

# Board O'Gram

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

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Mrs. Faith Collins called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. Dr. Bruce Jones gave the opening prayer and 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 Huffman/Dixon motion, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the October 11, 2016 regular board meeting, financial, and other reports.

## **Public Recognition**

### National Hispanic Recognition Program

Mrs. Elaina Beeman recognized Abigail Young for being named a National Hispanic Scholar for 2016-2017. Abigail is the daughter of Joe and Mirna Young, and she is currently completing the first semester of her senior year at Rome High School.

This National Hispanic Recognition Program honors more than 5,000 students who take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). In order to be recognized as a National Hispanic Scholar, students must earn the minimum PSAT score for their region, have a 3.5 grade point average, and be at least one-quarter Hispanic/Latino.

### National Pet Week Creative Writing Contest

Dr. Richard Dixon recognized Ava Styles for winning first place in the first grade division for her essay that was submitted in the nationwide National Pet Week Creative Writing Contest. For winning first place, Ava received a \$100.00 check. This contest is sponsored by the Auxiliary to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

Ava is the daughter of Wesley and Miranda Styles, and she is currently in the second grade at East Central Elementary School.

### Board Room Art Display

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

## **Superintendent's Report**

### Attendance

Mr. Lou Byars reported the attendance for the second month of school. West End Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 98.00 percent. At the secondary level, Rome Middle School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 96.06 percent. The

school with the highest percentage of staff attendance was Main Elementary School at 98.42 percent.

### Personnel

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

Certified Employment 2016-2017: None

Classified Employment 2016-2017: LaQuata Bowers-Jones/RHS

### Focus on Student Achievement

At Mr. Byars' request, Mrs. Lora Young presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Main Elementary School. Accompanying Mrs. Young from Main Elementary School were Dr. Washington, Ms. Merritt, Ms. West, Ms. Clark, Mr. Elliott, Ms. Rodin, Ms. Drummond, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Duke, Ms. Hooper, Ms. Elliott, Ms. Farrar, Ms. Foshee, Ms. Adams, Ms. Parker, and Ms. Wright.

Mrs. Young started her presentation with a comparison of Georgia Milestones scores from 2015 and 2016. The overall percentage of students scoring at level two or above increased fourteen points in math, eighteen points in science, and six points in social studies. A more detailed look at these scores by grade level revealed significant growth in third grade social studies, third and fifth grade science, and third grade math.

Main Elementary School has implemented a 1:1 technology initiative in Pre-K through sixth grade. Students in first through sixth grade are using the Chromebooks regularly, and Mrs. Young believes that students will now be more prepared for taking the Georgia Milestones Assessment online. Students in Pre-K and Kindergarten are using iPads in their classes throughout each school day to support instruction. All faculty and staff members are completing technology training and working towards becoming Level 1 Google Certified Educators. Mrs. Young thanked the Board for their support of the 1:1 technology initiative.

Providing students with an opportunity to collaborate, explore, and have fun are very important aspects of daily instruction at Main Elementary School. Mrs. Young shared pictures of students learning about Lewis and Clark, determining how far planets are from the sun, and making soap from scratch.

On the 50<sup>th</sup> day of school, students and teachers dressed in their best 50's attire while learning about life in the 1950's.

Mrs. Young shared how important it is for the teachers and staff at Main Elementary School to focus on the part of the child "we can't see" or about which they do not tell us. She compared this need to an iceberg in that 90% of an iceberg is underwater. Every day from 8:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. students receive important social skills instruction using the Second Step Social Skills Program. This instruction is intended to empower and inspire a generation of leaders who think, dream, believe, and achieve. In addition to this daily social skills instruction, Main Elementary School focuses on making sure students understand the importance of positive behavior through Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and the "Seven Habits" from Leader in Me.

Main Elementary School receives great support from many individuals and organizations in the community. Mrs. Young shared that the Church at Rome has “adopted” Main Elementary School. They feed the faculty once a month, support outreach events for parents and students throughout the year, and provide Christmas gifts for many of the students. Additionally, church members have completed the required volunteer training and serve as mentors to students throughout the school.

In conclusion, Mrs. Young thanked the Board for their support. The climate and culture change at Main Elementary School is resulting in an increase in student success. Mrs. Young communicated that the teachers and staff are working hard every day to ensure that “All students will graduate from Rome High School prepared for college or work.”

#### SPLOST IV

Mr. Byars gave an update on the SPLOST IV revenues. He stated that the October 31, 2016 collections for the tax period of September 2016 were \$442,066 which was \$8,066 above projections for the month (\$434,000).

#### Other Items

- The Georgia Department of Education has released the official graduation rates for 2016. Rome High School’s graduation rate for 2016 is 93%!!! This is up 3% from last year. We continue to set new records as this again was the highest rate in school history. The state average for 2016 is 79.2%.
- The schools will be closed November 21-25, 2016, for Thanksgiving Holidays.
- The school district will be closed November 23-25, 2016, for Thanksgiving Holidays.

#### **New Business**

##### First Reading of Board Policies DIE, DJD, DO, JR, JRA

On a Jones/Swann motion, the Board unanimously approved, on first reading, Board Policies DIE (Fraud Prevention), DJD (Expense Reimbursement), DO (Disposition of Property), JR (Student Records), and JRA (Student Data Privacy) as presented by Dr. Dawn Williams. Dr. Williams informed the Board that proposed Board Policies DIE, DJD, and DO have been Rome City Schools procedures, and Federal Programs are now requiring them to become policies. Dr. Williams also communicated that the Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act of Georgia requires updates to Board Policy JR and a new Board Policy, JRA, for student data privacy complaints.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.