

# Board O'Gram

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

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

Certified Employment 2009-2010: Allison Anderson/RHS; Barbara Carter /C/O (49%); Felicia Corbin/AKD; and Noel Wilkinson/WC.

Support Employment 2009-2010: Amanda Burkhalter/WC; Rebecca Dorsey/WC; Matthew Larson/RHS; Allora Linderman/AKD; and Wyatt Sharp/SE.

**2009 Summer Construction:** Dr. Cooper discussed the various SPLOST II projects that were worked on this summer at each of the schools:

- Elementary Schools – teachers' & administrators' computers
- Main Elementary – lighting
- West Central and East Central – paint hallways
- Rome Transitional Academy – flooring and painting
- Rome Middle/Rome High – video surveillance
- Rome High – pool renovation, replaced flush valves and toilets
- Rome High – track & tractor building
- Rome Middle/Rome High – stripe parking lot
- Rome Middle/Rome High – paint exterior doors
- Rome Middle/Rome High – HVAC
- Rome Middle/Rome High – paint lockers
- BOE Central Office – HVAC
- Elm Street – add wall panels in gym

**2009 Milk Bid & Lunch Prices:** On a Swann/Jones motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's 2009-2010 milk bid and lunch price recommendations as presented by Dr. Barbara Carter. The milk bid was awarded to Mayfield, and the lunch prices will remain at the same level as they have for the past 14 years.

**2009 Young Scholars Program:** Dr. Cooper reported on the 2009 Young Scholars Program. There were four groups of students attending Young Scholars this year: rising 5th Grade Camp took place at Shorter College and worked with Alternative Fuel Sources & Ecology; rising 6th Grade Camp took place at Georgia Highlands College and worked with Astronomy & Space; rising 7th Grade Camp took place at Berry College and worked on Life Science & Biology; and rising 8th Grade Camp took place at Georgia Northwestern Technical College and worked on Applied Sciences. Dr. Cooper showed some pictures of each of the four programs which exemplified the programs that were offered at each site.

**SPLOST III Report:** Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST III revenues. He reported that the April '09 collections were \$375,646.63.

**GSBA Summer Conference:** Mr. Wilson reported on the 2009 GSBA Summer Conference in Savannah at which he served as the Delegate Representative for Rome City Schools. Mr. Wilson discussed the many opportunities for professional growth provided by the conference. He also discussed issues related to legislative priorities for the Georgia School Boards Association.

**Other Information:** Dr. Cooper announced that Rome City Schools was pleased the United States Justice Department had agreed to release Rome City Schools as a defendant in the original school desegregation suit filed in 1969. The U.S. Justice Department determined that Rome City Schools has reached unitary status.

Since 2006, the school system has been in contact with the Justice Department and its attorneys who have been reviewing information which they requested. After that review it was determined that Rome City Schools had eliminated any vestiges of segregation in its school system. Therefore, the Justice Department concluded Rome City Schools had met all legal obligations for a declaration of unitary status.

Dr. Cooper stated that all Rome City Schools have wonderful diversity which allows children to appreciate and understand the many cultures represented in our school system. There will be no significant changes in our school system as a result of our unitary status. He stated we probably will not be submitting large amounts of data to the Justice Department each year as we have done in the past. We are pleased to have unitary status.

Dr. Cooper also announced that **every school in Rome City Schools made Adequate Yearly progress (AYP) and the system made AYP as well.** There were only 49 school systems earning this distinction in Georgia and Rome City Schools was one of the 49 systems! Dr. Cooper's announcement drew a round of applause from the Board members and the audience at the Board meeting.