

Board O'Gram

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

Coosa Valley Fair Association Supplies Grant: At Mrs. Sims' request, Mr. Dan Caesar (President of the Coosa Valley Fair Association) presented the Board of Education with a \$1,000 Art Supplies Grant from the Coosa Valley Fair Association. Mr. Caesar 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.

National History Day Competition State Winners: At Mrs. Sims' request, Mr. Wilson recognized National History Day Competition State Winners. The National History Day (NHD) student competition is the nation's oldest and most highly regarded history program for students in grades six through twelve. NHD is one of the rare programs that helps students refine critical thinking and research skills used in all subject areas. For more than 25 years, NHD has promoted systemic educational reform related to teaching and learning in America's schools.

This academic challenge engages more than half a million students annually. Congratulations to the following winners in the District National History Day competition at Kennesaw State University on March 21, 2009. Rome High students won seven out of the eight categories in the competition and took fifteen of the nineteen available qualifying spots for the state contest.

At Mr. Wilson's request, Dr. Evans, Rome High School principal, introduced the winners:

Group Exhibits

First Place, "Claus von Stauffenberg" - Nicky Harbison, son of Robert and Janice Harbison; Cameron Jones, son of John and Andrea Jones; and Freeman Cumming, son of John and Katie Cumming.

Second Place, "Truett Cathy" - Chris Bell, son of Tonya Combs; Hannah Campbell, daughter of David and Susan Campbell; and Farhan Momin, son of Ahmed and Eliza Momin.

Third Place, "Andy Warhol" - Rebecca Whitney, daughter of Glenn and Raquel Whitney; and Linda Nguyen, daughter of Pham and Mai Pham.

Individual Exhibits

First Place, "Florence Nightingale" - Megan Tucker, daughter of Randy and Cherri Tucker.

Second Place "Quaid-e-Azam" - Shafuq Rana, daughter of Khalid Javaid and Sajida Rana.

Research Papers

First Place, "Che Guevara" - Jordan Sellers, son of Wade and Caterina Sellers.

Third Place, "Alexander Graham Bell" - Michael Whitaker, son of Alexander and Maria Whitaker.

Group Video Documentary

First Place, "Dr. Joseph Goebbels" - Ben Woodard and Kerem Trolander.

Second Place, "Mark Zuckerberg" - Morgan Bishop, daughter of David and Lisa Bishop; Chandler Fritts, daughter of Sid and Cindy Fritts; Katie Lansing, daughter of Doug and Helen Lansing; and Karah Tarpley, daughter of Timothy and Susan Tarpley.

Individual Documentary

First Place, "Steven Spielberg" - Austin Drake, son of John and Lori Drake.

Individual Web Page

First Place, "Annie Nightingale" - Matthew Gibbons, son of Jim and Beth Gibbons.

Individual Performance

First Place, "Lt. Col. Dryden" - Anita Guzman, daughter of Martin and Maria Guzman.

The following students went on to place at the State Level Competition.

Group Video Documentary

First Place, "Dr. Joseph Goebbels - Coercion in the Third Reich" - Ben Woodard, son of Steve and Michele Woodard; and Kerem Trolander, son of Paul and Zeynep Tenger Trolander.

Individual Performance

Second Place, "Lt. Col. Charles Dryden - Taking the 'A-Train' to a Better World" - Anita Guzman, daughter of Martin and Maria Guzman.

Individual Exhibits

Third Place, "Florence Nightingale" - Megan Tucker, daughter of Randy and Cherri Tucker.

Arab World and Islamic Resources Special Award, "Quaid-e-Azam" - Shafuq Rana, daughter of Khalid Javaid and Sajida Rana.

2009 Retiring Employees: On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Sims presented Certificates of Congratulations to retiring personnel:

Support Employees:

Cecelia Budd - Rome High School Secretary with 24 years in the Rome City Schools.

Helen Drummond - Anna K. Davie School Nutrition Program Cashier for 11 years.

Gary Henderson - Maintenance Department with 25 years experience.

Linda Kendrick - Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent.

Paul Reynolds - Maintenance Department with 36 years experience.

Edna West - Main Elementary School in the School Nutrition Program as Assistant with 10 years experience.

Certificated Employees:

Jack Chesnut - Rome Middle School with 24 years experience, 22 years of service in the Rome City Schools.

Martha "Betty" Douthit - Elm Street Elementary with 38 years experience, 8 years in the Rome City Schools.

Joyce Nicholson Gaston - Elm Street Elementary with 33 years of service, 27 in the Rome City Schools.

Judy Goodwin - Elm Street Elementary with 31.5 years of service, 6 in the Rome City Schools.

Michael Jenkins - Rome Middle School with 29 years of service, all in the Rome City Schools.

Evelyn Jeneal Johnson - Rome Middle School with 33 years of service, 22 in the Rome City Schools.

Rosemary Mutton-Evans - Rome Middle School with 36 years of service, 24 in the Rome City Schools.

Larry Roberts - Rome High School with 37 years of service, 7 in the Rome City Schools.

Kathleen Rood - West End Elementary with 33 years of service, all in the Rome City Schools.

Millie Sirmans - East Central Elementary with 25 years of service, all in the Rome City Schools.

Teresa Smith - West Central Elementary with 27 years of service, all in the Rome City Schools.

Marvin E. Taylor - Rome High School with 51 years of service, 11 in the Rome City Schools.

Eighth Month Attendance: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the eighth month of school. He stated that West End Elementary School had the highest elementary school percentage of student attendance at 98.11 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 96.90 percent of student attendance for the eighth month of school. The highest percent of staff attendance was North Heights Elementary School at 98.43 percent.

Personnel Recommendation: On a Jones/Collins motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations:

Certified Employment 2009-2010: Dorothy Davis/RTA ; Carol Holland/RHS ; and Joe Young/RHS

Support Employment 2008-2009: Jackie T. Ely/Maintenance

Focus on Student Achievement - Rome Transitional Academy: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Jennifer Perkins presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Rome Transitional Academy (RTA). Accompanying Mrs. Perkins were faculty members: counselor, Torriann Beverly; math teacher, Mary Edna Roberts; science teacher, Bruce Jones; special education teacher, Greg Shropshire; paraprofessional, St. Clair Bland; and custodian, Gloria Hatcher. Also attending were RTA Mentors: Glenda Allen, Samuel Burrell, and Dr. Jon Hershey.

The title of Mrs. Perkins' presentation was: "**READY TO ACHIEVE.**" Mrs. Perkins began her presentation by stating that the success they experience at RTA is due to the cooperative spirit of the community and support groups that assist them. She said that the dedicated professionals and mentors at the school make it all happen. The school personnel include: secretary, Mrs. Ann Rhinehart; counselor, Ms. Torriann Beverly; 7-12 language arts and literature, Ms. Julie Halterman; 7-12 math, Mrs. Mary Edna Roberts; 7-12 social studies, Mr. Jerome Parks; 7-12 science, Mr. Bruce Jones; special education, Mr. Greg Shropshire; paraprofessionals, Ms. St. Clair Bland and Mr. Tyrone Griffin; custodian, Ms. Gloria Hatcher; school resource officer, Officer Pam Richey; and SNP, Ms. Leigh Hinton. The school mentors include: Dr. Jon Hershey, Mr. Samuel Burrell, Ms. Glenda Allen, Mrs. Henrice Berrien, Ms. Ruth Demeter, and Mr. Nick Rucker.

Mrs. Perkins stated that the mission of Rome Transitional Academy is to "Provide a structured learning environment offering a variety of instructional methods and materials that meet the individual needs of students." In order to accomplish this mission, she stated that the children need a structured and orderly routine.

The daily routine at RTA consists of students arriving at school at 8:00 a.m. They follow a check-in procedure and begin their five period day. Their program is based on their grade level (seven through twelve). Their school ends at 2:00 p.m. when they board the school bus and go home. After school, the staff meets to do a daily debriefing session at which they discuss significant events and behaviors of the day.

Mrs. Perkins discussed the curriculum offered at RTA. She said that if a student is taking a specialty class at Rome Middle School or Rome High School (i.e. psychology), the student can continue to take the class at RTA through the Odyssey Ware computer program. Math and English/Language Arts are provided by the on-staff professionals.

According to Mrs. Perkins, the “Core” of the educational experience at RTA is the “Level System” that was developed by Dr. Kemp and Mrs. Vaughn.

RTA Level System					
All Students begin at a level one! Immediate drop to Level 1 for: fighting, threats, & disruptions requiring SRO or Principal Intervention. Referral = automatic level drop. OSS = automatic drop to level 1.					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Contract
-no privileges -silent breakfast in level 1 room -silent lunch in level 1 room	-no privileges -silent breakfast in lunchroom -silent lunch in lunchroom	-general privileges -all breakfast & lunch in cafeteria with break -MASH	-all breakfast & lunch in cafeteria with break -MASH -bathroom pass without escort	-all breakfast & lunch in cafeteria with break -MASH -bathroom pass without escort -Friday Treat	<i>Abide by all rules of RTA contract signed by parent and student upon enrollment Review by RTA Staff</i>
3 plus (+) days to Level 2	5 plus (+) days to Level 3	10 plus (+) days to Level 4	15 plus (+) days to Level 5	20 plus (+) days to exit level system	
MASH – Mandatory Academic Study Hall					

The students at RTA earn points each day based on their successful performance. With the points they earn, they are afforded additional privileges at the school. The table outlines the program. The criterion to earn points is based on five elements:

- Follow directions
- Use appropriate language/dress
- Complete work
- Bring supplies
- Good social behavior

Students must earn at least forty points to earn a “positive day.” Accumulated “positive days” move the student up the leveling system and provide the students with added benefits.

There are a number of additional activities that the students participate in: RTA Weekly Vocabulary Activity; RTA Cumulative Reviews; Professional Dress Day; Mock Interviews; Freedom Writers Activity; and MASH (Mandatory Academic Study Hall). Each of the activities is designed to give the student lifelong skills which will equip them with abilities to succeed and be **READY TO ACHIEVE**.

K-2 Phonics Program Adoption: On a Huffman/Swann motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper’s K-2 Phonics Program Adoption (*Imagine It!* by SRA McGraw Hill) as presented by Mrs. Debbie Downer. Mrs. Downer reported the findings of the K-2 Phonics Review Committee.



Review Committee

Anna K. Davie

Melissa Graney
Tabitha Yarborough

East Central

Marilynn Tatum
Cindy Newman

Elm Street

Jo Orr
Cindy Langham
Connie DeVille

Main

Chris Rogers
Carol Green

North Heights

Laura Gafnea
Carly Newberry
Emily Matheny

Southeast

Hazel Ratliff
Carol Maxey
Beth Akins

West Central

Stacie Marshall
Marian Williams
Ruth Cipolla
Brandi Tripp
Kim Bussey

West End

Beth Herod
Cassie Parson
Sandy Mull

Mrs. Downer stated that the committee reviewed three programs: *Imagine It!* by SRA McGraw Hill; *Saxon Phonics and Spelling* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; and *Read Well* by Sopris West. After much deliberation, the committee decided that *Imagine It!* by SRA McGraw Hill was the best program to meet the needs of the students of Rome City Schools.

According to Mrs. Downer, the recommended program contains a strong phonological awareness component, it contains strong systematic and explicit phonics instruction, it also includes decodable texts which correlate with the skills taught, it correlates with our DIBELS Assessment, and it includes training and support for teachers.

2009 Young Scholars Program: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Randy Phillips reported on the 2009 Young Scholars Program. Dr. Phillips stated that there will be four groups of students attending Young Scholars this year: rising fifth graders, rising sixth graders, rising seventh graders, and rising eighth graders.

Rising 5th Grade Camp will take place at Shorter College from June 22 – 26, 2009, and will work with Alternative Fuel Sources & Ecology. The instructors will be Dr. Chuck Pearson, Richard Pirkle, Theonius Van Ardt, Sabrina Wilson, Amanda Glaze, and Angela Guilford.

Rising 6th Grade Camp will take place at Georgia Highlands College June 22 – 26, 2009, and will deal with Hydrology & Space. Instructors will include Sharyse Henderson, Dr. Mark Pergram, Tim Biggart, Dr. Robert Young, Henry Pollitz, and Pam Gilmer.

Rising 7th Grade Camp will take place at Berry College from June 15 – June 19, 2009, and will work on Human Organ Systems. Instructors include Dr. Bruce Conn, Dr. Martin Goldberg, Dr. George Gallagher, Dr. Elizabeth, Dr. John Shugart, Dr. Chris Muire, Andrea Jones, Ellen Young, Amanda Glaze, and Linda Jones.

Rising 8th Grade Camp will be at Coosa Valley Vocational Technical College (CVTC) from June 15 – June 19, 2009, and will work on Careers in Science. Instructors include Dr. Frank Farr, Tom Bojo, Donna Andrews, Mark Lane, Leif Penrose, Patti Oliver, Sharyse Henderson, Rosemary Rush, CVTC Health Science Dept., and CVTC Business Ed. Dept.

2009 K-8 Summer Opportunity Program: Dr. Cooper reported on the 2009 K-8 Summer Opportunity Program. He stated that the main objective is to provide students with an additional 20 days of instruction to help them succeed in school. The funds for this program include federal stimulus funds; more specifically, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Rome City Schools will receive Title I = \$1.6 million and IDEA (Special Education) = \$1.1 million. Dr. Cooper stated that the funds must be encumbered by September 2011.

Dr. Cooper stated that the students who will be invited to participate in the 2009 K-8 Summer Opportunity Program will be identified by three criteria:

1. Students who may be retained.
2. Students who may need to improve CRCT scores.
3. Students who need acceleration in reading and/or math.

The curriculum for the program will be specifically designed for each student based on their individual needs in mathematics and English/ Language Arts. The program will last from May 28 - June 24, 2009. Class will last from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. each day (M-F). Dr. Cooper stated that he feels that this is the optimal way to utilize the stimulus funds. He said that we will not be buying needless material, but rather we will be enhancing the educational experience of students who have shown specific needs and/or who would benefit from acceleration to improve their performance in years to come.

SPLOST II Revenues: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the February '09 collections of \$354,622.18 were \$82,877.82 below projections for the month (\$437,500.00). He also stated that the system collections remain very strong and the overall collections are \$458,284.56 above the projected amount.

Other Items: Dr. Cooper reported several year-end activities:

On May 14, 2009, Rome High School will partner with Berry College in the AP Chemistry Seminar at Berry College. There will be two Major Sessions. A CSI Lab in which students will identify a gas that took the life of a person and an Organic Chemistry Lab in which the students will be introduced to equipment and then use techniques for Organic Chemistry experimentation.

Also on May 14, 2009, Rome High School will partner with Georgia Institute of Technology in an AP Calculus Seminar at "Georgia Tech". The sessions in this seminar will include Volumes of Solids, Revolution Cylindrical Shell Method, and Taylor Polynomials.

May 17, 2009 (Sunday) - RHS Baccalaureate, held at Fellowship Baptist Church at 4:00 p.m.

May 22, 2009 (Friday) - "Traditional" Last Day of School.

May 24, 2009 (Sunday) - RHS Graduation at the Forum at 3:00 p.m.

Unfinished Business: At Mrs. Sims' request, Dr. Buck, on behalf of Mr. Swann and Dr. Jones, reported on the 2009 A. D. Black Scholarship Committee findings. He reported that of the students from the Rome High School attending Georgia Tech, none met all of the scholarship residency and other criteria. As such, no scholarship could be awarded this year.

Mrs. Sims thanked those who were able to participate in the District GSBA meeting at Gordon Central High School. Dr. Cooper stated that he was proud of the fact that State Senator Preston Smith took time to tell the audience that he had children in public schools, and they attended Rome City Schools. Mrs. Collins stated that she was impressed with the analysis of legislative issues that were discussed at the meeting.

Mrs. Sims gave a report from the Georgia School Boards Governance Operation Committee in which she participated. She presented the board members with a position statement from GSBA and asked them to review the position statements and provide her with feedback. She will forward the feedback to Mr. Wilson, so he can appropriately represent the Rome City Schools at the GSBA Delegate Assembly this summer.

New Business: On a Wood/Swann motion, the Board unanimously approved, on First Reading, amendments to Board Policies GBRH (Professional Personnel Leaves and Absences) and GCRG Classified Personnel Leaves and Absences.