

Board O'Gram

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

Second month of Attendance: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the second month of school. He stated that East Central Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 97.64 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 at 97.71 percent.

New Personnel: On a Huffman/Wilson motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations: Support Employment 2008-2009: Frankie Edwards/SE and Jane Moore/ES

Focus On Student Achievement: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Tonya Wood presented the Focus on Student Achievement for East Central Elementary School. Accompanying Mrs. Wood were Ms. Ann Christian and Mr. Phil Wood. Mrs. Wood stated that East Central Elementary School had been named a Title I Distinguished School for six continuous years. East Central also earned the 2006 Platinum Award and 2007 School of Excellence. Mrs. Wood then reviewed the grade-level Georgia Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) results from the spring 2008 administration. She stated that the first grade reading scores were about on a par with the state and system averages, but the first grade math scores were slightly higher. This was also true with the second grade as well. With the third grade, the reading scores were slightly higher than the state and system averages, but the math scores were 22 percent higher than both the system and state averages. The fourth and fifth grade reading scores remained around the 90 percent level and, although the math scores dipped below 80 percent, they remained above the system and state averages. The sixth grade reading and math scores were very high and above the system and state averages. Notably, the reading score was 100 percent meeting or exceeding standards for the 2008 administration of the CRCT.

Mrs. Wood stated that East Central students' success is attributed to focused instruction and small group instruction, especially in reading. Math workshop utilizes individual and small group instruction as well. The instructional interventions that are employed at East Central include Direct Instruction, Road to the Code, Differentiated Instruction, and small group guided reading in the classrooms. Mrs. Wood emphasized that their Special Education teachers are dually certified so they are better able to meet the needs of their students academically.

East Central is working on becoming a 21st Century Class School. By that, Mrs. Wood means they are trying to make sure that each classroom has the technology to maximize instructional opportunities for boys and girls: computers, smart boards, and projectors.

In closing, Mrs. Wood announced that East Central Elementary School had just been named a 2008 National Blue Ribbon School. Mrs. Wood and their Teacher of the Year will be going to Washington, D.C. next week to receive their award.

New Kindergarten Report Card: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Debbie Downer presented the new Kindergarten report card. Mrs. Downer recognized the committee members responsible for developing the proposed report card:

Anna K. Davie: Melissa Graney, Daronda Young
East Central: Marilyn Tatum, Michele Nichols
Elm Street: Jo Orr, Emerye Waits

Main: Chris Rogers, Angie Ray
North Heights: Ginger Jarrell,
Southeast: Hazel Ratliff, Carol Maxey, Rebecca Miller
West Central: Marian Williams, Quincy Nation
West End: Beth Herod, Wendy Edelkind, Sandy Pruett, Jennifer Uldrick
Central Office: Debbie Downer

Mrs. Downer stated that the reason for changing the report card was to prepare a report card which is accurately aligned to the new Georgia Performance Standards set for Kindergarten instruction. This will provide parents with detailed information about the progress of their children against the required state standards. Mrs. Downer stated that a parent letter will be sent out along with the new report card explaining the elements of the report and how it is to be interpreted.

AP Calculus Students go to Georgia Tech: Dr. Cooper announced a new program that will be launched this year in conjunction with Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech). Dr. Cooper reported that the Rome High School AP Calculus students would be going to Georgia Tech for a Math Seminar taught by Georgia Tech professors. Dr. Cooper introduced Regent Willis Potts who was instrumental in helping make this program possible for Rome City Schools' students. It was also announced that a similar program is being developed for AP Biology students at the University of Georgia and AP Chemistry students at Berry College. There will be more information coming about these two other programs soon.

SPLOST II Revenue Report: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the July '08 collections of \$461,752.05 were \$24,252.05 above projections for the month (\$437,500.00).

Other Superintendent's Announcements:

- Dr. Cooper stated that following the Board meeting, the Teacher of the Year and Support Employee of the Year Banquet would begin at 7:00 p.m. at Rome Middle School.
- Dr. Cooper also announced that Rome High will be playing at Northwest Whitfield on Friday night beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- Dr. Cooper reported that the annual Peach State Marching Festival will be held at Barron Stadium on Saturday, October 25th.

Other Board Business:

- On a Swann/Huffman motion, the Board unanimously approved, on First Reading, amendments to Board Policy GAN (Personnel Smoking).
- On a Jones/Wood motion, the Board unanimously approved, on First Reading, amendments to Board Policy JCDA (Student Smoking).
- On a Collins/Wilson motion, the Board unanimously approved, on First Reading, amendments to Board Policy IHE (Promotion and Retention).
- Mrs. Sims read a resolution declaring results of the SPLOST III Election which was held and approved on September 16, 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.