

Board O'Gram

Vol. 40
No. 11
May 12, 2015

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

Ms. Huffman called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. Dr. Jones gave the opening prayer, and Ms. Huffman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

At Ms. Huffman's request, Mr. Metzger called the roll and determined that the Board had a quorum.

On a Sims/Dixon motion, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the April 14, 2015 regular board meeting, financial, and other reports.

Public Recognition

FCCLA State Meeting Gold Medalists

Ms. Sims announced that the Family, Career, Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders through family and consumer science education. These students all received gold medals at the FCCLA State Leadership Meeting in Athens on March 24, 2015: Jack for Illustrated Talk and Rachel and MacKenzie for Life Event Planning. Rachel and MacKenzie also scored high enough to advance to the national competition in Washington, D.C. in July.

Ms. Sims recognized the winners and their parents:

- MacKenzie Cochran/Rome High School /11th grade – daughter of Steve and Lisa Cochran
- Jack McCreless/Rome High School/9th grade – son of Scott and April McCreless
- Rachel Robinson/Rome High School/11th grade – daughter of Mike and Adrienne Robinson

Retiree Recognition

Ms. Huffman recognized the 2015 retiring teachers and support staff. Each year, at the May board meeting, the Rome City Schools Board of Education takes time to honor and recognize employees who have retired during the current school year or have indicated they will retire at the conclusion of the school year. Though it is always sad to see employees leave, the Board is happy and proud of their accomplishments and wishes them the best as they begin this new phase of their lives.

Ms. Collins provided each retiree with a pin and certificate recognizing their service. The names of the retirees are listed below:

Certified Staff:

- Barbara L. Bauerle, Special Education Teacher at Southeast Elementary School
- John W. Blankenship, Media Specialist at North Heights Elementary School

- Gregory F. Brown, Business Education Teacher at Rome High School
- Catherine L. Burell, 6th Grade Literacy Teacher at West Central Elementary School
- Nancy M. Crain, Counselor at Rome High School
- Diane Fuller, 1st Grade Teacher at Elm Street Elementary School
- John Clay Hutchinson, Special Education Teacher at Greenwood Learning Center
- Debra A. Lyons, 1st Grade Teacher at West End Elementary School
- Donna Ruth H. Martin, Math Teacher at Rome High School
- Pamela C. Peters, Music Teacher at Southeast Elementary School
- Carol C. Sharp, Science Teacher at Rome High School
- Deborah J. Shelton, Special Education Teacher at Rome High School
- Gwendolyn J. H. Stephens, Music Teacher at East Central Elementary School
- Carrie R. Wallace, Kindergarten Teacher at West Central Elementary School

Support Staff:

- Teresa Gail Buffington, Special Education Secretary at the Central Office Annex
- Alline J. Knight, School Nutrition Program Assistant at Rome Middle School

Boardroom Artwork

Ms. Huffman thanked Southeast Elementary School for having provided the Boardroom artwork for the month.

Superintendent’s Report

Attendance

Dr. Buck reported the attendance for the eighth month of school. He stated that West Central Elementary School had the highest elementary school percentage of student attendance at 97.50 percent. At the secondary level, Rome Middle School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 96.81 percent. The highest percentage of staff attendance was East Central Elementary School at 98.20 percent.

Personnel

On a Dixon/Sims motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Buck’s personnel recommendations.

Certified Re-Employment 2015-2016: See attached list.

Certified Employment 2015-2016:	Jennifer M. Campbell/NH	Mathias Nkengbeza/RMS
	Dennis B. Drummond/EC	Paul A. Pickett/RHS
	Justin D. Evans/RMS	Peter Santa Maria/RHS
	Stephanie B. Foy/RMS	Anna J. Stuart/EC
	Jonathan Barry Hall/RHS	Robbie L. Vincent/RMS
	Sonja Mangrum/RMS	

Support Employment 2015-2016: Lauren M. Thomas/RMS

Focus on Student Achievement

Per Dr. Buck's request, Dr. Phil Wood presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Southeast Elementary School. Accompanying Dr. Wood from Southeast Elementary were Ms. Danielle Tapp, Ms. Kathy Teat, Ms. Rebecca Kemnitz, Ms. Diana West, Ms. Shannon Roper, Ms. Carol Maxey, Ms. Lasaunda Mullinax, Ms. Hannah Simpson, Ms. Lisa Saroka, Ms. Martha Holder, Ms. Pam Peters, and Ms. Kristzi Kilpatrick.

Dr. Wood indicated that all components of Rome City Schools 2020 Vision are utilized at Southeast Elementary School. Teachers have high expectations for student learning. All students receive high-quality instruction that assists in their ability to become problem solvers and higher-ordered thinkers. Students often work collaboratively to learn appropriate social skills. Students are reminded throughout the day how to persevere and never give up. Dr. Wood shared a picture that is on the wall in the entrance at Southeast that encourages perseverance by asking, "What step have you reached today?" Financial literacy is taught at all grade levels so students have an understanding of how to appropriately spend and save money. Dr. Wood stressed that soft skills are the most important because they are "life skills."

Using student growth percentiles and student learning objective percentages, Dr. Wood focused on the positive growth at Southeast. In 2014, fourth grade math, fifth grade reading, and fifth grade language arts student growth percentiles at Southeast Elementary School were the highest in Rome City Schools. Dr. Wood believes that student growth percentiles will increase even more as students participate in the new Berry College three-year-old program at Anna K. Davie. In 2015, 95% of pre-K students and 90% of kindergarten students achieved expected or high growth on their student learning objectives. Dr. Wood indicated that 79% (of the 95%) of pre-K students achieved high growth.

Dr. Wood detailed the following highlights and initiatives at Southeast Elementary School:

- Students from Georgia Highlands College and Berry College work with students at Southeast Elementary School to provide small group intervention sessions in reading, language arts, and math.
- Computer-based programs such as System 44 and Front Row are also used as intervention tools in reading and math.
- Many teachers sponsor monthly book clubs to encourage students to read.
- Southeast Elementary School has fully implemented the Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports (PBIS) program. Teachers have completed professional learning using the book, "Teach Like a Champion," by Doug Lemov.
- Mrs. Kathy Teat was featured in an article in V3 Magazine for her wonderful work with pre-K students with disabilities.
- Kingdom Church International has graciously helped throughout the year with student celebrations and recognitions.

Dr. Wood concluded with a picture of students at Southeast Elementary School to emphasize the reason he and the teachers at Southeast show up to work every day. When the students leave on May 22, 2015, the next time they show up to school it will be at the new Anna K. Davie Elementary.

Summer Opportunities Program

At Dr. Buck's request, Ms. Debbie Downer reported on the 2015 Summer Opportunities Program which will be conducted June 1, 2015, through June 25, 2015 (Mondays-Thursdays). The goals of the Summer Opportunities Program are to continue student growth and help reduce the number of retentions in each grade.

The daily schedule for the students will be 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Students will receive breakfast and lunch each day. Rome Middle School students will go to East Central, West Central, or Rome Transitional Academy for classes.

The training meeting for the Summer Opportunities Program will be conducted on May 27, 2015, at East Central Elementary from 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. with Mrs. Cassie Parson, Literacy Coordinator, and Mrs. Brandy Money, School Nutrition Program Director.

Rome High School Summer School dates are June 3, 2015, through July 1, 2015. Registration is on June 1, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Student hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a cost of \$20 per ½ credit and \$30 per 1 credit.

SPLOST IV

Mr. Atha gave an update on the SPLOST IV revenues. The tax period of April 2015 collections of \$445,156.00 were \$11,156.00 above the projections for the month (\$434,000). The total collections to date equal \$5,230,621.00.

Under Other Items, Dr. Buck announced:

- The last day of school will be Friday, May 22, 2015.
- Rome High School Baccalaureate will be held at Fellowship Baptist Church on Sunday, May 17, 2015, at 4:00 p.m.
- Rome High School Graduation will be held on Sunday, May 24, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. at The Forum.
- For the sixth time in eight years, Rome High School was named a “Best High School in America” by U.S. News & World Report. Rome High was selected as a “Silver Award” winner and ranked as the 40th best high school in Georgia out of 442 high schools.

Unfinished Business

A. D. Black Scholarship

Dr. Buck announced that there were no qualified recipients for the A. D. Black Scholarship this year. The funding will remain in the scholarship fund.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.