

Board O'Gram

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

Media Specialist of the Year - Mr. Stephen Williams: The Board recognized Mr. Stephen Williams, Media Specialist at Elm Street on being named the winner of the Northwest District Media Specialist of the Year. Georgia Library Media Association and the Georgia Association of Instructional Technology co-sponsor the Georgia School Library Media Specialist of the Year award to recognize K-12 library media specialists whose services have resulted in exemplary library media programs. Six district winners were recognized at the recent state convention held in Athens, Georgia.

The Northwest District winner for Media Specialist of the Year is Stephen Williams from Elm Street Elementary School. Mr. Williams was selected for the exemplary program that he has built and implements at Elm Street. The judging criteria included individual excellence through service to students, teachers, and community at the K-12 levels. Specifically, this includes taking a leadership role in staff development, committee involvement, and professional advocacy. Mr. Williams was cited for his promotion of information technology, involving parents and the community in the school program, working collaboratively with other educators in the building, innovative techniques, and ongoing professional development as a learner.

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 at 97.45 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 95.55 percent of student attendance for the third month of school. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was Anna K. Davie Elementary School at 97.83 percent.

New Personnel: On a Huffman/Wilson motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations:

Support employment 2008-2009: Louis C. Byars/CO, Wanda Faye Smith/EC, and Portia Wright/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. Accompanying Dr. Moss was Kelvin Portis (Assistant Principal), Vicki Reece (Resource Teacher), Stephen Williams (Media Specialist), Beth Williams (Math Coach), Jackie Griffin (6th Grade Teacher), Jo Orr (Literacy Coach), and Nancy Hiscock (Kindergarten Teacher). Dr. Moss mentioned some of the strengths and accomplishments of Elm Street Elementary School: seven current National Board Certified teachers on staff (previously nine, but two retired), system Teacher of the Year for the past two years, and District Media Specialist of the Year (one of six in the state).

Dr. Moss then discussed the 2008 CRCT scores and pointed out areas of strength and weakness. Math was one area that they want to focus on this year. In one of her slides she asked: "What are we doing for our kids and about our Math Scores?" The answer was two fold. First, at grades K-4, they have implemented 2 hours and 15 minutes of math; in grades 5 and 6 they allow 1 hour and 45 minutes, allowing time for skills, conceptual lessons, and problem solving. Secondly, they have made new purchases designed to improve instruction and provide tools to help boys and girls: Kathy Richardson Materials, iSucceed for Math, and Calendar Math.

In conclusion, Dr. Moss stated Elm Street Elementary School had been recognized by the Georgia Public Policy Foundation for schools who do well regardless of the obstacles that they face, as a "No Excuses" school. She said that every child deserves a good education regardless of their circumstances or demographics.

2008 United Way Drive: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Buck reported on the 2008 United Way Campaign for Rome City Schools. He said he was very proud of the giving spirit of the students and staff of Rome City Schools. Dr. Buck reported that Rome City Schools generously gave \$31,901.59 during the 2008 campaign. Dr. Buck stated that over the past three years, employees from Rome City Schools have given \$101,888.09 to the United Way.

No Child Left Behind and AYP: 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. He stated that under the criteria of Participation there must be at least a 95% participation rate taking the Georgia Criterion Referenced Tests and the Georgia High School Graduation Tests. Secondly, the schools, qualifying subgroups, and system must all meet the required AMOs. The third requirement, which is called the "Second Indicator", is attendance for grades K-8 and High School Graduation Rate for grades 9-12. 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.

AP Course College Connections: Dr. Cooper announced the AP Chemistry-Berry College Seminar that will take place November 13-14, 2008. Dr. Cooper briefly discussed the program and introduced Dr. Andrew Bressette, Chemistry professor at Berry College. Dr. Cooper also introduced Regent Willis Potts who was instrumental in coordinating the Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia seminars. The AP Calculus students will be attending the AP Calculus-Georgia Tech Seminar on November 20-21, 2008, while the AP Biology students will be attending the AP Biology-University of Georgia Seminar on the same dates. Dr. Cooper stated that the advantages for the Rome High Students include:

- Enrollment in a rigorous AP curriculum at Rome High School;
- An opportunity to study advanced math and/or science curricula with professors at Berry College, Georgia Tech, and the University of Georgia; and
- An opportunity to work closely with Berry, Georgia Tech, and the University of Georgia to create more interest and enrollment in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) courses.

SPLOST II Revenues: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the August '08 collections of \$446,872.07 were \$9,372.07 above projections for the month (\$437,500.00).

Other Announcements:

- Rome Middle School came in First Place in the Berry Math Competition. There were twenty school teams represented. Phillip Spratling won second place out of approximately eighty contestants.
- Dr. Cooper also announced that Rome High School will be playing Apalachee High School Wildcats on Friday night at Barron Stadium beginning at 8:00 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Holidays for Rome City Schools will be November 26-28, 2008.

Board Policies:

- On a Wood/Collins motion, the Board members present unanimously approved, on Second Reading, amendments to Board Policy GAN (Personnel Smoking).
- On a Huffman/Jones motion, the Board members present unanimously approved, on Second Reading, amendments to Board Policy JCDA (Student Smoking).
- On a Collins/Wood motion, the Board members present unanimously approved, on Second Reading, amendments to Board Policy IHE (Promotion and Retention).

Other Board Actions:

- On a Collins/Wood motion, the Board members present unanimously approved the minutes for the October 14, 2008, regular Board meeting, financial, and other reports.