

Board O'Gram

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

Board Recognizes Troup 113: Mr. Chris Wilson recognized the Boy Scouts from Pack 113 who were visiting the Board Meeting. Mr. Wilson stated that the scouts were visiting as a part of their requirements toward their Citizenship and Community merit badge. He said that recently several of the scouts participated in the Arrow of Light Ceremony and advanced from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. He reported that those scouts are already working toward their Tenderfoot Rank which is the second of seven ranks, culminating in the Eagle Scout.

Mr. Wilson stated that through Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the co-ed Venturing programs, the scouting program has a long tradition of building success and strong character in youth. This coming February, 2010, marks the Centennial celebration for Boy Scouts in America.

According to Mr. Wilson, the strong scout tradition is maintained through local groups. He said that under the direction of Scout Masters Andy Davis and Thad Waters, the leaders of Troup 113 help mold their boys into young men. Gauging success in scouts is much like gauging success in school systems. For school systems, one way is to determine whether a student graduates from high school. For scouts, a way to gauge success is whether the scout follows through and earns his Eagle Scout Ranking. Troup 113 serves as the “flagship” for troupes in the Northwest Georgia Council and Georgia. At the 2008 Boy Scout Council Banquet this past May, 12 of the 94 scouts who earned their Eagle Scout Rank during 2008 were from Troup 113. The Northwest Georgia Council includes three (3) Districts with seven (7) counties: Coosa District (Chattooga, Floyd, Polk); Sequoyah District (Bartow, Gordon); and Conasauga District (Murray, Whitfield).

Mr. Wilson said that the Board would like the Boy Scouts and their leaders to stand for a moment so they could recognize and congratulate them for the choices they have made in their life’s journey thus far. Mr. Wilson said that the Board looks forward to seeing how the scouts will apply what they learn in scouting as they take on leadership roles in our community in the future.

Ninth Month Attendance: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the ninth month of school. He stated that West End Elementary School had the highest elementary school percentage of student attendance, 97.67 percent. It was also noted that both Rome Middle School and Rome High School had 96.40 percent of student attendance for the ninth month of school. The highest percent of staff attendance was Elm Street Elementary School at 97.55 percent.

New Personnel: On a Jones/Collins motion, the board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper’s personnel recommendations:

Certified Employment 2009-2010: Taylor Sharpe/RHS Dana Smith/NH

2009 Young Scholars Program: At Dr. Cooper request, Dr. Randy Phillips reviewed the 2009 Young Scholars Program. He stated that there will be four groups of students attending Young Scholars this year: rising fifth, rising sixth, rising seventh, and rising eighth.

- Rising Fifth Grade Camp will take place at Shorter College on June 22nd to 26th and will work with Alternative Fuel Sources & Ecology.
- Rising Sixth Grade Camp will take place at GA Highlands College on June 22nd to 26th and will deal with Hydrology & Space.
- Rising Seventh Grade Camp will take place at Berry College on June 15th to 19th and will work on Human Organ Systems.
- Rising 8th Grade Camp will be at Coosa Valley Vocational Technical College on June 15th to 19th and will work on Careers in Science.

2009 Summer Opportunity and HS Summer School: Dr. Cooper reported on the 2009 K-8 Summer Opportunity Program. He said that the program began on May 28 and will continue through June 24, 2009. The curriculum is designed to go from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. each day. He stated that the main objective was designed to provide students with an additional 20 days of instruction to help them succeed in school. The funds for this program came from federal stimulus funds; more specifically, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Dr. Cooper stated that the students who were invited to participate in the 2009 K-8 Summer Opportunity Program were identified by three criteria:

1. Students who were retained.
2. Students who needed to improve CRCT scores:
3. Students who needed acceleration in reading and/or math.

The curriculum for the program was specifically designed for each student based on individual needs in mathematics and English Language Arts. Dr. Cooper reported that on the fifth day of instruction, there were 1,044 students participating in the program across the system.

Dr. Cooper also reported on the High School Summer School program which is facilitated through OdysseyWare. He said that the program is designed as a "Credit Recovery" program for students who were unsuccessful during the regular school year in English Language Arts, Science, Mathematics, or Social Studies. Dr. Cooper stated that students are currently registered for a total of 166 Semester Credits of Credit Recovery. He further stated that the program will definitely have a positive impact on the success of students at Rome High School and, in turn, have a positive effect on the promotion and graduation rate at Rome High School.

FY-10 Student Insurance: On a Swann/Wood motion, the board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's FY-2010 Student Insurance recommendation as presented by Dr. Young. The carrier of the plan will be Commercial Travelers Mutual Insurance through a local agency, Sklar-Jowers Insurance.

Final SPLOST II Report: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST II revenues. He stated that the final SPLOST II collections in March '09 of \$592,681.36 were \$155,181.36 above projections for the month (\$437,500.00). He also stated that the system collections for SPLOST II were very strong and the overall collections were \$530,588.10 above the projected amount. The SPLOST III collections report will begin in July.

In other announcements: Dr. Cooper reported:

- The first reading of the proposed FY-10 Budget will be presented after a short recess following the normal business of the June Board Meeting (6/9/09);
- The proposed budget would be presented to the Finance Committee of the City Commission at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, 6/11/09, in the Sam King Room; and
- The final reading and adoption of the FY-10 Budget will take place at 7:30 a.m., 6/29/09, in the Board Room.

Other Board Business:

- On a Wood/Wilson motion, the board members present unanimously adopted, on second reading, amendments to policies on Professional Personnel Leaves and Absences (GBRH) and Classified Personnel Leaves and Absences (GCRG).
- Members of the Board will attend the GSBA Summer Conference in Savannah on June 12-13, 2009. Mr. Wilson was appointed to serve as the 2009 GSBA Delegate representative for the Rome City Schools. It was reported that Dr. Cooper and Mrs. Sims will also be in attendance.
- On a Collins/Wood motion, the board members present unanimously approved the minutes for the May 12, 2009, regular board meeting, financial and other reports.

First Reading of Proposed FY-10 Budget: On a Swann/Collins motion, the board members present unanimously approved, on first reading, the FY-10 Proposed Budget as presented by Dr. Cooper.