

Board O'Gram

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

Rome Middle & High All-State Chorus: Rome Middle & High All-State Chorus performed before the Board and audience prior to the meeting being called to order. Ms. Susan Campbell's middle school members included Hannah Campbell and Katie Price. Ms. Jennifer Williams' high school members included Stephanie Bischof, Caleb Lewis, Chani Maisonet, and Ellen Stolte.

National Merit Scholarship Winners: Mr. Greer presented certificates to Rome High School National Merit Scholarship winners. In his presentation, Mr. Greer stated that about 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students placed among the top 5 percent of more than 1.4 million students who entered the 2007 competition by taking the 2005 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Mr. Greer said that Rome High School had 5 students recognized for their participation. Students are being awarded with a \$40.00 gift certificate to enjoy with their family at a local restaurant.

National Merit Semifinalist: Hope Fillingim and Liang Hou

National Merit Commended: Stephanie Liss and Bhavi Patel

National Hispanic Scholar: Stephanie Liss

Additionally, Mr. Greer recognized two students for being named AP Scholars. He said that the title is awarded to students whom receive a grade of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams!

Hope Fillingim and Reem Manusoura

Rome High Cross Country: Mr. Clark presented certificates to the Rome High Cross Country team. He said that this has been a great year for the Rome High Cross Country team. The Wolves started the season by winning the City/County Championship team titles with Rome runners Dustin Murphy and Gabrielle Whitney claiming the individual championships. Next, the Wolves were victorious in the Ridge Ferry Invitational, a meet that featured a 22-team field with Dustin Murphy earning the overall individual champion.

In early October, the Wolves faced a stiffer challenge in the Cass-Cartersville Invitational, a meet that included 35 metro area teams of all classifications. The Wolves edged out Pope, Marietta, Sprayberry and many other large 5A metro schools for the team championship. Later in October, Rome ran to a convincing victory in the Georgia Highlands Invitational, with Dustin Murphy again earning the individual championship.

The Wolves were the host for the Region 7AAAA Championships on Nov. 2 at Ridge Ferry Park. They knew that they would face stiff competition from the traditionally strong programs in Dalton, Northwest and LFO. Dustin Murphy, Andrew Jones, Landry Bennett, Isaac Payne, Ben Shippey, Aaron Holly, and Ben Woodward proved that they were ready for the challenge by teaming together for a great performance that resulted in Rome beating the closest challenger Dalton by over twenty points.

Senior Dustin Murphy capped off his season by remaining undefeated at Ridge Ferry by running a personal record time of 16:20 to earn the individual championship. Several Rome runners will extend their season by running in the Footlocker National Cross Country Championships in Charlotte, North Carolina later this month.

The cross country team includes: Dustin Murphy, Andrew Jones, Landry Bennett, Ben Shippey, Isaac Payne, Aaron Holly, and Ben Woodard. The cross country coach, Mr. Andy Blackburn, was also recognized.

Band Program Grand Championships: Dr. Cooper also recognized Mr. Joe Moore, Director of Bands, for leading the Rome High School Band to two Grand Championships: one at Jacksonville State University and another at Haralson County Schools. This is the first time the band has won two Grand Championships in one season!

Third Month Attendance: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the third month of school. He stated that Elm Street Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance, 98.20 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 95.95 percent of student attendance for the third month of school. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was North Heights Elementary School, 97.90 percent.

New Personnel: On a Clark/Wood motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendations for Certified and Support Employment 2006-2007:

1. Certified Employment 2006-2007: Nikole Houser/EC and Tiffany Johnson/NH
2. Support Employment 2006-2007: Royce Adams/AKD and Kathy Keiser/SE

West Central - Focus on Student Achievement: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Janice Merritt presented the Focus on Student Achievement for West Central Elementary School. Accompanying her were some West Central's staff members: Hilary H. Reaves, Margaret (Sherry) M. Richardson, Quincy B. Nation, Stacie M. Marshall, and Kelvin L. Portis.

Dr. Merritt discussed the school's Criterion-Referenced Competency Test results with the Board. She identified areas of concern: fifth and sixth grades scored below system and/or state standards. There needs to be an increase in the percentage of special education students participating in a classroom inclusion model. She identified specific programs or strategies to address the 68 (8%) of students being served in the English Language Learner (ELL) program and to provide additional interventions for the 40 (7%) of students scoring in level 1 on the CRCT.

Dr. Merritt summarized a number of tools being applied at West Central designed to ensure that every child performs to his/her potential: Direct Instruction, Speech Language Pathologists (SLP), Early Intervention Programs (EIP), Special Education Inclusion, Basal Instruction, Writer's Workshop, Collaboration with Berry College, common planning and Leadership Team meetings. Additional tools include assessment vehicles: Online Assessment Services, DIBELS, and teacher made assessments.

Even though there is a lot to improve, Dr. Merritt said there is a lot to celebrate as well: 5 of 6 grades met or exceeded system and state goals in math, Academic coaches have been implemented, at least 7 (seven) teachers have ESOL endorsement, forty-one percent of their student body speaks two or more languages, and West Central has been named a Title I Distinguished school for achieving AYP five consecutive years. Dr. Merritt stated that West Central is "on the way to School of Excellence."

Best Practices in Reading Instruction: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Baldwin and Dr. Kemp presented on best practices in reading instruction. They reported that the Rome City Schools use programs and strategies which are research based; programs that provide intensive, explicit, and effective instruction to all children. Some of the programs they discussed include Reading Workshop, LIPS, Phonemic Awareness, Open Book, Guided Reading with leveled texts, SRA Direct Instruction, Phonics, and Harcourt Trophies Basal Reading Program.

The key to success is to employ highly skilled teachers who know and understand reading development. To employ teachers who can assess the reading strengths and weaknesses of their students. And finally, to employ teachers who can match strategies and programs to the individual needs of their students to unlock their potential.

United Way Campaign Results: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Buck reported on this year's United Way Campaign. Dr. Buck first identified the campaign leader at each school and then presented the Board with a longitudinal review of giving by each facility. Dr. Buck referred the United Way Campaign as part of the Curriculum of Life which is taught in the Rome City Schools. He said that one way we teach is by modeling. This year, the Rome City Schools contributed \$35,115.19 to the United Way Campaign. This represented a 20% increase (or \$5,851.65) over last year's giving effort!

SPLOST II Receipts: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the October '06 collections of \$487,751.86 were \$54,927.71 above projections for the month. He reported that those funds would, in part, be used in the East Central Elementary School and West Central Elementary School renovations during the summer of 2007.

Standards for Local Boards of Education plaque: Dr. Cooper presented the Board with a plaque from Jeannie Henry, Executive Director of Georgia School Boards Association, for the Rome Board of Education earning the distinction of "satisfactory completion" of "Standards for Local Boards of Education."

Dr. Cooper's announcements:

- This Friday, October 24th, the Rome Wolves will host the Southwest DeKalb Panthers at Barron Stadium starting at 8:00 p.m.
- Dr. Cooper wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

Board Policy KG: On a Greer/Huffman motion, the Board unanimously approved, on Second Reading, amendments to Policy KG (Use of School Facilities).