

Board O'Gram

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

Musical Interlude: A Rome High School Clarinet Quartet played a musical interlude as the Board members, staff, and visitors gathered for the meeting: Cheryl Culp, Rae King, Lauren Tarpley, and Ellen Willis.

Webelos I in Troup 113 visits BOE: Mrs. Sims recognized Troup 113, Webelos I den members (fourth grader cub scouts) and den leaders (Greg Edwards, Bradley Fincher, and Tod Wheeler).

Young Georgia Authors' winners: Mr. Clark recognized Young Georgia Authors' Writing Competition district and state winners. The purposes of this award are to encourage students to develop writing that represents their best efforts; provide a context for schools to support and celebrate the writing successes of all students; and encourage and recognize student achievement in writing throughout Georgia.

Students may submit essays, stories, or poems to be judged on criteria such as imagination, originality, and correctness.

Ms. Olivia Louis-Jean, a seventh grade student at Rome Middle School, is the sixth grade district winner for her short story entitled "The Wishing Stone", Mr. Jacob Sanborn, a eighth grade student a Rome Middle School, is the seventh grade district winner for his short story entitled "High School"; and Ms. Lucy Lansing, a fifth grade student at East Central, is the fourth grade district winner and also the fourth grade State winner for her poem entitled "Ocean".

First Month Attendance: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the first month of school. He stated that Elm Street Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance, 98.98 percent. It was also noted that Rome High School had 96.97 percent of student attendance for the first month of school. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was Elm Street Elementary School, 99.66 percent.

New Personnel: On a Clark/Swann motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendations for certified employment 2006-2007, support employment 2006-2007:

Certified Employment 2006-2007: Julie Halterman/RTA and Anne Poe/RHS

Support Employment 2006-2007: Elidia Galego/WE; Kenneth Ryan/WE; Michelle Ingram/AKD/SE; Jo Shahan/CO; Deana Lankford/NH; Caren Wallace-Shuler/AKD; Brenda Rampley/CO; and Mandi Wolfe/CO

2006-2007 Fundraising Approval: On a Wood/Clark motion, the board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's 2006-2007 Fundraising recommendations as presented by Dr. Buck.

Focus on Student Achievement - RMS: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mr. Costley presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Rome Middle School. Mr. Costley began his presentation by praising his faculty. He stated that they were as dedicated and hard working as any staff that he has ever had the pleasure with which to work. He also discussed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) data in Mathematics and English/Language Arts for the past four years. Mr. Costley attributed the success of students at Rome Middle School to several factors: high expectations for all students, safe and clean school, time on task, continuous monitoring of student progress, positive home/school partnership, and administrators who serve as instructional leaders.

Mr. Costley made a point to show the relationship between student discipline and academic achievement. His main point is, the less students are out of class being disciplined for poor behavior the more learning they will experience. A final point Mr. Costley made was, student success is a product of a school's clear and focused mission. Rome Middle School is all about Quality Academics, Athletics, and Arts.

Math Workshop: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Brenda Erwin reported on 2006-07 Math Workshop. Mrs. Erwin shared what Math Workshop is and what it is not. It is a lesson structure or process and it encourages students to look for what makes sense to them in regard to math problem solving. Students are expected to problem solve and find alternate ways to answer math problems. The process of Math Workshop is not as concerned about getting the correct answer as it is about problem solving strategies.

Mrs. Erwin stated that Math Workshop is a process skill. It includes reasoning, communicating, multiple representations, justification, and problem solving. The model of delivery follows a Launch, Investigate, and Debrief process.

Finally, Mrs. Erwin stated that the investigative approach is only one of the strategies employed to teach mathematics. She stated that investigation is good but skills are also important. According to the research, it takes a balanced approach of teaching concept building, problem solving, and basic skills to ensure maximum student success.

2006-2007 Professional Learning Plan: At Dr. Cooper's request, 2007 Professional Learning Plan for Rome City Schools. Dr. Baldwin reported that professional learning plan focuses on the Math Workshop, Writing Workshop, GPS training, and Social Studies. She stated that the research shows that job embedded professional development produces long term, sustained results and changes in instruction.

Dr. Baldwin stated that the training will take place on two or three professional learning days and various system-wide in-service days. In addition to the system directed training, each school will also provide training in school specific areas during common planning time, faculty meetings, and during some of the system in-service time.

2006-2007 Consolidated Application: On a Clark/Swann motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's 2006-2007 Consolidated Application recommendation as presented by Dr. Robert Young.

SPLOST II Revenues: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the June '06 collections of \$477,337.38 were \$44,513.23 above projections for the month.

Peach State Marching Festival Support: On a Clark/Swann motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendation to pay \$850.00 toward the Barron Stadium rental for this year's Peach State Marching Festival to be held October 28, 2006.

RCS Board Members are Recognized: Dr. Cooper presented each Board member with an Achievement Certificate by the Georgia School Boards Association for successful school board training during the 2005-2006 school year.

Announcements:

- Dr. Cooper announced that the Northwest Georgia School Boards Association would be holding their meeting at Rome High School in the Commons Area Thursday, September 14, 2006, beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- Finally, Dr. Cooper announced that the Rome Wolves will be hosting the Cartersville Hurricanes Friday night at Barron Stadium beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Second Reading of Policy IHE: On a Collins/Swann motion, the Board members present unanimously approved on Second Reading Dr. Cooper's recommendation on amendments to Policy IHE (Promotion and Retention).

Board Appointments:

- The Board appointed Ms. Huffman to serve as the 2006-2007 GSBA Liaison for the Rome City Schools Board of Education.
- The Board appointed Dr. Cooper to serve on the Sara Hightower Regional Library Board for the 2006-2007 school year.