

Board O'Gram

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

Board Meeting Preamble: A Rome High School Flute Ensemble played a musical interlude as the Board Members, staff and visitors gathered for the meeting. The ensemble was comprised of Ariel Killen, Elizabeth Bibb, Brittany Smith, Caleb Lewis, Bethie Ball, and Lauren Lee.

Attendance: Dr. Gayland Cooper reported the attendance for the first month of school. He stated that West End Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 98.94 percent. It was also noted that Rome High School had 97.80 percent student attendance for the first month of school. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was North Heights Elementary School with 99.70 percent.

Personnel: The Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendations for new Certified and Support Employment for 2005-2006.

Certified Employment: Paula Kennedy/WE, Natalie Wolbert/NH, Russell Paris/RMS, Natalie McCleary/AKD, Diana Platt/ES, and Julie Phillips/ES.

Support Employment: Elaine Clifton/Parapro/RHS, Shannon Packard/Parapro/WE, Sandy Kelley/Secretary/SE, and Tim Spivey/Custodian/WE.

Focus on Student Achievement: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Tonya Wood presented the Focus on Student Achievement for East Central Elementary School. Mrs. Wood reviewed the CRCT results and discussed the levels of achievement for each grade. She explained the reasons for the successes that East Central has enjoyed; the staff is dedicated to teaching their students, they have a wealth of experience, and they maintain high expectations. Mrs. Wood also stated that parent resources at East Central are second to none. She said that parent volunteers are at the school everyday mentoring students, running off papers for teachers, and helping in the front office. She said that 43 new parent volunteers have already been trained this year, in addition to the 92 volunteers who were previously trained. It is the cooperative spirit of community that helps make East Central a successful school.

2005-2006 GYSTC Plan: At Dr. Cooper's request, Lt. Col. David Wright, Georgia Youth Science and Technology Center (GYSTC) director, gave an overview of the programs that he facilitates for students in Rome City Schools.

Lt. Col. Wright stated that the mission of the GYSTC program is to increase interest and enthusiasm in science, mathematics, and the technologies, particularly among elementary and middle school teachers and students. Activities facilitated by GYSTC include classroom projects, professional development, field trips, and family nights. Other activities such as star parties, the Young Scholars Program, and local science fairs are also aided by GYSTC. Lt. Col. Wright left the meeting with a vision. "I want to find student scientists, engineers, and mathematicians, pumping brain matter, building dendrites," just as we often find student athletes pumping iron and preparing for their athletic competitions.

2005-2006 Professional Learning Plan: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Mary Baldwin presented Rome City Schools 2005-2006 Professional Learning Plan. Dr. Baldwin emphasized that the plan is designed to maintain practices that have helped make the Rome City Schools successful in the past and will add new proven strategies which will improve student achievement in the future. Dr. Baldwin said that professional learning addresses the assessed needs of all students and of all school and system personnel. The majority of funds are expended for instructional staff to participate in professional growth opportunities related to improving instructional effectiveness and student achievement. Programs maintained include training for highly qualified staff, Writing Across the Curriculum, Learning-Focused Schools, Balanced Literacy Program, and SRA Direct Instruction. New initiatives include improvements in math instruction, daily assessment to enhance Differentiated Instruction, GPS, Writer's Workshop in the elementary schools, and developing learning communities within the schools and the district.

SPLOST II Receipts: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the June 2005 collections of \$406,136.44 were \$10,969.04 under projections. Dr. Cooper then stated that the overall SPLOST II collections are \$118,145.64 over anticipated amounts.

Peach State Festival: The Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendation to pay \$850.00 toward the rental of Barron Stadium for this year's Peach State Marching Festival to be held October 22, 2005.

Board Certificates of Merit: Dr. Cooper presented each Board Member with a Certificate of Merit from the Georgia Department of Education recognizing them for successfully completing their annual Board Member training during the 2004-2005 school year.

Hurricane Evacuees in Rome: Dr. Cooper stated that there are currently a total of 29 student evacuees from Mississippi and Louisiana who are attending our schools. The students are displaced due to damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Homecoming Game: Dr. Cooper announced that the Rome High Wolves will be hosting S.E. Whitfield on Friday night for the Homecoming football game. There will be a parade down Broad Street starting at 6:00 p.m. and kick-off will be at 8:00 p.m. in Barron Stadium. He also announced that the Rome Middle School Band will play the half-time program.

Board Actions:

- The Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's 2005-2006 fundraising recommendations as presented by Dr. Buck.
- The Board appointed Mrs. Huffman to serve as the 2005-2006 GSBA Liaison for the Rome City Schools Board of Education.
- The Board unanimously adopted on second reading amendments to policy IHE (Promotion and Retention of Students).