

Board O'Gram

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

Second month of Attendance: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the second month of school. North Heights Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at the elementary level with 96.73 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 98.08 percent of student attendance for the second month of school. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was West End Elementary School at 97.74 percent.

New Personnel: On a Jones/Collins motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendation: Support Employment 2009-2010: Pam Lewis/Maintenance

Board Recognitions: At Mrs. Sims' request, Dr. Jones recognized the AP Scholars at Rome High School. Dr. Jones stated that in 2009, 119 students at Rome high School took 216 Advanced Placement exams at the conclusion of their course work. The test results range from 1 to 5, with 5 being the best. Generally, a student must achieve a 3 or better for the course to earn college credit. Of all the tests taken, 76% of the results posted were 3 or higher. He also noted that 29 students from Rome High School earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level AP exams for the 2008-2009 school year. The AP Scholar Award is achieved by completing three or more AP Examinations with grades of 3 or higher. Although most of these students have graduated, the 13 current seniors at Rome High were recognized. Dr. Jones asked Dr. Evans, principal at Rome High School, to present the certificates.

Kristen McConkey, daughter of Dale and Ingrid McConkey, earned the College Board's highest honor for AP scholars by being named an "AP Scholar with Distinction". Students qualify for this award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on 5 or more of these exams.

Matthew Rice, son of Bill and Ansley Rice, and Tyler VanRiper, son of Jurian & DeAnne VanRiper, qualified for the "AP Scholar with Honor" by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or high on four or more of these exams.

Eleven students qualified as an AP Scholar by completing three or more AP Examinations with grades of 3 or higher. These students are:

Adam Dorsey – son of Beth Dorsey;

Katherine Fincher – daughter of Jim and Caroline Fincher;

Daniel Gaines – son of Don Gaines and Cheryl Bishop;

Zachary Gardner – son of Curtis and Robin Gardner;

Abigail Grout – daughter of John and Susan Grout;

Spencer Hyde – son of Ronald and Rachel Hyde;

Immanuel Kerr-Brown – son of Javier Enriquez and Amanda Kerr;

Hamzah Mansoura – son of Ahed Mansoura and Juhana Omran;

Magen Nicholson – daughter of Jerry and Rebecca Nicholson;

Kerem Trolander – son of Paul Trolander and Zaynep Tengler; and

Benjamin Woodard – son of Stephen and Michele Woodard.

At Mrs. Sims' request, Ms. Huffman reported on the Time Capsule Essay Contest results. Students in grades K-12 in Rome City and Floyd County were invited to participate in a Time Capsule Essay/Art Contest to help celebrate the 175th anniversary of the City of Rome, Georgia. Students could choose to either write an essay or create a piece of two dimensional art on the topic: What will Rome look like twenty-five years from now? Rome City Schools had two winners from this contest. They are students at West End Elementary. Each winner's picture was taken for the Rome News Tribune. The winners and their parents met at the Rome Area History Museum at 10:15 a.m. on

September 4th and walked with the other winners to the new Town Green (in front of the forum) for the ceremony and burial of the capsule.

Ms. Huffman asked that Mrs. Buffi Murphy present the certificates to the winners. Second grader Rachel Hermosillo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hermosillo, is one of the winners. The other winner is fifth grader Jared Mather, son of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Mather.

Focus On Student Achievement: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Tonya Wood presented the Focus on Student Achievement for East Central Elementary School. Accompanying Mrs. Wood was Mr. Phil Wood, assistant principal. Mrs. Wood noted that East Central Elementary School had been named a Title I Distinguished School for seven continuous years. East Central also earned the 2006 Platinum Award and was named a 2007 Georgia School of Excellence. In 2008, East Central was named a National Blue Ribbon School.

Mrs. Wood 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. Mrs. Wood did mention that there was a little dip in their math scores in the second grade, but they are working to make sure those scores improve.

Mrs. Wood stated that East Central students' success is attributed to focused instruction and small group instruction by high quality teachers. She pointed out that the use of manipulatives is a strong part of their curriculum. They have "hands on" instructional activities across the curriculum. The teachers make every effort to link instruction to real world activities. Differentiated instruction is used to meet the needs of all students. Mrs. Wood noted that the challenge in teaching like this is the preparation time. Teachers must plan and collect materials for demonstrations and labs. Mrs. Wood praised her teachers for their willingness to utilize this hands on approach. Teachers at East Central Elementary School work diligently to educate the whole child in academics, athletics, and the arts.

Dr. Cooper thanked Mrs. Wood for her presentation. He also offered his thanks to the teachers and students at East Central for their hard work.

Emergency Management Agency: Dr. Cooper introduced Mr. Scotty Hancock, the local Emergency Management Agency Director. Mr. Hancock presented a report on the condition of the emergency management communications system in Floyd County and the need for an upgraded system. Following his presentation, Mr. Hancock introduced Rome Police Chief, Hubert Smith. Chief Smith delineated the need for an upgraded communications system. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Cooper thanked Mr. Hancock and Chief Smith for their presentations.

SPLOST II Revenue Report: Dr. Cooper gave an updated on the SPLOST III revenues. The July '09 collections of \$459,945.63 were \$42,783.87 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 the collections are adequate to move forward with the twelve classroom addition being constructed at Rome High School.

Other Superintendent's Announcements:

- Dr. Cooper stated that the annual Teacher of the Year and Support Employee of the Year Banquet is being held at Rome Middle School following the Board meeting
- Dr. Cooper announced that the Rome High Wolves will take on the NW Whitfield Bruins at Barron Stadium on Friday night at 8:00 p.m.
- Dr. Cooper announced that Saturday, October 24th, is the annual Peach State Marching Festival. The Rome bands will be performing late in the evening for demonstration purposes; they will not be performing in the competition.