

# Board O'Gram

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

**Kimberly Rogers wins First Place in Georgia:** The Board presented Kimberly Rogers, an 11th grader at Rome High School, with a certificate for earning First Place in the Young Georgia Authors Competition. Mr. Will Wood stated that the purposes of this award are to encourage students to develop writing skills; provide a context for schools to support and celebrate the writing successes of all students; and encourage and recognize student achievement in writing. He also said that students may submit essays, stories, or poems to be judged on criteria such as imagination, originality, and correctness. The title of Kimberly's short story was *Tomatoes*.

**First Month of Attendance:** For the first month of school, Anna K. Davie had the highest percentage of student attendance at 98.66 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 96.62 percent of student attendance for the first month of school. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was East Central with 99.71 percent.

**New Personnel:** On a Wood / Clark motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendations for new certified and support staff hirings for 2004-2005:

Recommendation of 2004-2005: Personnel/Certified: Renee Smith, RMS and Margaret Pease, RHS  
Personnel/Support: Brian Coffey, Technology and Chad Davis, SE

**2004-2005 Fundraising Recommendation:** The Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's 2004-2005 Fundraising recommendations as presented by Dr. Harris.

**Focus on Student Achievement – Elm Street Elementary:** At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Moss presented the Focus on Student Achievement at Elm Street Elementary School. Dr. Moss reported on the school's 2004 CRCT results and showed that the results were above the minimum score in every category and most categories were above the Georgia average. Dr. Moss focused much of her presentation on what the reported test scores do and do not tell about the system, the school, the parents, and students. The presentation was concluded with Dr. Moss describing how the test scores are used to determine programs for the students at Elm Street Elementary School. According to Dr. Moss, the primary benefit of testing the students is to identify the needs of the students. The teachers can then use the results to modify the instructional strategies for better student performance. Remedial programs, acceleration, focused flexible grouping, after-school tutorial, self-contained early intervention, and benchmark testing and diagnosis are just a few of the programs implemented as a result of identified needs from the testing scores. Dr. Moss then unveiled her new Elm Street Project. This is a technology infused web-based research project designed to improve language skills. The program will take place in the afternoons, evenings and Saturdays. The program will be using the Open Book software package as its principle resource instrument.

**First Reading of Policy BBFA (Local School Councils):** The Board unanimously approved on first reading Policy BBFA (Local School Councils) as presented by Dr. Harris. Dr. Harris reported that the purpose of the policy was to satisfy the requirements of state law which define the roles of the school council.

**SPLOST Revenues:** Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that June '04 collections of \$399,943.67 were \$2,014 less than projected.

**SPLOST Projects:** Dr. Cooper stated that architects are completing the plans for new construction and renovations at Main Elementary and West End Elementary. He said that once construction begins, the work will take place in the evenings, on weekends and through next summer in order to be ready for the opening of the 2005-2006 school year.

**Peach State Marching Festival:** The Board unanimously approved the payment of \$850 for half the rental cost of Barron Stadium to host this year's Peach State Marching Festival which will be held October 23, 2004.

#### Announcements:

- The Board will be visiting and eating lunch at Elm Street on Friday, September 17.
- Rome City Schools' 2004 SAT scores, where 66 percent of the senior class of 2004 took the test, revealed an average score of 1062. The top 10 percent of the students taking the test scored an average of 1395 on the test.

**Consolidation Task Force:** At Mrs. Sims request, Mr. Greer reported on the last Consolidation Task Force Committee Meeting. The Board unanimously approved the amended Request for Proposal to conduct a consolidation study.