

Board O'Gram

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

2008 National Merit Scholarship Program: Mr. Wood, on behalf of the Board, recognized the recipients of the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program. Mr. Wood stated that four students were named Commended Students in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program. RHS students named were Mary Elizabeth Bibb, Anna Claire Cauthen, Joel S. Grindstaff and Michelle A. Spiller. The students received a Letter of Commendation from the program sponsor, National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducted the program. Rome High School presented the students with a gift card to Chili's to celebrate their accomplishment.

Advanced Placement Scholars Award: Mr. Clark, with the assistance of Mr. Wilson, recognized the Rome High School Advanced Placement Scholars Award recipients. It was reported that twenty (20) Rome High School students earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement (AP) Exams. Of those twenty students, five were also designated as AP Scholars with Honor and one designated as AP Scholar with Distinction.

At Rome High School, fourteen (14) students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of three or higher. The AP Scholars were Wesley Bryson, Anna Claire Cauthen, Amanda Crider, Brandon Green, Joel Grindstaff, Molly Hatch, Daniel Killen, Caleb Lewis, Reem Mansoura, Maura Morton, Bhavi Patel, Issac Payne, Christopher Sellers and Ayse Trolander.

The five (5) students who qualified for the *AP Scholar with Honor Award* earned an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of three or higher on four or more of the exams were: Ashley Alred, Aaron Holly, Meredith Mason, Katherine Rasure, and Heather Whitney.

Additionally, one student, Hope Fillingim, qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of three or higher on five or more of these exams.

Berry Math League Competition: On behalf of the Board, Ms. Huffman recognized the winners of the Berry Math League Competition held on November 6, 2007 at Berry College. Ms. Huffman reported that Rome Middle School's Mathematic Team attended the competition along with 23 other teams from around Georgia. As a team, Rome Middle finished in fourth place, just five points behind the team finishing third place. In individual standings, Taylor Wilson won third place out of 96 students who competed in the individual portion. Ms. Sandye Ashley, a Rome Middle School teacher, served as sponsor and coach for the team.

Third Month Attendance: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the third month of school. He stated that West Central Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance, 99.45 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 98.47 percent of student attendance for the third month of school. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was West End Elementary School, 98.41 percent.

New Personnel: On a Swann/Wood motion, the board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations:

Certified Employment 2007-2008: Amanda Gurley/WE and Lesley Johnson/RHS

Support Employment 2007-2008: Lori Dugger/EC; Charles Dustin Nix/ES; Brenda Langham/WC; Colleen Smith/RHS; Tara Meadows/WE; Lisa Vaughn/RHS; and Joseph Nasworthy/MN

Focus on Student Achievement- Elm Street: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Moss presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Elm Street Elementary School. Dr. Moss introduced the members of her faculty in attendance: Stephen Williams, Jo Heller-Orr, and Kelvin Portis (Assistant Principal).

Dr. Moss stated that Elm Street Elementary School is a School of Excellence and a Five-Year Title I School of Distinction. She said that if students fail to come to school, none of the teaching strategies will make any difference; attendance is the first and primary concern of the administration and staff at Elm Street Elementary School.

The staff at Elm Street Elementary School are all Highly Qualified and 74 percent have advanced degrees. Seven (7) of their teachers are Nationally Board Certified and they have a 95 percent Satisfaction Rate. Over the past eight (8) years as principal, Elm Street Elementary School has produced most of the System Teachers of the Year or runner-up and shared a number of the System Support Person of the Year.

Dr. Moss reviewed the Criterion Referenced Competency Test results with the Board. She said that they were generally happy with the results but there are areas that they need to work on. One area in particular that they want to improve is the number of students who exceed the standards.

In order to maximize the learning opportunities for their students, they use a variety of teaching strategies including the Response to Intervention (RTI) as they serve as a pilot school for that program. The administration and staff believes in the Early Intervention Program as indicated by the fact that they have 16 self-contained EIP classes. They used Direct Instruction throughout the school as well. Dr. Moss said that the key to their success is to analyze, intervene and monitor the educational program for each child individually.

Elm Street also uses a host of ways to tutor their students: over breakfast, before school, during activity time, during recess, in inclusion classrooms, at home, and while in lines going to the restrooms. They use every opportunity they can find to instruct, scaffold, and remediate their students.

In conclusion, Dr. Moss stated that their goals are to increase CRCT scores by targeting special interventions for male minority students and to continue to move more students from meets to exceeds category in every area.

No Child Left Behind: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Phillips reported on No Child Left Behind and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Dr. Phillips said that AYP is dependent upon three dimensions: Participation, Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs), and the Second Indicator (Elementary & Middle Schools – Attendance and High School – Graduation Rate).

Dr. Phillips discussed the changes in required AMOs that become effective during the 2008 school year: Math increased from 58.3% to 66.7%; Reading and English Language Arts increased from 66.7% to 73.3%; Enhanced GHSGT in Math increased from 68.6% to 74.9%; and Enhanced English/Language Arts increased from 84.7% to 87.7%. In conclusion, Dr. Phillips said that the work is cut out for the teachers and students to rise to the higher standards in order to achieve AYP.

2007 United Way Campaign: Dr. Cooper reported on the 2007 United Way Campaign for the Rome City Schools. He said he was very proud of the giving spirit of the students and staff of the Rome City Schools. In what was a photo opportunity, Dr. Cooper presented a check for \$34,871.31 to Mr. Rich Lampkin, Executive Director of United Way of Rome and Floyd County. Mr. Lampkin said that, behind the scenes, he and others contacted some retired teachers for an addition \$1,000.00 which raised the total contribution to \$35,871.31 which exceeds the 2006 contribution by over \$700.00!

SPLOST II: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the August '07 collections of \$404,728.78 were \$32,771.22 below projections for the month (\$437,500.00).

Board Receives GSBA Certificate: Dr. Cooper announced that the Rome City Schools Board was recognized by GSBA President Skip Dawkins, and GSBA Executive Director Jeannie Henry for completion of the new GSBA Standards.

Dr. Cooper also announced the Football Playoffs begin this weekend with the Rome Wolves hosting the Pebblebrook Falcons at Barron Stadium on Friday, November 16th. He reminded the Board that unless one has a GHSA Pass, no one is allowed into a playoff game without a game ticket.

New Business:

- Under New Business, Mrs. Sims appointed Mr. Will Wood to serve as the Board's representative to the Rome Redevelopment Agency.
- Mr. Clark made a motion that the Board seek a joint meeting between the Rome City Schools Board of Education and the Floyd County Schools Board of Education to discuss the possibility of a SPLOST III referendum. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilson and approved unanimously by the board members present.