

Board O'Gram

Vol. 35
No. 3
Sept. 8, 2009

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

First Month of Attendance: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the first month of school. North Heights Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance, 98.37 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 97.79 percent of student attendance for the first month of school. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was Anna K. Davie Elementary School, 99.61 percent.

New Personnel: On a Huffman/Wood motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations:

Support Employment 2009-2010: Darryl Copeland/Director of Maintenance/Transportation; Dalindra Felton/SE; Timothy Hill/WE; Terri Lee Ragsdale/SE; and Regina Law Smith/SE and AKD.

Rome Middle School Focus on Student Achievement: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mr. Greg Christian presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Rome Middle School. Accompanying Mr. Christian from Rome Middle School were: Sunita Holloway, Leslie Dixon, Patrick Graney, Elaine Price, and Cindy Smith. Mr. Christian said that Rome Middle School earned the Silver Award from the Governor's Office in 2007 (one of seven in Georgia) and 2008 (one of five in Georgia) for "Greatest Gain: Students Meeting and Exceeding Standards." In 2008, Rome Middle School was also named a Title I Distinguished School. Rome Middle School has earned AYP four consecutive years.

Mr. Christian reviewed the seventh and eighth grade Georgia Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) results for the past three years. Rome Middle School exceeded the state averages in the areas of reading, math, and ELA during all three years reviewed. The scores in math have been increasing steadily to their present level (89 percent). According to Mr. Christian, the eighth grade scores also showed steady growth during the three years, and their scores exceeded the state in each of the three areas as well.

Mr. Christian reported that twelve students made a perfect score on the math section of the CRCT, and twenty-nine students made a perfect score on the ELA/reading CRCT.

In addition to academics, Rome Middle School also offers wonderful opportunities in fine arts and sports. Rome Middle School fields nineteen athletic teams: two football teams (85 players); four basketball teams (60 players); baseball, softball, track, wrestling, volleyball, cross country, and soccer. In Fine Arts they have a 204 member chorus, a marching/concert band comprised of 200 students, and a jazz band. Other clubs and organizations include: Drama Club, Beta Club, German Club, Chess Club, FCA, FISH, Math Team, FFA, Leadership RMS, and National Creative Society.

Dr. Cooper thanked the RMS staff and Mr. Christian for outstanding student achievement results.

2009-2010 Professional Learning Plan: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Downer reported on Rome City Schools Professional Learning Plan for 2009-2010. She listed and thanked the members of the Professional Learning Advisory Committee: Ms. Debbie Holden, Anna K. Davie; Mr. Jay Chesser, East Central; Ms. Cindy Payne, Elm Street; Ms. Lori Wilson, Main; Ms. Emily Matheny, North Heights; Ms. Rebecca Kemnitz, Southeast; Ms. LaSaunda Mullinax, West Central; Ms. Linda Gentry, West End; Ms. Karen Nichols, Rome Middle School; Ms. Pam Bibb, Rome High School; Mr. Bruce Jones, Rome Transitional Academy; and Ms. Daylene Huggins, Special Education.

Mrs. Downer stated that the identified Professional Learning Needs for the Rome City Schools were in four areas: Math GPS Content and Assessment/Intervention; Reading: Comprehension Strategy Instruction; Behavior Management; and Technology.

Mrs. Downer discussed the training schedule and the various content areas to be included. The areas included Math, Math II, Reading (grades 3-6), Writing (grades 3-6), Reading/Writing (grades K-2), Behavior Management, Technology, and Science GPS.

In conclusion, Mrs. Downer stated that training wasn't enough, there has to be modeling, practice, coaching and feedback for the program to be successful. Math and Literacy Coaches provide the modeling, practice, coaching and feedback that best practices require. Ms. Downer quoted a statement from an article in *Administrator*, May 2009: "The National Staff Development Council suggests that for every hour of content training, there should be seven hours of modeling, practice, coaching, and feedback."

2009-2010 Consolidated Application Recommendations: On a Jones/Wilson motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's 2009-2010 Consolidated Application recommendation as presented by Dr. Robert Young.

2009-2010 Fundraising Recommendations: On a Wood/Huffman motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's 2009-2010 fund-raising recommendations as presented by Dr. Buck.

SPLOST III Receipts: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST III revenues. The April '09 collections of \$375,646.63 were \$82,643.65 below the anticipated collection amount. The anticipated amount was \$502,729.50 for the period.

Dr. Cooper stated that work had begun on the first SPLOST III project, a 12 classroom addition at RHS that should be completed in May 2010.

Other Announcements and Business:

- Dr. Cooper announced that our Rome High Wolves will take on the Paulding County Patriots in Dallas on Friday night at 7:30 p.m.
- Dr. Evans reported that he has two students who earned awards at the National History Day competition. These two students will be recognized at the October Board meeting.
- The Board appointed Ms. Huffman to serve as the "2009-2010 GSBA Legislative Liaison" for the Rome City Schools Board of Education.
- Ms. Sims congratulated Dr. Cooper on being named one of the four finalists for the 2010 Georgia Superintendent of the Year.