

Board O'Gram

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Report of Rome Board of Education — Action Compiled by Ms. Kristina Wilder, Public Relations Coordinator

Mrs. Collins called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Mr. Swann gave the opening prayer and Za'Keria Heath and Dallas Reppert, both third-graders at North Heights Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

On a Huffman/Swann motion, the Board members present approved the minutes for the September 19, 2017 regular board meeting, financial, and other reports.

Public Recognition

Board Room Art Display

Mrs. Collins recognized the students at North Heights Elementary School for their artwork display in the foyer.

Superintendent's Report

Attendance

Mr. Byars reported the attendance for the second month of school. West End Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 97.96 percent. At the secondary level, Rome Middle School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 96.38 percent. The school with the highest percentage of staff attendance was West End Elementary School at 99.68 percent.

Personnel

On a Jones/Huffman motion, the Board members present approved Mr. Byars' personnel recommendations:

Certified Employment 2017-2018: Leslie Velez/RMS

Classified Employment 2017-2018: Roderick Ware/ES

Focus on Student Achievement

At Mr. Byars' request, Ms. Tonya Wood presented the Focus on Student Achievement for North Heights Elementary School.

Ms. Wood began by saying that North Heights is a Title I, STEM-certified school. North Heights has always been considered a small, community school, and while it is still a community school, it did grow this year. The student body doubled in size with the addition of Main Elementary students. Plans are to

have students at North Heights for two years and then move into the new Main Elementary.

Ms. Wood explained that the Georgia Milestones scores for North Heights students were showing progress, with fewer students' scores ranking as beginning learners. The scores are "moving in the right direction," she said.

She also discussed the ways that reading is being taught and emphasized at every grade level in the school.

North Heights also was officially recognized as a STEM certified school this year. Ms. Wood said this took years of hard work and commitment to the program.

The school is in the third year of implementation of a garden, in which students plant and tend vegetables, then sell items in the front office.

First-graders are currently working on a project called Tomatosphere, in which they collect data on seeds that have been in space versus regular seeds. They will send their findings to NASA when they complete it.

Third and fifth grades are participating in Career Quest, an initiative the school started this year. They are experiencing grade-level appropriate content through career exploration.

The year has gone smoothly so far, including the combining of Main and North Heights, Ms. Wood added. Many activities at the school have helped blend the students and communities.

21st Century Community Learning Center Grant

At Mr. Byars' request, Mrs. Cassie Parson presented the ASPIRE program – After-School Program for Instruction, Resilience and Enrichment. This program is funded by a Georgia 21st Century Grant, which was awarded to the system in July 2017.

This program targets economically disadvantaged students in third through fifth grades from four elementary schools – Anna K. Davie, Elm Street, North Heights and West Central. The program is Monday through Thursday from 3:30 to 6 p.m.

The program currently has 180 students with a 10 to 1 student-teacher ratio for academic segments and a 12 to 1 student-teacher ratio for enrichment activities.

The hope is that this will improve student achievement as well as enhance students' emotional and personal growth. Additionally, the program will embed 21st Century skills outlined in our system's 2020 Vision to create well-rounded graduates of Rome High School, who are all prepared for college or work.

The program partners with several organizations, including the YMCA, which has conducted swimming lessons, soccer and Zumba. Berry College students have offered tutoring and homework assistance.

School nutrition director Ms. Brandy Money has been able to provide meals to the students as well.

This means the system provides three meals to the students per day, as well as a snack which is given to the students when the ASPIRE program starts at 3:30 p.m.

This is a very competitive, federally-funded five-year grant, Mrs. Parson explained.

On a Swann/Byington motion, the board members present voted to approve the use of the ASPIRE program grant.

On a Huffman/Byington motion, the board members present also voted to approve Brandy Money as the principal coordinator for the feeding program.

SPLOST IV

Mr. Williams gave an update on the SPLOST IV revenues. He stated that the September 2017 collections for the tax period of August 2017 were \$447,275 which was \$13,275 above projections for the month (\$434,000).

Other Items

- North Heights Elementary School will host the Principals' Meeting on Thursday, October 12, 2017.
- On Friday, October 13, 2017, the Board Luncheon will be held at North Heights Elementary School at 12:00 noon.
- The Rome Wolves football team will host the Cass Colonels on Friday, October 13, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. at Barron Stadium. (Homecoming)
- On Friday, October 20, 2017, the Rome Wolves football team will play the Villa Rica Wildcats at 7:30 p.m. in Villa Rica.
- Peach State Marching Festival will be Saturday, October 28, 2017, at Barron Stadium.
- The Teacher of the Year and Support Employee of the Year Banquet will be tonight at Rome Middle School at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.