

Board O'Gram

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

Fire Safety Poster Contest winner, Michael Orinstov: Mr. Greer recognized Michael Orinstov, kindergarten student at West End Elementary School, for placing third in the Fire Safety Poster Contest. This contest is through the Safety Fire Commissioner John W. Oxendine's office. The National Fire Protection Association's theme for this year is "Prevent Cooking Fires - Watch What You Heat". Michael did a beautiful job of creating a poster that was full of contrasting colors and bold lettering. Michael was honored at the Life, Fire and Safety Awards Luncheon in Atlanta on October 5, 2006 at which time he received his award. Mr. Greer said, "It is an honor to have dedicated students like Michael at West End Elementary."

Eagle Scout Recipients: Mr. Clark recognized the Eagle Scout recipients from Rome Middle School and Rome High School: Gregory Davidson, Andrew Erickson, Aaron Holly, James Payne, Jon Galloway, John Jones, and Joshua Fisher.

Earning the rank of Eagle Scout is recognized as the top honor in Boy Scouts (Life Scouts). These young men in the Rome City Schools have accomplished a milestone achievement. For a young man to reach this pinnacle achievement he must satisfy a number of requirements before his 18th birthday:

- Be active in his troop and patrol for at least 6 months as a Life Scout;
- Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in everyday life;
- Earn a total of 21 merit badges;
- Serve actively in a leadership position in the troop, varsity scout team, or venturing crew;
- As a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project;
- Take part in a Scoutmaster conference;
- Successfully complete an Eagle Scout Board of Review.

These young men join the ranks of such people as William Bennett (former Secretary of Education), Gerald Ford (38th President of the U.S.), James Lovell (Astronaut), Sam Nunn (U.S. Senator from Georgia), Steven Spielberg (Film Director/Producer), Jimmy Stewart (Actor), Walter Cronkite (Journalist & TV Commentator), William C. DeVries (Transplanted first artificial heart), just to name a few.

Mr. Clark stated, "The Board is proud to recognize these young men for their commitment, dedication, and stewardship to their troop and to the community. It is wonderful to know that wholesome, strong, fundamental values still thrive in young men such as these before us this evening."

East Central receives Platinum Award from Governor Perdue: Mrs. Collins presented Mrs. Tonya Wood, Principal of East Central Elementary School, with a Certificate of Recognition for the school receiving the Platinum Award from Governor Perdue. The award recognizes East Central Elementary School as being in the top two percent of all elementary schools in Georgia for accomplishing the greatest gain in meeting and exceeding academic standards.

Second Month Attendance: Dr. Cooper reported attendance for the second month of school. He stated that Elm Street Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance, 98.24 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 96.71 percent of student attendance for the second month of school. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was Anna K. Davie Elementary School, 97.63 percent.

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

Support Employment 2006-2007: Stephanie Carmichael / ES ; Noelle Schaeckel / SE ; and Dawn Levesque / WE

Student Achievement - West End Elementary School: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Murphy presented the Focus on Student Achievement for West End Elementary School. Accompanying her were West End staff members: Cassie Parson, Beth Herod, Kimberly Findley, and Vanessa Walker.

Mrs. Murphy discussed the school's Criterion-Referenced Competency Test results with the Board. She stated that most of the result percentages for Reading and Mathematics hovered in the high 80's and 90's. While their students are doing well when compared to the system and state, they still have room for growth and improvement. She did say that based on the results, there are two (2) grades that need close monitoring. These are the 4th grade and 6th grade. Again, while their scores were good, when compared to the system and state, these grades should be closely monitored.

Writer's Workshop is going very strong at West End Elementary School. The three steps of Writer's Workshop include Opening, Work Time, and Closing. The "Opening" focuses students on the standard that will be covered. "Work Time" provides students with opportunities to practice writing using the skills and strategies that they have learned. "Closing" provides the students with time to share and provide feedback with their peers.

Mrs. Murphy said that, "Student work drives our instruction". Examples of student work are displayed throughout the classrooms and school. Teachers use the examples to assist students with their work and to demonstrate their students "Growth Over Time".

West End is also working to improve achievement in math. The faculty and staff are working with the students to increase the percent of students who meet or exceed math standards. To do this, they implement a skills block in every grade. They incorporate a workshop setting using a multiple representation approach and focus on basic skills, conceptual understanding, and problem solving.

2006-2007 Writing Workshop: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Debbie Downer reported on 2006-2007 Writing Workshop. Mrs. Downer identified the seven basic principles of Writing Workshop.

First, writers need regular chunks of time to write. Within the structure of the class, teachers need to build in regular time for their students to write. Second, writers need opportunities to write about their own topic. While it is important for students to write on given prompts, for the most part they need experience in writing about something that interests them.

Third, writers need immediate response in order to grow their skills. The students learn how to compliment, ask questions, and give suggestions to their peers. Students also need to have their teacher sit down with them as they are writing and provide feedback and guidance. Fourth, writers learn mechanics in context and should apply the skills identified in the language use and conventions standard to their own writing. Fifth, children need to have adults who write as role models.

Sixth, writers need to read. Mrs. Downer said, "If you want to teach a child to read, give them a pencil. If you want them to write, give them a book." And finally, writing teachers need to take responsibility for their knowledge and teaching.

Credit Recovery Program: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Evans and Dr. Phillips discussed efforts at Rome High School with the Credit Recovery Program. Credit Recovery Program provides students with an opportunity to make up one-half credit and one credit in courses that would otherwise keep them from graduating with their graduating class and being reported as a dropout.

While SPICE and Virtual School are options, it is felt that NovaNet (a widely used program) is the best option for Rome City School students. The class will provide students with an internet-based program designed around the Georgia Performance Standards, Georgia End Of Course Test standards, and the Georgia High School Graduation Test standards tailored to meet their individual curriculum needs. The program is designed so the students may set their own pace. They can move as fast or as slow as they need to in order to learn the material covered.

The first semester will begin on October 23rd from 3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. three days a week. The cost is minimal, \$75.00 per half credit. Initially, the program will be limited to seniors only and only in subjects that the student has, for one reason or another, been unsuccessful in. It is anticipated that the program will be expanded the second semester and will probably be opened up for underclassmen who have failed a required subject.

The projections are, for every 10 students who are successful in the program, the graduation rate will be increased by three percent. This program first helps the student but it also helps the school system with the reported graduation rate.

First Reading - Amendments to Policy KG: On a Greer/Wood motion, the Board members present unanimously approved on First Reading amendments to Policy KG (Use of School Facilities) as presented by Dr. Cooper.

SPLOST II Report: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the July '06 collections of \$504,755.90 were \$71,931.75 above projections for the month.

Announcements: Dr. Cooper made the following announcements:

- This Friday, October 20th, Rome Wolves host the Dalton Catamounts at Barron Stadium, starting at 8:00 p.m.
- Peach State Marching Festival will take place Saturday, October 28, 2006, at Barron Stadium.
- The new edition of *Wolf Cry* will air on Channel 4 next week at 8:00 p.m.