

Board O'Gram

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Report of the Rome Board of Education — Action compiled by Dr. Mike Buck, Assistant Superintendent

Students named to All-State Middle School Honor Chorus: At Mrs. Sims' request, Mr. Wood recognized the Rome Middle students who were selected for All-State Chorus. The Rome Middle School Choral Department, under the direction of Ms. Susan Campbell, produced five members of the 2010 Georgia Music Educators All-State Chorus. Mr. Wood noted that being selected for All-State Chorus is a very prestigious honor. To be selected, students must pass a challenging audition process, which includes singing several scales, performing a solo, completing tonal memory examples, and sight-reading three lines of music. Mr. Wood asked Rome Middle School Principal, Mr. Greg Christian, to call the students up as he presented them with a certificate:

Matthew Nedvin - 7th grade - son of Ms. Karin Nedvin;
Lauren Shank - 7th grade - daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Shank;
Hogan Barris - 8th grade - son of Mr. and Mrs. Brad Barris;
Amanda Bradfield - 8th grade - daughter of Ms. Holly Bradfield; and
Kate Butcher - 8th grade - daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sean Butcher.

Third month of Attendance: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the third month of school. He stated that West Central Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at the elementary level with 95.97 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had the highest percentage of student attendance for the system for the third month of school at 97.68 percent. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was Anna K. Davie Elementary School, 97.80 percent.

New Personnel: On a Jones/Collins motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendation: Support Employment 2009-2010: Frank "Carl" Stanfield/Technology Department.

Focus on Student Achievement – Elm Street: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. JoAnn Moss presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Elm Street Elementary School. Accompanying Dr. Moss were Phil Wood, assistant principal, and teachers Jo Heller-Orr, Therese Laurell, and Jackie Griffin. Dr. Moss stated that Elm Street Elementary School was again named a Title I Distinguished School for last year's efforts. She reported that the Elm Street staff excels in preparing for instruction. One hundred percent of the staff is highly qualified with 70 percent of the certified staff having advanced degrees. Many of their teachers are leaders in various programs, and they have six teachers who are National Board Certified.

Dr. Moss reviewed the grade-level Georgia Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) results from the spring 2009 administration. She reported that all of their scores were very good and that in fifth grade math, their score improved 30 percentage points!

Dr. Moss stated that Elm Street students' success is attributed to focused efforts in instruction: extra math time in K-4 and Response to Intervention strategies. In primary grades, social studies and science are taught through reading. In the upper grades, reading is taught through social studies and science.

In conclusion, Dr. Moss stated that the mission of Elm Street Elementary School is: "To prepare our students for Rome High School with the skills needed to graduate, ready for college or work."

Dr. Cooper thanked Dr. Moss for her presentation. He also offered his thanks to the teachers and students at Elm Street for their hard work.

2009 United Way Campaign: At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Buck reported on the 2009 United Way Campaign for the Rome City Schools. He said he was very proud of the giving spirit of the students and staff of the Rome City Schools. Dr. Buck reported that the Rome City Schools generously gave \$26,364.12 during the 2009 campaign. Dr. Buck stated that over the past four years, the Rome City Schools family has given \$128,252.31 to the United Way. He also reported that Rome City Schools again led the entire educational division in contributions.

READ 180 Program: At Dr. Cooper's request, Literacy Coach Ms. Cindy Smith reported on the READ 180 initiative at Rome High School and Rome Middle School. At Rome Middle School, Mr. Brian Sikes, English teacher, and Mr. Brad Barker, ESOL teacher, work with the students. At Rome High School, Ms. Allison Anderson, reading teacher, and Ms. Patricia Smathers, special education inclusion teacher, work with the students. The program has three distinct delivery methods: whole class instruction, individualized reading, and a modular computer assisted delivery method. The program is designed for students whose Lexile Score is well below the expected level for their grade. Students are constantly monitored, and as soon as their performance reaches acceptable levels, they return to the regular school curriculum which opens a slot for another identified student.

AP Courses at Rome High School: Dr. Cooper reported on the Advanced Placement Program. He noted that there are 13 courses being taught at the high school this year: Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Language Arts, English Literature, US History, European History, US Government, Psychology, and Spanish. Dr. Cooper discussed the four Advanced Placement Seminars that are being run in conjunction with colleges and universities: RHS-Berry College, AP Chemistry; RHS-University of Georgia, AP Biology; RHS-Georgia Tech, AP Calculus; and RHS-University of West Georgia, AP Physics.

At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. Evans reported on the five-year enrollment history of the Advanced Placement Program. Even with dramatically more students taking AP classes, the percentage of students passing the AP exams remains strong. There are 398 student sections this year in AP classes at Rome High School with some students taking as many as five AP classes. Rome High School recommends no more than two AP classes per semester, but some students enjoy the additional challenge.

SPLOST III Revenue Report: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST III revenues. He stated that the August '09 collections of \$391,206.70 were \$111,522.80 below the anticipated collection amount of \$502,729.50 for the period. Dr. Cooper reminded the audience that Rome City Schools is on a "pay as you go" plan and that the collections are adequate to pay for the 12-classroom addition being constructed at Rome High School.

Other Items:

- Dr. Cooper reported that Rome Middle School was just named 2009 Georgia School of Excellence.
- Dr. Cooper reported that all nine of the Title I schools in the Rome City system were named 2009 Title I Distinguished Schools.
- Dr. Cooper announced that Thanksgiving Holidays for the schools system will be November 25 - 27, 2009.

In conclusion, Mrs. Sims, on behalf of the Board, thanked the community members for their continued support. Dr. Cooper congratulated the members of the Board on their election and thanked them for their service to the community.