

Board O'Gram

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

Future Business Leaders of America: Ms. Huffman presented Certificates of Recognition to Rome High School students for their achievements at the Region 10 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Leadership Conference Competition: Brandon Green, a junior, placed First in Accounting; Ronald L. (Scott) Willis, a senior, placed First in Impromptu Speaking; and Leslie Reyna, a senior, placed Second in Word Processing II.

State Wrestling Tournament Winners: Mr. Wood presented Luke Robinson and Josh Hines, students at Rome High School, with a Certificate of Achievement for placing in the State Wrestling Tournament. Luke is a senior at Rome High School and placed fifth in this year's tournament. He plays soccer and wrestles. As a wrestler Luke is only the second person from Rome High to qualify for the state tournament three times. He is also the second person from RHS to place at state twice.

Josh is a junior at Rome High School and placed second. He also plays linebacker for Wolves football. Josh finished the year with a record of 42 and 3. Of those 42 wins 30 came off of pins. This was Josh's first time to qualify for the state tournament. Josh hopes to return next year to become Rome's first ever state champion in wrestling.

Not only do these young men participate in numerous sporting teams at Rome High School, but both of them are seeking College Prep and College Prep Advanced diplomas and are scholar athletes. This means that they maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better. Their contributions helped the Wolves to a 20 and 10 record and their fourth winning season in a row. The team finished second at the Wolfpack Duals after losing by one point to the defending "AAA" state champs in the finals. The Wolves are coached by Head Coach Wesley Styles and Assistant Coach Bryan Aspera.

11-Alive Community Service Award: Mr. Swann presented Melanie Arrington and Jo Heller-Orr with a Certificate of Achievement for earning the 11-Alive Community Service Award. It's the nature of a teacher --- time, their own money, and their hearts. Ms. Arrington and Ms. Heller-Orr, teachers at Elm Street Elementary School, were recognized for service and volunteerism above the call of duty and for helping their students understand the need for helping others. The Channel 11 television station, WXIA in Atlanta, "11Alive" to viewers, each year selects eleven winners from many, many nominees in their viewing area. It was announced that Melanie Arrington and Jo Heller-Orr have been selected as winners of this prestigious Community Service Award. They will be honored at a very special banquet in Atlanta in April where they will walk down the red carpet to be recognized and receive a \$1,000 check. Channel 11 has been at Elm Street taping some of their service activities and interviewing students and parents who were involved. With their students, Ms. Orr and Ms. Arrington have raised funds for hurricane relief; for tsunamic relief; Relay for Life; donated to the Can-a-Thon; purchased a goat for starving children through Samaritan's Purse; took part in community cleanups; took part in "Clothes Share" delivery; provided continuing assistance to individual students, past and present; helped those who need academic assistance through home visits, and much more. We are proud to honor Melanie Arrington and Jo Heller-Orr.

Rome High Chorus: Mr. Clark presented Ms. Jennifer Williams a Certificate of Achievement for successfully directing the Rome High Chorus. The Rome High School Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Jennifer Williams, performed exceptionally well at the District VII Choral Festival held on March 9th at Woodland High School. The Rome High School Chorus received superior ratings from all judges in performance and sight-reading. Superior is the highest rating given at choral festivals.

The choral group representing Rome High consisted of 40 students from beginning, advanced, and after-school chorus groups. Under Mrs. Williams's direction, the Rome High chorus received all superior ratings last year as well.

This is Mrs. Williams's second year serving as choral director for Rome High School. Prior to teaching at Rome, she was the choral director for Lovett Lodger Intermediate School in Texas. She holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Shorter College and a master's degree in music education from the University of Georgia.

\$1,000.00 Art Supplies Grant: At Mrs. Sims request, Mr. Dan Scott (Coosa Valley Fair Association) presented Dr. Cooper and the Board of Education with a \$1,000. Art Supplies Grant from the Coosa Valley Fair Association. Mr. Scott stated that he and the Fair Association want to continue to encourage all Rome City Schools students to prepare art projects and enter them in the annual Coosa Valley Fair which is held in the fall of each year.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the sixth month of school. He stated that North Heights Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 97.36 percent. It was also noted that Rome High

School had 96.69 percent of student attendance for the sixth month of school. The highest percent of staff attendance was the Central Office at 97.89 percent.

New and Returning Personnel: On a Swann/Clark motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations for 2005-2006 support employees: St. Clair Bland/RTA

On a Clark / Huffman motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations for 2006-2007 certified re-employment.

On a Swann/Wood motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations for 2006-2007 certified new hires: Mary Helen Mueller/RMS; Kelly Costley/EC; Jennifer Vaughn/RMS; Esther Ann Burger/NH; Julie Bunch/RMS; Karen Hayes/RHS; Candice Agan/WC; Sonja Parker/RMS; Brittany Brewer/WC; and Angela Fulton/AKD.

On a Swann/Wood motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations for 2006-2007 voluntary transfers: Ms. Buffi Murphy from SE to WE/Principal and Dr. Janice Merritt from AKD to WC/Principal

Focus on Achievement at West End: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mr. Kyle Jones presented the Focus on Student Achievement for West End Elementary School. Mr. Jones first stated that West End Elementary School earned School of Excellence for the second time in ten years. Mr. Jones then reviewed the reading and math CRCT results for the past two years in grades one through six. He stated that the results show West End Elementary School students perform well above state and local averages.

Mr. Jones then reviewed the school's fifth grade writing scores for the past three years. In all three years he reported that the students performed over 95 percent in the top three categories of skills: Experiencing, Engaging, and Extending.

Mr. Jones attributed the school's success to the hard work that teachers perform everyday in the classroom along with the support that the parents and community provide for the educational experience of the children.

2006-2007 Recruitment Plans: At Dr. Cooper's request, Ms. Hamilton presented the 2006-2007 Teacher Recruitment Plan. Ms. Hamilton listed some ways that the school system recruits new employees: job fairs, follow-up letters, system website, printed information, and student teachers. Ms. Hamilton stated that population and demographic changes have increased the competition for quality teachers in most areas of certification.

Board Policies Section D and E: On a Swann/Greer motion, the Board members present unanimously adopted, on First Reading, all recommendations to Sections D and E of the Rome City Schools Board Policy Manual.

SPLOST II: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the December 2005 collections of \$493,007.92 were \$75,902.44 above projections and overall collections are very strong.

Other Items: On a Clark/Greer motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendation to declare two double-wide trailers (AKD & Main) surplus.

Dr. Cooper announced that Spring Holidays will take place March 27 - March 31, 2006.

Dr. Cooper reported that employee paychecks will be distributed the last working day of the month, March 24, 2006.

Board Adopts Policies Sections B & C: On a Wood/Swann motion, the Board members present unanimously adopted, on Second Reading, all policy recommendations to Sections B and C of the Rome City Schools Board Policy manual.

Board Adopts 2006-2007 School Calendar: On a Huffman/Clark motion, the Board unanimously adopted on Second Reading, the 2006-2007 School Calendar recommendation as presented at the February 2006 Board meeting.

Board reports on "Board Day" at the Capitol: Mrs. Sims asked that Ms. Huffman, Mr. Greer and Mr. Clark report on "Board Day" at the Capitol which was held Monday, March 13, 2006. Ms. Huffman discussed the general activities at the Capitol and issues that were discussed about budget projections for 2007. Mr. Clark stated that there were several hundred people in attendance representing Board members and Superintendents from around the state.

Under New Business: Mrs. Sims appointed Mrs. Collins to serve as Delegate and Mr. Clark to serve as Alternate for the 2006 GSBA Delegate Assembly in Savannah, Georgia on June 23, 2006.

2006 Merger Study Report: Mr. Greer discussed the findings of the 2006 Merger Study Report. He reported that the Education Subcommittee recommended suspending the effort to merge the school systems and that the full study be submitted to both boards of education for their examination.