

Board O'Gram

Vol. 31
No. 10
May 9, 2006

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

Musical Reception for Board: The East Central Sixth Grade Hand Chimes Group performed before the audience prior to the meeting being called to order. Mrs. Gwen Stephens, music teacher led the group in several Bach arrangements. Performers included: Megan Gaines, Josh Billian, Elizabeth Stolte, Bryan Frenya, Carrigan Rogers, Imani Welch, Jasmine Smith, Jade Dusseau, David Dickson, Chase Chalker, Rebecca Cauthen, Astria Zachery, Parker Van Riper, Austin Avery, Jon Ross Maddox, Lamesha Woodard, Johnathon White, and Devin Rogers.

National History Day Awards: Mr. Wood presented a Certificate of Recognition to Rome High School's National History Day (NHD) competition winners. NHD is a highly regarded academic organization for elementary and secondary school students. For more than 25 years, NHD has promoted systemic educational reform related to the teaching and learning of history in America's schools. The combination of creativity and scholarship built into the organization's programs, anticipated current educational reforms, and making NHD a leading model of performance-based learning.

Each year, more than half a million students, encouraged by thousands of teachers nationwide participate in the NHD contest. Students choose historical topics related to a theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions, students present their work in original papers, exhibits, performances, and documentaries. These products are entered into competitions in the spring at local, state, and national levels where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators. The program culminates in a national competition each June held at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Rome High competed in four of the five state level competitions and won three.

Joel Grindstaff, First Place, Individual Exhibit, "*The Flying Tigers*"

Douglas Nash, Patrick Jones, and Nathan Jankovsky, First Place, Video Documentaries, "*The Kurds: One Family's Struggle to Gain Freedom*"

Amanda Crider, Caleb Lewis, Second Place, Video Documentaries, "*The Ultimate Jesus Freak*"

Kaydie Rudd, Second Place, for her research paper on "*Alice Paul-Militant Suffragette*".

Kaydie will also represent Rome High and Georgia in the National Contest in June.

Alyssa Nobles and Morgan Rhinehart, Second Place, Group Exhibits, "*Elvia Alvarado: The Fight for Land and Equality in Honduras*".

Desiree Knight and Lauren Roberts, Third Place, Group Exhibits, "*Running for Freedom*"

Andy Blackburn, history teacher at Rome High, is their advisor.

Governor's Honors Recipients: Mr. Clark presented a Certificate of Recognition to Rome High School's Governor's Honor Program (GHP) recipients. Governor's Honors is a six-week summer instructional program designed to provide intellectually gifted and artistically talented high school students challenging and enriching educational opportunities not usually available during the regular school year. GHP has been funded by the state of Georgia since 1964. Students study in the major instructional area of the nomination and also get to choose other areas of interest as minor studies.

Students are nominated by their high school teacher. Transcript of grades and records, nomination forms, endorsements, and other pertinent information are submitted to substantiate the nominations. Local nominees may have a local interview/audition and all have a state level interview/audition. It is a very competitive program and to be a finalist is a great honor.

This year's finalists from Rome High School include Chase Anderson in Theatre, Andrew Jones in Biology, Caleb Lewis in Spanish, and Isaac Payne in German.

Chase Anderson is a junior and is currently president of the Wolf Pack Players Drama Club and is vice-president of the International Thespian Society Troupe. Chase most recently student-directed and co-starred in the Christmas Show, *Christmas Trimmings*. Chase's most recent accomplishments in chorus include Third place in boy's solo and Third place in male quartet at Region 7-AAAA Literary Competition.

Andrew Jones is a junior and has challenged himself academically during his high school career. He has chosen a rigorous course of study by taking advanced college preparatory courses and advanced placement courses. His work, contributions to class discussions, and questions indicate that Andrew has a clear grasp of the concepts we study. He is also part of a demanding band program, and participated in the Science Olympiad, practicing and studying for the chemistry and health science events. Andrew is truly one of our top science students.

Caleb Lewis is a sophomore and was recommended for Governor's Honors in Spanish by his instructor, Dr. Marvin Taylor. Dr. Taylor states that Caleb has superior language capability and exhibited a special amount of dedication working hard outside of class with conversations and practice sessions just for his interviews.

Isaac Payne is a junior and was nominated for his extraordinary talent in German. He has achieved a great deal in German including recognition for scoring above the 85th percentile on the AATG National German test, induction into Delta Epsilon Phi National German Honor Society and election as President of the RHS German Club.

Georgia Athletic Competitive Weightlifting: Mrs. Collins presented Certificates of Recognition to the students who won at the Georgia Athletic Competitive Association Weightlifting Competition. On March 4, 2006, Rome High's weightlifting team competed in the Georgia

Athletic Competitive Association Area One Weightlifting Competition at Sequoyah High School in Cherokee County. The team was very successful in having four layers finish in the top five in four different weight classes.

Josh Hines and Brandon Williams finished first and second respectively in their weight classes to earn a berth in the state weightlifting competition.

Josh, competing in the 2006-225 pound weight class, lifted a total of 1,115 pounds and finished first in the area competition. Brandon, competed in the 181-190 pound weight class, lifted 1,000 pounds and finished second in the area competition.

Both Josh, a junior at Rome High, and Brandon, a senior at Rome High, finished fifth place among all lifters at the state competition in their respective weight classes and represented Rome High well.

Josh is the son of Scott and Lisa Hines.

Brandon is the son of Allan and Dawn Williams.

Young Authors' Writing: Mr. Greer presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Rome City Schools 2006 Young Georgia Authors' Writing Competition winners. The Young Georgia Authors' Writing Competition is open to all students currently enrolled in Georgia public schools, kindergarten through the twelfth grade. Entries may be short stories, poetry, essays, personal narratives, or any other original student writing. Receiving the 7th grade recognition, from Rome Middle School, was Jacob Sanborn.

Retiring Personnel: Mrs. Sims presented Certificates of Congratulations to retiring personnel.

Certificated Employees:

Cesar Austin – Rome High School, Assistant Principal

Service: Teacher and administrator for 34 years - 12 years of service in the Rome system

Vickie Kinnebrew Blair – Rome Transitional Academy

Service: Guidance Counselor for 20 years – all in the Rome system

Millie Culp – Rome Middle School

Service: Math teacher for 29 years – 28 years of service in the Rome system

Mary Holcomb – Rome High School

Service: Math teacher for 31 years – all in the Rome system

Dianne H. Johnson – Rome Middle School

Service: Teacher for 25 years – 24 years of service in the Rome system

Agetha Lindsey - Rome High School

Service: Media Specialist and teacher for 30+ years – 22 years of service in the Rome system

Jim Moore – East Central Elementary

Service: Teacher for 10 years – all in the Rome system

Wayne Sanders – West Central Elementary, Principal

Service: Teacher and administrator with 33 years in education - 21 years in the Rome system

Debbie Scoggins – Rome Middle School

Service: Science teacher for 30 years – 29 years of service in the Rome system

Zack C. Waters – Rome Middle School

Service: Literature teacher for 17 years – all in the Rome system

Support Employees:

Cola Beebe – Central Office

Service: 17 years of service to Rome City Schools - Bookkeeper and FTE Coordinator

Alice Reynolds – Southeast Elementary

Service: 34+ years of service to Rome City Schools - School Nutrition Worker

Fay Nell Selman – Rome High School

Service: 10 years of service to Rome City Schools - School Nutrition Worker

Monthly Attendance: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the eighth month of school. He stated that North Heights and West End Elementary Schools tied for the highest percentage of student attendance, 98.26 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 96.65 percent of student attendance for the eighth month of school. The highest percent of staff attendance was Elm Street Elementary School, 98.61 percent.

New Personnel: On a Wood/Clark motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's Personnel recommendations for 2006-2007 employees, transfers, resignations, and retirements.

Certified Employment 2006-2007: Jamie O. Baker/NH, Doug Long/SE, Kelli Barnes/NH, Christine Lumsden/SE, Barbara Bauerle/SE, Stacie Marshall/WC, Ruth Cipolla/ES/WC, Caryn Murry/RHS, Daniel Dos Santos/RMS, Wendy Phillips/SE, Andrew Elkins/RHS, Jennifer Phinney/RHS, Jason Evans/RHS, Rosemary Rush/RMS, James Franklin/ES, Clemontine Slack/RHS, Leah Frost/EC, Amy Smith/WC, Jamie Harvey/WC, Brantley Smith/RTA, Eugene Johnson/RHS, Heather Smith/WC, Nathalie Lizin/NH, Kathy Turley/RMS, Stephen Lizin/RMS, and Vanessa Walker/WE.

Principal named for Southeast Elementary: On a Clark/Swann motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendation to hire Mr. Doug Long as principal at Southeast Elementary School for the 2006-2007 school year.

Focus on Student Achievement for Rome High School: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Evans presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Rome High School. Dr. Evans indicated that the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT) results have not been returned at this time with the exception of Writing. Rome High School Writing was at 96%. The state's writing score was at 95%. Dr. Evans also discussed the "New" Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). He stated that there is now a Written Expression section as well as the Verbal and Nonverbal sections. He mentioned that comparison analysis with the SAT is going to be difficult because the format of the test has changed.

Special Education Goals Achieved: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Kemp reported on the 2005-06 Special Education Goals. Dr. Kemp listed the four Special Education goals with this year's results. The first goal was to reduce the dropout rate for students with disabilities in grades five through twelve by at least 3.88 %. The result of the year revealed a reduction by 5.4 %! Goal two was to reduce the achievement gap between students with disabilities and regular students in grades one through eight as measured on the CRCT by an average of 5 %. The results show that the Language Arts gap decreased by 6 % and the gap was also reduced in Reading and Math. The third goal was to increase the percentage of students with disabilities into the main curriculum by 4.28 % to 65 %. Dr. Kemp reported that 65.66 % of the students with disabilities spend 80 % of their day in general classrooms. The final goal was to increase the number of children, ages 3 through 5, receiving early interventions by at least 9 up to 150 students. The analysis showed that 150 students received pre-K services. In summary, Dr. Kemp reported that all goals were achieved and that special education services in the Rome City Schools are leading students to optimal outcomes.

First Reading Policies Section I: Dr. Cooper presented the Policy Review Committee's recommendations for Section I. On a Huffman/Wood motion, the Board unanimously adopted, on First Reading, all recommendations to Section I of the Rome City Schools Board Policy Manual.

Summer SPLOST Projects: Dr. Cooper reported the results of the SPLOST bid opening that took place on Wednesday, May 3, 2006.

Project	Company	Bid Price
West Central Roof	Roof Management	\$ 243,834.00
North Heights Roof	Midian Roofing	\$ 220,626.00
Rome High Roof	Midian Roofing	\$ 310,306.00
West Central Building	E. A. Benefield	\$ 132,800.00
West Central Plumbing	Baker Mechanical	\$ 32,645.00
West Central HVAC	Baker Mechanical	\$ 48,780.00
West Central Electrical	Rayburn Electric	\$ 27,650.00
West Central Sprinkler	State Sprinkler	\$ 12,669.00
West Central Kitchen Eq	Owens Equipment	\$ 139,438.00
East Central Building	E .A. Benefield	\$ 141,500.00
East Central Plumbing	Rome Mechanical	\$ 481,000.00
East Central HVAC	Baker Mechanical	\$ 49,910.00
East Central Electrical	Rayburn Electric	\$ 24,500.00
East Central Sprinkler	State Sprinkler	\$ 12,669.00
East Central Kitchen Eq	Owens Equipment	\$ 181,185.00
		\$ 2,059,512.00

SPLOST Revenues for February: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the February '06 collections of \$502,784.92 were \$69,960.77 above projections and overall collections are very strong.

Announcements:

- Rome High School Baccalaureate service will take place at 4:00 p.m., Sunday, May 14, 2006, at Fellowship Baptist Church.
- Rome City School students have their last day of school on May 19, 2006.

- Rome High School Graduation is Saturday, May 20, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., at the Forum.

Board Adopts 2006-2007 Board Goals: The Board unanimously adopted the 2006-2007 Board Goals on Second Reading:

1. Continue additional training for the implementation of the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) in Grades K-12 English Language Arts; Grade 6 Math and Earth Science; Grade 7 Life Science; Grades 9-12 Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry, and Physics.
2. Implement the new Georgia Performance Standards in Grades K, 1, 2, and 7 Math and Grades 3, 4, and 5 Science.
3. Train teachers/administrators on the Georgia Performance Standards in Grades 3, 4, 5, and 8 in Math; Grades K, 1, 2, and 8 in Science; and Grades 6-12 in Social Studies.
4. Implement Writing Workshop at all elementary schools for students in Grades K-6.
5. Implement Math Workshop at all elementary schools for students in Grades K-6.
6. Hire and staff a lower grades literacy coach, an upper grades literacy coach, and a math coach for each elementary school.
7. Focus on student achievement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels and improve test scores in all subject areas.
8. Renovate the kitchens at East Central Elementary School and West Central Elementary School during the summer of 2006.
9. Explore the possibility of hiring a public relations coordinator.

Board Adopts on Second Reading Policies Section G: On a Wood/Swann motion, the Board unanimously adopted, on Second Reading, all policy recommendations to Section G of the Rome City Schools Board Policy Manual.

A. D. Black Scholarship Recipients Named: On a Huffman/Clark motion, the Board unanimously approved the A. D. Black Scholarship Committee's recommendation as presented by Dr. Buck. Mr. Clark and Ms. Huffman served with Dr. Buck on the A. D. Black Scholarship Committee in naming this year's recipients: Matthew T. Crowley, Chad Fitzgerald Teat, Christopher W. Bishop, and Russell Adam Fleet. The committee recommended that the A. D. Black Scholarship fund be equitably divided among the four recipients.

State Focus Committee - Funding Model: Mrs. Sims reported that she is serving on a state focus committee to review the cost model of funding the education for children in Georgia and develop theoretical costs for elementary, middle, and high school students and determine what level of funding should come from local and state sources.

Joint Rome City/Floyd County School Board Meeting Scheduled: Mrs. Sims reported that the Rome Board of Education will schedule a joint collaborative Board meeting with the Floyd County Board of Education on Thursday, May 11th at 5:30 p.m. at the Sara Hightower Regional Library in the Oostanaula Room.