

Board O'Gram

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Report of Rome Board of Education — Action Compiled by Dr. Robert A. Young, Director of Title I / Testing

Second Month of Attendance:

Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the second month of school. West End Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 97.46 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 96.85 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 98.50 percent.

Focus on Student Achievement: Elm Street Elementary School:

At Dr. Cooper's request, Dr. JoAnn Moss presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Elm Street Elementary School. Accompanying Dr. Moss were Ms. Laura Walley, Mr. Stephen Williams, Ms. Nancy Hiscock, Ms. Stephanie Weaver, Ms. Courtney Callaway, Ms. Kim Williams, Ms. Jennifer Coleman, Ms. Vicky Reece, and Ms. Jo Heller-Orr.

Dr. Moss began her presentation by stating that Elm Street is a close net community of teachers, paraprofessionals, students, parents, and business partners. When reviewing the faculty and staff, consider the adage, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." While relevance and rigor are important, without relationships, schools will not be successful. They spend a lot of time building the relationship element of their educational culture. They accomplish this task by making sure every student, teacher, and non-certificated employee has a "Red Shirt." Additionally, every student received a home visit from a teacher or employee of Elm Street during the first two weeks of school. Dr. Moss commented on the beauty of the school, but she wasn't just talking about mortar and tile, she was talking about the living souls who pass through the halls every day: students, teachers, custodians, lunchroom workers, volunteers, administrators, parents, maintenance workers, bus drivers and others. Activities that bring the school together as a unit consist of: Family Movie Nights on the back lawn and in the gym and school-wide performances. A musical entitled, "There's a Monster in My Closet" will be presented on October 27, 2011 at the City Auditorium starting at 7:00 p.m. Elm Street will also have a Halloween Parade that will wind through the neighborhood.

Academically, the faculty and staff at Elm Street Elementary School accept no excuses for failure. Dr. Moss reviewed the grade-level Georgia Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) results from the spring 2011 administration. She reported that while all of their scores were good, the school is working to be better. Stated CRCT goals are to achieve 90% or better in every grade and every subject.

Planning for success, the faculty and staff implement new interventions, such as connections classes in reading and math which address each student's academic needs and provide the scaffolding and support to build them up to a higher level of performance. To motivate students, the school uses iPads purchased with funds from their 2011 Title I Distinguished School Award. The iPads are used with activity-based lessons in reading and math during intervention classes. Dr. Moss echoed the system mission, "All students will graduate from Rome High School prepared for college or work." The mission of Elm Street Elementary School is to prepare every student to be ready for the middle school so the system mission can be achieved.

In closing, Dr. Moss thanked Brian Coffey for providing pictures used in the PowerPoint presentation, the City of Rome for providing the lift truck so a high profile picture could be taken, and Elm Street PTO for purchasing 650 beautiful red shirts.

Professional Learning Plan for 2011-2012:

At Dr. Cooper's request, Ms. Debbie Downer reported on Rome City Schools Professional Learning Plan for 2011-2012. She listed and thanked the members of the Professional Learning Advisory Committee: Mr. Jay Chesser, East Central; Ms. Cindy Payne, Elm Street; Ms. Carol Green, Main; Ms. Chris Rogers-White, North Heights; Ms. Katie Chappell, Southeast; Ms. LaSaunda Mullinax, West Central; Ms. Linda Gentry, West End; Ms. Karen Nichols, Rome Middle School; Ms. Pam Bibb, Rome High School; Mr. Ryan Sweeney, Rome Transitional Academy; and Dr. David Ehrler, Administrative Annex. Ms. Downer noted that the identified Professional Learning Needs for the Rome City Schools were in five areas; Common Core Math, Common Core Reading/Writing, Response to Intervention, Science, and CLASS Keys.

The training schedule and the various content areas to be included were discussed. The areas included math training in grades K-6, literacy training in grades K-6, Georgia RESA Assessment of Student Progress, and science training in grades K-8. Additionally, most of the schools are conducting book studies which are facilitated by the school principal.

In conclusion, Ms. Downer stated that training alone wasn't enough, there has to be modeling, practice, coaching and feedback for the program to be successful. The Math and Literacy Coaches provide this modeling, practice, coaching and feedback to ensure the effective implementation of best practices. She 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." Dr. Cooper congratulated Ms. Downer and her committee on an outstanding plan.

SPLOST III:

Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST III revenues. The September 2011 collections of \$421,474.90 were \$81,254.60 below the anticipated collection amount of \$502,729.50 for the period. The "project-to-date" collections are \$2,212,548.39 below the anticipated amount. Dr. Cooper stated that the collections for SPLOST III are around the half-way point. Unless the economy shows improvement, the collections may be as much as \$4.4 million dollars below the anticipated amount. Dr. Cooper reminded the audience that Rome City Schools is on a "pay as you go" plan and that the collections are adequate for paying for the construction prep work behind the high school and a new auxiliary gym. Dr. Cooper showed several photos of the new auxiliary gym and band room at Rome High School.

New Anna K. Davie Construction Site:

On a Huffman/Wilson motion, the board members present, unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's recommendation as stated. Because of the infeasibility of the previous site, the new Anna D. Davie Elementary School will be constructed at a site more centrally located for the students of the attendance zone. Dr. Cooper reviewed the original plans for the construction and the prevailing economic conditions at the time. He mapped out the changes that occurred during the unfolding of the SPLOST III packages leading up to the construction of the Anna K. Davie Elementary School which included funding and student attendance shifts. He summarized by stating that he could see only three options: build at the old site, build at a more centrally located site, or push the construction back until a consensus could be reached. From the options, he recommended a more centrally located site because it would be a safer location for girls and boys from the Anna K. Davie and Southeast school communities to attend and it would be fiscally sound.

Other Items

- Dr. Cooper noted that the annual Teacher of the Year and Support Employee of the Year Banquet will be held at Rome Middle School immediately following the Board Meeting.
- Dr. Cooper announced that the Rome High Wolves will host South Forsyth War Eagles this Friday night (10/14/11) at Barron Stadium at 8:00 p.m.
- Dr. Cooper announced that Saturday, October 22nd, is the annual Peach State Marching Festival. The Rome bands will be performing late in the evening for demonstration purposes only. They will not be competing in the competition.

Policy JGCD (Medication):

Under Unfinished Business on a Jones/Wilson motion, the board members present unanimously adopted, on second reading, Board Policy JGCD (Medication):

All medications other than the exceptions listed in this policy, whether prescription or over-the-counter, may be administered only in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the principal of each school. All medications must be taken by the student, parent or guardian to the school office immediately upon arrival at school and must be in original pharmaceutical containers, clearly labeled as to the name of the student, the name of the medication, the appropriate dosage, and the times for dosage. Any student possessing prescription or over-the-counter medication not in accordance with these guidelines will be considered in violation of the School District's drug policy and shall be subject to the discipline set forth in the student code of conduct and/or the student/parent handbook.

A student for whom the school has on file supporting medical documentation may carry at all times with parental/guardian permission inhalers for asthma, auto-injectable epinephrine for allergic reactions and medical needs for diabetes. Students authorized to self-administer such medications shall be instructed not to permit any other student to handle, possess, or otherwise attempt to use his/her medication and shall be informed that violations of such instructions will be dealt with in accordance with the student code of conduct.

In order for the student to carry and self-administer such medications, or in order for the school to store and administer the medication for students who are unable to self-administer because of age or any other reason, parents must provide a written statement from a licensed physician confirming that the student is able to self-administer the medication, if applicable, and written permission from the parent for the nurse or designated employee to consult with the doctor regarding any questions that may arise concerning the medication. Such permission shall release the

school district and its employees and agents from civil liability for administering such medication to students, or if the self-administering student suffers an adverse reaction as a result of self-administration of such medication. Parents are encouraged to provide to the schools duplicate medication and supplies in the event a student is unable to self-administer or fails to bring the medication or equipment to school.

Nurses or other school employees are authorized to administer an auto-injectable epinephrine, if available, to a student who is having an actual or perceived anaphylactic adverse (allergic) reaction, regardless of whether the student has a prescription for epinephrine. Any school employee who in good faith administers or chooses not to administer an auto-injectable epinephrine to a student in such circumstances shall be immune from civil liability.

Other Board Actions:

On a Huffman/Jones motion, the board members present unanimously approved the minutes for the September 13, 2011 regular board meeting, financial, and other reports.