decreased in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standards in both reading and math. He reported that three out of six grade levels showed an increase in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standards in reading. Finally, he said that only two grade levels increased in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standards in math.

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

- Additional teachers and paraprofessionals to assist with RTI in math;
- Increased instructional time in math;
- Increased use of technology; and
- After school tutorial for Grades 3-6.

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

Dr. Cooper thanked Mr. Long and the teachers for their efforts to improve student achievement. He reiterated that we are a “No Excuses School System”, and that we expect all of our students to be successful.

Progress Achievement for All Students: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Dawn Kemp discussed Progress Achievement for all Students. Dr. Kemp presented test results for students with disabilities. She reported that compared to state results, Rome City Schools' students perform exceptionally well. Dr. Kemp cited several reasons for this success. She stated that the special education teachers and general education teachers work together extremely well. The system has implemented phonemic awareness/language development programs in all schools, particularly in pre-k and at-risk kindergarten classes. The success is also attributed to the progressive and thoughtful principals and assistant principals who work diligently with all students. Dr. Kemp recognized the contributions of the outstanding special education facilitators and school psychologists who intervene with students at-risk. She also commended the support that comes from reading and math content experts (Ms. Downer and Ms. Erwin). Finally, Dr. Kemp said that the success is attributed to the vision from the superintendent and assistant superintendent to promote the achievement of all students.

At the conclusion of Dr. Kemp's presentation, Dr. Cooper presented Dr. Kemp with two Certificates of Recognition from the Georgia Department of Education. The certificates were awarded to the Rome City Schools in recognition of educating young students in a least restrictive environment and meeting the state targets.

Project Acceleration: Dr. Cooper discussed a new high school program called Project Acceleration. RHS seniors who have failed a course or courses, will have the opportunity to use OdysseyWare, an on-line credit recovery program, to earn credit(s). The course is offered Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from January 5 to May 13, 2010, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the computer lab of Rome Transitional Academy on Spider Webb Drive. There is a registration fee of \$20 which covers all courses a student may need to recover. The only requirements are mature behavior and good attendance. Sessions will be forfeited after three absences. Dr. Cooper reported that transportation from Rome High School to Spider Webb Drive

is free and will be provided by the Rome Transit Department. There are 28 seniors currently enrolled in Project Acceleration. As space becomes available, more students will be allowed to register.

SPLOST III: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST III revenues. He stated that the October '09 collections of \$477,806.05 were \$24,923.45 below projections for the month (\$502,729.50).

Bronze Award from *U.S. News and World Report*: Dr. Cooper reported that for the second year in a row, Rome High School earned the Bronze Award from *U.S. News and World Report*. Dr. Cooper stated that the award is especially important because it is recognition from outside educational ranks and circles. 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.

Other Items:

- Dr. Cooper recognized Dr. JoAnn Moss for being asked to present at the SSTAGE Best Practices Conference on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, in Athens, Georgia.
- Dr. Cooper recognized Mrs. Buffy Murphy and Ms. Cassie Parson for being asked to present at the Georgia Reading Association Conference on January 25-26, 2010, in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Dr. Cooper announced that Rome High boys will be playing at Cartersville in basketball on January 15, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.
- Dr. Cooper also reminded everyone that Monday, January 18th will be a school holiday in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Other Board Actions:

- The Board announced that the Superintendent's evaluation was satisfactory.