

# Board O'Gram

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

**Mission Statement:** All students will graduate from Rome High School prepared for college or work.

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

Certified Employment 2010-11: Angie Brantley/RHS and Amber Kerns-Brewer/RHS  
Support Employment 2010-11: Stephanie Dennis/WC and Pam Lewis/Maintenance

**Focus on Student Achievement – RMS:** 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: Trevor Metzger, Elaine Crouch, Jan Stinson, Michele Sterns, Pam Williams, Sunita Holloway, Leslie Dixon, and Cindy Smith. Mr. Christian stated that Rome Middle School operates under the three tier model: Academics, Athletics, and Fine Arts.

Mr. Christian reviewed the 7th and 8th Grade Georgia Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) results for the past four years. Results show that Rome Middle School exceeded the state results in the areas of reading, math, and ELA during all four years reviewed. Seventh grade math scores have been increasing steadily to the present level of 95 percent. Eighth grade scores show steady growth during the last three years and exceed the state in each of the three areas as well (88 percent).

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 named a 2008 Title I Distinguished School. The school has earned AYP for four consecutive years. In 2009, Rome Middle School was named Georgia School of Excellence!

In addition to academics, students at Rome Middle School are exposed to fine arts and sports. Rome Middle School fields several athletic teams: two football teams, four basketball teams, two baseball teams, softball, two track teams, wrestling, volleyball, cross country, two soccer teams and three cheerleading squads. In the fine arts area, Rome Middle School has a 200 person strong chorus, 200 member student band, 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 congratulated Mr. Christian for the outstanding student achievement at Rome Middle School.

**Health / Sex / AIDS / Education:** On a Wilson/Huffman motion, the Board members unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's Health/Sex/AIDS Education recommendation as presented by Mrs. Debbie Downer and her committee. The committee includes: Ms. Hallie Kelley, East Central Elementary; Mr. Michael Barton, Elm Street Elementary; Ms. Michelle Bryant, Main Elementary; Ms. Lanie Jasper, North Heights Elementary; Ms. Aquilla Askew, Southeast Elementary; Mrs. Caroline Threadgill, West Central Elementary; Ms. Erin Hernandez, West End Elementary; Ms. Gina McDaniel, Rome Middle School; Ms. Debra Mayfield, Rome High School; Ms. Torriann Beverly, Rome Transitional Academy; Miss Destinee Carter, Rome High School student; Mr. Vraj Patel, Rome High School student; Ms. Judy Fellers, health care representative; and Rev. Roger Ard, minister.

Mrs. Downer reviewed the process used by the committee. The advisory committee meets each spring to examine *new* materials that teachers and counselors would like to incorporate into instruction. The committee recommends the appropriate grade level for each approved item. The committee is composed of parents, educators, health professionals, community representatives, and an 11th or 12th grade male and female student. The committee made the following recommendations:

For the elementary grades and middle school they recommended:

- F.L.A.S.H. A Curriculum in Family Life and Sexual Health
- 6th Grade – Selected Lessons
- 7th Grade – Selected Lessons
- 8th Grade – Selected Lessons.

The high school books included:

- Issues That Concern You: Smoking
- Issues That Concern You: Underage Drinking
- Issues That Concern You: Date Rape
- At Issue: Performance Enhancing Drugs

- Clearing the Haze: A Teen's Guide to Smoking Related Health Issues
- Taking Responsibility: A Teen's Guide to Contraception & Pregnancy
- Staying Safe: A Teen's Guide to Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Dying for Acceptance
- A Teen's Guide to Drug and Alcohol-Related Health Issues

Other materials for the high school include DVD's:

- Reality Matters: Smoke Signals
- Reality Matters: Deadly Highs
- The Teen Files: The Truth About Sex.

**Performance Learning Center – Phoenix Program:** At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Jennifer Perkins and Ms. Nancy Griffin presented the 2010-2011 Performance Learning Center (PLC) – Phoenix Program. The Phoenix Program is a non-traditional high school offering four nine week mini-mesters. The program provides the student a chance to catch up academically and work at an individualized pace. Students in the program may earn more credits than is normally possible in the traditional high school program. It is a computer-based curriculum and project-based learning.

There are multiple criteria for participation in the program. Students must be at least 16 years old with at least one year of high school completed. The student must have credit deficiencies. The admission process begins with a referral from a teacher, self, parent, or counselor. Once referred, the student goes through an assessment test and subsequent interview.

Partnered with Communities in Schools, the Phoenix Program has a number of non-academic support programs and initiatives. Ms. Griffin briefly shared attendance incentives; life skills curriculum; mentors; guest speakers; service learning opportunities; job shadowing; internships; dual enrollment; college and career planning; parent involvement; and evaluation.

Mrs. Perkins summarized by saying that the program is designed to ensure that "All students will graduate from Rome High School prepared for college or work."

**Fifth Day Attendance:** Dr. Cooper reported on the fifth day of attendance for each school and system. He reported that there was some slight variation at each school, but the system was up by two students. The net system's attendance remains in the positive, showing stability and consistency.

**Splost III Report:** Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST III revenues. The June 2010 collections of \$438,594.40 were \$64,135.10 below projections for the month (\$502,729.50).

**Other Items:**

- Dr. Cooper presented each member of the Board with an Achievement Certificate by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) for successful school board training during the 2009-2010 school year.
- Dr. Cooper also said that the opening of school this year has been very smooth.
- Dr. Cooper announced that Rome High's football team will have its first home game on Friday, August 27th. The Wolves will host the Johns Creek Gladiators at Barron Stadium at 8:00 p.m.

**Board Actions:**

- On a Jones/Wilson motion, the Board members present unanimously approved the minutes for the July 13, 2010 regular Board meeting, and other reports.
- On a Wilson/ Huffman motion, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's Health/Sex/AIDS Education recommendation as presented by Ms. Debbie Downer.