

# Board O'Gram

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Report of Rome Board of Education — Action Compiled by Mr. Trevor Metzger, Director of Special Education

Mrs. Faith Collins called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. Dr. Richard Dixon gave the opening prayer. Chloe and Claire Littlejohn, Jaden Perkins, Jordan and Trey Perkins, and Lovett Self, students at West End Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

At Mrs. Collins' request, Mr. Metzger called the roll and determined that the Board had a quorum.

On a Dixon/Beeman motion, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the January 10, 2017 regular board meeting, financial, and other reports.

## **Public Recognition**

### All-State Band – Rome High School

Ms. Cheryl Huffman recognized four Rome High School students who made the All-State Band this year. Out of 8,000 students across the state, only 500 are chosen to compete at the college level in the Georgia Music Educators Association All-State Band. The performance will be March 4, 2017, at the University of Georgia.

Mrs. Amber Garlin, assistant principal for Rome High School, introduced these students and their parents.

Amy Guzman for Contrabass Clarinet/Rome High School/11<sup>th</sup> grade – daughter of Rene and Leticia Guzman

Alan Hester for Trumpet/Rome High School/12<sup>th</sup> grade – son of Mark and Donna Hester

Chris Nguyen for Clarinet/Rome High School/10<sup>th</sup> grade – son of Cuong Nguyen and Ngoc Duong

Charles Zachary Rohner for Trumpet/Rome High School/12<sup>th</sup> grade – son of Charles and Trina Rohner

### Georgia High School Association Swimming and Diving State Championships – Rome High School

Mr. Will Byington recognized Mason Hunter for his first place finish in the boys 100-yard breaststroke on Saturday, February 4, 2017. Mason won the state championship with a time of 56.66 seconds which was 0.06 seconds faster than his preliminary time.

Mrs. Garlin introduced Mason and his parents.

Mason Hunter/Rome High School/11<sup>th</sup> grade – son of Dr. William and Allison Hunter

### Boardroom Art Display

Mrs. Collins recognized the students and faculty at West End Elementary School for their artwork display in the foyer.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### Personnel

On a Dixon/Huffman motion, the Board unanimously approved Mr. Louis C. Byars' personnel recommendations:

Certified Employment 2017-2018: Hillary Daniel/RMS  
Martha Templeton/WE  
David Warren/RHS

### Focus on Student Achievement

At Mr. Byars' request, Mrs. Buffi Murphy presented the Focus on Student Achievement for West End Elementary School. Accompanying Mrs. Murphy from West End Elementary School were Ms. Rowell, Ms. Price, Ms. Stephens, Ms. Littlejohn, Ms. Watterson, Ms. Summerville, Ms. Autry, Ms. Hicks, Ms. Gore, Ms. Cumming, Mr. Futch, Ms. Cescutti, Ms. Davis, Ms. Oliver, Ms. Melillo, Ms. Jarrell, Ms. Gable, Ms. Abbott-Fuller, Ms. McDaniel, Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Edwards, Ms. Boyd, Ms. Patton, Mr. Foster, and Mr. Self.

Mrs. Murphy titled her report "The Heart of West End". Mrs. Murphy stated, "The Heart of West End begins with the students." She shared pictures of students celebrating in a combined Rome High School/West End Elementary School pep-rally, participating in extracurricular activities, and receiving an award for Young Georgia Authors from State School Superintendent Richard Wood. West End Elementary School students have many opportunities to participate in community service and extracurricular activities. Mrs. Murphy shared pictures of students participating in 5k runs, Junior Pee Wee and Pee Wee football, basketball, fifth and sixth grade math teams, *The Warrior Gazette*, and Imagine the World club. Students have also made goodie bags for patients at Harbin Clinic and packed boxes of food over the holidays for the Journey Church food pantry. Mrs. Katie Cumming, school counselor, has also started a Leadership Team for fifth and sixth grade students to facilitate the development of leadership skills.

Mrs. Murphy shared the following quote to describe West End Elementary School teachers. "Teachers who INSPIRE realize there will always be ROCKS in the road ahead of us. The rocks will be STUMBLING BLOCKS or STEPPING STONES. It all depends on how we use them." The teachers at West End Elementary School always look at the obstacles they face as stepping stones. They understand the importance of developing relationships with students and parents and the impact it has on both student morale and academic achievement. Mrs. Murphy shared many pictures throughout her presentation of teachers supporting students both inside and outside of the classroom. Inside of the classroom, West End Elementary School teachers take pride in ensuring that all students understand the material being taught and that they meet the needs of each individual learner through differentiated instruction. Teachers are also using technology with students in third through sixth grades to expand their learning opportunities.

Mrs. Murphy reviewed Georgia Milestones data from the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 assessments. West End Elementary School students consistently perform higher than the district and state across all tests at each grade level. Mrs. Murphy stated that she encourages the students to push towards receiving "distinguished" scores rather than just "proficient".

An integral part of each child's success at West End Elementary School is the parents. In addition to supporting students throughout the year in extracurricular events, parents take advantage of learning about the curriculum and content and even enjoy taking "selfies" with their children on homework nights.

In closing, Mrs. Murphy shared that, "The Heart of West End is our future!" West End Elementary School's 5-star climate rating is evidence that each student is provided a safe, supportive learning environment that allows them to develop and foster the skills they will one day need to be a successful member of this community. One day, these students will be taking care of others as nurses, teachers, doctors, and parents.

### Black History Month

At Mr. Byars' request, Mrs. Cassie Parson, Mrs. Esther Vaughn, and Commissioner Bill Collins presented on school events to celebrate Black History Month. One of the main events is the musical production, The Evolution of Freedom Through the Arts. This wonderful production features students from all schools and represents the diverse population of students who attend Rome City Schools. All students in sixth, eighth, ninth, and tenth grades will attend the production at the Rome City Auditorium during the school day on February 27, 2017. The entire community will have an opportunity to attend the production on the evening of February 27, 2017.

Mrs. Vaughn shared that Rome City Schools has a very diverse student enrollment. This production allows everyone an opportunity to understand the contributions of all and celebrate our diversity because we are all connected to the rich history of our nation.

Commissioner Collins stated that the City of Rome is a proud sponsor of this event. He also took some time to inform the Board of some great things happening in Rome and how this community truly appreciates its diversity. Commissioner Collins informed the Board that in the coming months a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be placed in the Five Points community.

In closing, Rome High School twelfth grader Alan Hester and Minister Jason Smith from Lovejoy Baptist Church played an excerpt from the production titled "A Change Is Gonna Come".

### SPLOST IV

Mr. Byars gave an update on the SPLOST IV revenues. He stated that the January 31, 2017 collections for the tax period of December 2016 were \$558,167 which was \$124,167 above projections for the month (\$434,000).

### Other Items

- The school district will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2017, for Presidents Day.

### **New Business**

#### First Reading of Proposed 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 School Calendars

On a Swann/Huffman motion, the Board unanimously approved the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 proposed school calendars on first reading.

Mr. Byars informed the Board that principals, staff, and the Superintendent's Advisory Committee worked to develop the proposed calendars. The charge was to create instructionally sound calendars taking into consideration the state testing window and trying to maintain 90 days of instruction per semester.

#### Adopt Phaseout Resolution for the Current Main Elementary School Facility

On a Beeman/Dixon motion, the Board unanimously approved the phaseout resolution for the current Main Elementary School facility.

Mr. Byars informed the Board that we will be keeping the current cafeteria and gym. Adopting this resolution allows Rome City Schools to finalize our five-year facility plan.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.