

Board O'Gram

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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. Dixon 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 Collins/Jones motion, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the March 10, 2015 regular board meeting, financial, and other reports.

Public Recognition

Future Problem Solvers of Georgia

Dr. Dixon stated that the Future Problem Solving Program International engages students in critical thinking and creative problem solving and encourages students to develop a vision for the future.

Each competition revolves around a six-step problem solving process. The competitions are Global Issues Problem Solving, Scenario Writing, and Community Problem Solving.

Students competed with other students from around the state in a three-hour competition to solve a problem set sometime in the future. This competition requires deep critical thinking, knowledge of present and future technologies, and strong writing skills.

The following students from Elm Street Elementary School won the regional round and qualified to attend the state competition of Future Problem Solvers at the University of Georgia in Athens.

Dr. Dixon recognized the following winners and their parents:

- Taylor Hamm/Elm Street Elementary/6th grade – daughter of Angie Hamm
- Alexa Munoz/Elm Street Elementary/6th grade – daughter of Israel and Norma Munoz
- Libby Plunkett/Elm Street Elementary/6th grade – daughter of Suzanne Garrett
- Kai Sato/Elm Street Elementary/6th grade – daughter of Go and Anna Sato

Students from West End Elementary also qualified to attend the state competition at the University of Georgia after winning 4th place.

Dr. Dixon recognized the following winners and their parents:

- Jace Clowdus/West End Elementary/6th grade – son of Sheldon and Katherine Clowdus
- Trevor Kelly/West End Elementary/6th grade – son of Matthew and Stephanie Kelly

- Hayley Sanders/West End Elementary/6th grade – daughter of Hayward and Beverly Sanders
- Nyla Williamson/West End Elementary/6th grade – daughter of Ophelia Onwudine

Berry College Math Competition

Ms. Sims announced that West End's Math Team won first place at the Berry College 6th Grade Math Competition. They competed against twelve other schools. This competition has three parts: ciphering, a mixed test, and a team round. Students worked together to solve problems with speed and accuracy.

In the individual competition, Jace Clowdus placed 3rd overall and Hayley Sanders placed 2nd overall.

Ms. Sims recognized the following winners and their parents:

- Joseph Alvarado/West End Elementary/6th grade – son of Jose and Yolanda Alvarado
- Cesar Alvarez/West End Elementary/6th grade – son of Magda Alvarez
- Jace Clowdus/West End Elementary/6th grade – son of Sheldon and Katherine Clowdus
- Anna Harper/West End Elementary/6th grade – daughter of William and Norma Harper
- Abby Hart/West End Elementary/6th grade – daughter of Tom and Debbie Hart
- Trevor Kelly/West End Elementary/6th grade – son of Matthew and Stephanie Kelly
- Rene Reyes/West End Elementary/6th grade – daughter of Ana Reyes
- Hayley Sanders/West End Elementary/6th grade – daughter of Hayward and Beverly Sanders
- Kaitlyn Stahl/West End Elementary/6th grade – daughter of Matt and Andrea Stahl

MATHCOUNTS

Mr. Swann congratulated Hayley Sanders for being the only 6th grade competitor from the Northwest Georgia District to qualify to compete at the state MATHCOUNTS competition held at Georgia Tech on March 23, 2015. Hayley was a competitor at the district competition March 6 and scored among the top students. In February, Haley also won 2nd place in individuals at the Berry College competition.

Mr. Swann recognized the following winner and her parents:

- Hayley Sanders/West End Elementary/6th grade – daughter of Hayward and Beverly Sanders

Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition

Dr. Jones stated that the Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition Award has three purposes. They are: to encourage students to develop writing that represents their best efforts; provide a context for schools to support and celebrate the writing successes of all students; and encourage and recognize student achievement in writing throughout Georgia.

Students may submit essays, stories, or poems to be judged on criteria such as imagination, originality, and correctness.

We are pleased to recognize these system winners whose work, in grades K-12, will advance to the state level competition through our RESA district.

Mrs. Cassie Parson, System Literacy Coordinator, recognized the following winners and their parents:

- Audrey Krause/West Central Elementary/ Kindergarten – daughter of Daniel and Miranda Krause
- Camdyn Ely/West End Elementary / 1st grade – daughter of Jonathan Ely and Tiffany Davis
- Christopher Wade/Elm Street Elementary/ 2nd grade – son of Maggie Smith and grandson of Sherri Johnson
- Tyler Hewitt/East Central Elementary/ 3rd grade – son of Chris and Jessica Hewitt
- Kathy Truong/West Central Elementary/ 4th grade – daughter of Minh Truong and Sarah Pham
- Darlyn Morales /Elm Street Elementary/ 5th grade – daughter of Ramon Morales and Aracely Cifuentes
- LiAnna Rogers/Elm Street Elementary/ 6th grade – daughter of Tracey Rogers and Doug & Chris White
- Lillian Hubbard/Rome Middle School/ 7th grade – granddaughter of Stoney and Susan Stovall
- Olivia Vardy/Rome Middle School/ 8th grade – daughter of Richard and Kristen Vardy
- Emma Rose Bailey/Rome High School/ 9th grade – daughter of Michael and Julianne Bailey
- Abigail Young/Rome High School/ 10th grade – daughter of Dr. Joe and Mirna Young
- Zavion Pollard/Rome High School/ 11th grade – son of Michael and Gowanda Pollard
- Russell Wilson/Rome High School/12th grade – son of Thomas and Judith Wilson

Boardroom Art Display

Ms. Huffman announced that the artwork displayed in the boardroom foyer was provided by students and teachers from West End Elementary School.

Superintendent's Report

Attendance

Dr. Buck reported the attendance for the seventh month of school. West Central Elementary School had the highest elementary school percentage of student attendance at 96.57 percent. At the secondary level, Rome Middle School had the highest attendance at 95.37 percent. The highest percent of staff attendance was East Central Elementary School at 97.83 percent.

Personnel

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

Certified Employment 2015-2016:

Courtney D. Ballantine/RMS	Stephen M. Foster/WE
Elizabeth R. Bosworth/RMS	Hope "Renee" Fuller/RMS
Sarah B. Brown/RHS	Padgett S. Gilbert/RHS
April P. Eidson/RHS	Robert "Wayne" Groves/RHS
Kayla L. Elliott/MN	Eric J. Solomon/RHS
Nicholas "Nick" A. Elliott/MN	Cori D. Wagner/WE

Certified Employment 2014-2015: Christopher P. Boden/RHS

Support Employment 2014-2015: Brittany E. Sloan/EC

Dr. Buck also recognized Mrs. Kristen Teems as the new principal at East Central Elementary for the 2015-2016 school year.

Focus on Achievement

Per Dr. Buck's request, Mrs. Buffi Murphy presented the Focus on Student Achievement for West End Elementary School. Accompanying Mrs. Murphy from West End Elementary were Ms. Cumming, Ms. Turley, Ms. Fricks, Ms. Edwards, Ms. Boyd, Ms. Ray, Ms. Clark, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Gurley, Ms. Walley, Ms. Rowell, Ms. Wright, Ms. Littlejohn, Ms. Seymour, Mr. Amerman, Mr. Foster (student teacher), Ms. Strack, Mr. Kenny, Coach Hughes, Mr. Clowdus, and Ms. Farrar.

Mrs. Murphy commented that the academic success at West End is attributable to high expectations, great student and staff attendance, and curriculum that is relevant and rigorous. Mrs. Murphy's presentation involved students from West End answering the question, "What does it mean to be West End?" Being West End means:

- Persevere and never give up
- Being respectful, helping others, and taking care of our school
- Keeping your grades up and playing sports

Mrs. Murphy commented that students at West End persevere and develop important critical-thinking skills. These skills are developed through project-based learning activities, guided questions, and collaboration across all curriculum areas. Students also use technology to complete assignments and activities in their classes. Mrs. Murphy stated that teachers encourage students to "Exceed" in the curriculum.

Teachers and students have the opportunity to be involved in STEM activities. Over 100 students and parents participated in this year's Cardboard Challenge. West End had two 1st place winners for the onsite challenge (Pre-K/1st – Robot and 4th/5th – Transportation). Also, the 3rd grade received 1st place for the arcade challenge in the pre-build challenge. Another STEM activity involved 2nd graders hatching chicks in an incubator as they learned about their life cycle. The first West End STEM fair will be on May 8 for students in 2nd through 6th grades.

Additional accomplishments this year by teachers and students include:

- Math Team – 1st place finish at Berry College (3rd place in the fall)
- Future Problem Solvers – 2nd place finish at the University of Georgia
- MATHCOUNTS – state qualifier Hayley Sanders (6th grade)

Mrs. Murphy shared that the positive climate and culture of West End is attributed to positive relationships among students, staff, parents, and the community. Students help out by making sure their climate and culture is clean and presentable. Ms. Cumming has also introduced Wolves of the Week to the students at West End.

Over a two-day period, 1,000 parents visited West End for lunch. Many parents have also participated in Title 1 presentations that focused on the curriculum and Georgia Milestones. Another parental involvement program, Parent Partner Math, allows students and parents to model math problems, reflect on their learning, and send a “selfie” back to the school.

Mrs. Murphy commented that West End students have opportunities to participate in art, band, music, and different clubs. These activities help students think outside the box and become balanced, well-rounded learners. One of the most popular clubs is the Running Club which is led by Ms. Strack and Coach Hughes. In February, Floyd Medical Center displayed the art work of five students from West End.

Mrs. Murphy concluded her presentation by contributing the success of West End to the students, parents, and staff.

SPLOST IV

Mr. Atha gave an update on the SPLOST IV revenues. He stated that the March 2015 collections of \$415,256 were \$18,744 below projections for the month (\$434,000). Mr. Atha indicated that the receipts were below projections.

Investing in Educational Excellence (IE²) Letter of Intent and Resolution

Dr. Buck gave an update on flexibility options for Rome City Schools. Each local school system must notify GaDOE no later than June 30, 2015, with the flexibility option they will operate under.

Dr. Buck presented the facts and benefits of an IE² System. An IE² System enters into a performance contract with the State Board of Education (SBOE) granting the district from specific Title 20 provisions, SBOE rules, and GaDOE guidelines. The benefits of IE² include improving student achievement, flexibility to innovate, financial savings possible via waivers, and maintaining current governance structure.

On a Swann/Dixon notion, the Board unanimously approved to move forward with a letter of intent and resolution supporting an IE² System.

Under Other Items, Dr. Buck announced:

- Congratulations to Mr. Gary Jones, gifted teacher at East Central Elementary, for being selected as a top 10 finalist for the 2016 Georgia Teacher of the Year.
- On Wednesday, April 15, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. the Rome Wolves Varsity Baseball Team will play the River Ridge Knights at Legion Field.
- Lady Wolves Varsity Girls' Soccer Team will play in the first round of the region tournament tonight at 7:00 p.m. at Rome High School, weather permitting. The Wolves

Varsity Boys' Soccer Team will play the Cambridge Bears Wednesday, April 15, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. in Milton, Georgia.

- The Rome High School Prom will be at The Forum on Saturday, April 18, 2015, from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- Rome High School Drama Department will present *Beauty and the Beast* on Thursday – Saturday, April 23-25, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rome High School auditorium.
- The National Honor Society induction will be Wednesday, April 29, 2015, in the Rome High School auditorium at 6:00 p.m.
- The Rome High School jazz bands were outstanding at the Night of Dreams.

New Business

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-8, 2015. Ms. Huffman stated that the board members will be delivering apples and service pins to the teachers on Tuesday, May 5, 2015.

- Ms. Cheryl Huffman Southeast
- Mrs. Faith Collins West Central/West End
- Dr. Bruce Jones Main/Rome Transitional Academy/Phoenix Learning Center/Greenwood Learning Center/Technology Center
- Ms. Judy Sims North Heights
- Mr. Dale Swann Maintenance/Elm Street
- Dr. Richard Dixon East Central/Central Office/Annex
- Mrs. Elaina Beeman Rome High School/Rome Middle School

A. D. Black Scholarship

Ms. Huffman appointed both Mrs. Collins and Mr. Swann to work on the annual A. D. Black Scholarship Committee with Dr. Buck. The scholarship is open to students attending the Georgia Institute of Technology, who were born in Floyd County, and have at least one parent who was also born in Floyd County. Students must also have good academic standing.

National School Boards Association 75th Annual Conference Report

Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Beeman presented information from the National School Boards Association Conference. Mrs. Collins stated that it was an honor and a privilege to attend this year. Sessions that she attended included breaking educational news and hot topics, effective teaching, and educational content for the iPad to increase efficiency and productivity.

Mrs. Beeman started by giving each board member and Dr. Buck a button that said, "My school is great. Ask me why." She further explained that she attended a session about reasons why communities hate schools and the importance in identifying disconnect among schools and the communities. Mrs. Beeman invited community leaders, teachers, administrators, and parents who were in attendance to give one reason why their school is great. After everyone finished, Mrs. Beeman challenged everyone to go out and spread the word about why our schools are great.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.