

# Board O'Gram

Vol. 40  
No. 9  
Mar. 10, 2015

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

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Ms. Huffman called the meeting to order at 5:54 p.m. Ms. Beeman 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/Dixon motion, the board members present unanimously approved the minutes for the February 10, 2015 regular board meeting, financial, and other reports.

## **Public Recognition**

### System Spelling Bee

Dr. Jones announced that Marianne Delgado, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, represented Rome Middle in the Rome City School System's Spelling Bee on February 3, 2015. We are proud to announce that she was the runner-up for the entire system! Marianne is the daughter of Reden and Maribel Delgado. Congratulations, Marianne!

Dr. Jones announced that John Knauss, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, represented Rome Middle School, and **won the system spelling bee for the fourth consecutive year!** John is the son of Mark and Sunny Knauss. Congratulations, John!

John was presented the grand prize from Mr. Russ Wheeler of National Copier Exchange. National Copier Exchange has provided the grand prize for the system spelling bee winner for 25 years.

### District Spelling Bee

Dr. Jones also announced that John Knauss won the District 1 Spelling Bee for the third consecutive year at the Floyd County Board of Education building on Saturday, February 28, 2015. John will represent District 1 in the state level spelling bee on March 20, 2015.

### State Wrestling Champion - Rome High School

Dr. Dixon announced that Elijah Kerr-Brown, 12<sup>th</sup> grader, won his 2<sup>nd</sup> GHSA 5A State Wrestling Championship on February 14, 2015, in the 170-pound class. He completed the season undefeated going 45-0. He leaves the program as the most decorated wrestler for Rome High School. His overall record is 159-23. He is the first Triple Crown winner, finishing 1<sup>st</sup> in Folkstyle, Freestyle, and Greco in 2014. He is also an All American, placing 7<sup>th</sup> in Greco at the ASICS/Vaughan Cadet & Junior Nationals, the toughest tournament in the country.

Elijah is a great leader and role model. He has a 3.5 GPA and will continue both his academic and wrestling career at the University of North Carolina next year. Elijah is coached by Mr. Bryan Aspera and Mr. John Fricks. He is the son of Amanda Kerr and Javier Enriquez.

Ms. Huffman announced that the artwork displayed in the Boardroom foyer was provided by students and teachers from Rome Middle School.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### Attendance

Dr. Buck reported the attendance for the sixth month of school. West Central Elementary School had the highest elementary school percentage of student attendance at 96.89 percent. At the secondary level, Rome Middle School had the highest attendance at 95.78 percent. The highest percent of staff attendance was North Heights Elementary School at 97.46 percent.

### Personnel

On a Jones/Dixon motion, the board members present unanimously approved Dr. Buck's personnel recommendations.

Support Employment 2014-2015: Pamela Cook/ES Maggie R. Porto/ES

### Focus on Achievement

Per Dr. Buck's request, Mrs. Jennifer Perkins presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Phoenix Performance Learning Center (PLC). Accompanying Mrs. Perkins from the PLC were: Ms. Davis, Mr. Sweeney, Ms. Teasley, and Ms. Veal (Communities In Schools Coordinator). Mrs. Perkins stated that the PLC offers another road to graduation for students who can be more successful in a non-traditional high school setting. The PLC allows students the opportunity to catch up academically, work at an accelerated pace, achieve mastery learning, and even graduate early. The mission of the PLC is the same as all schools in the Rome City School System, "All students will graduate from Rome High School prepared for college or work."

Mrs. Perkins stated that the PLC has a very strong relationship with Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) sorority and the 100 Black Men of Rome. Every month these organizations bring in speakers and different college students, and they provide a strong mentor program for our students. She also said, "We are very lucky to have Ms. Veal with us through Communities In Schools to work with different businesses to provide opportunities such as mentors."

In her video presentation, the faculty, students, parents, and even former students shared the impact the PLC has had on their lives. The PLC emphasizes relationships, redemption, and acceptance on each student's path towards graduation from Rome High School (RHS). Since 2010, combinations of both the PLC and the programs and supports that have been created at RHS have led to a significant increase in the graduation rate. At the conclusion of the video, Dr. Buck stated, "I heard things like champion, believing in me, and relationships - all of those things that are so vital to help these young people be so successful."

## SPLOST IV

Mr. Atha gave an update on the SPLOST IV revenues. He stated that the February 2015 collections of \$426,299 were \$7,701 below projections for the month (\$434,000). Mr. Atha indicated that the receipts were below projections.

### **Under Other Items, Dr. Buck announced:**

- Georgia School Boards Appreciation Week is March 16-20, 2015. I want to thank our board members for their outstanding service to Rome City Schools. They do this job because they care about the boys and girls in our school system. We appreciate you very much. Each member received a certificate and recognition for their individual years of service.
- The belief of Rome City Schools is quality academic, athletics, and arts. There have been many great accomplishments in the athletics and arts. Dr. Evans, his staff, and students have recently been named an AP Stem School and AP Stem Achievement School for the **third consecutive year**.
- Spring Holidays will be March 30 - April 3, 2015.
- Rome High School's *Night of Dreams* will be Friday, April 10, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at The Forum.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### Second Reading of Proposed 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 Calendars

On a Collins/Beeman motion, the board members present unanimously approved, on second reading, the 2015-2016 School Calendar and the 2016-2017 School Calendar as presented by Dr. Buck. The key elements of the 2015-2016 calendar include: first day of school on July 31, 2015; Fall Break scheduled September 28-October 2, 2015; Thanksgiving Holidays on November 23-27, 2015; Winter Holidays on December 21, 2015-January 1, 2016; Spring Holidays will be March 28-April 1, 2016; and the last day of school will be May 20, 2016.

The key elements of the 2016-2017 calendar include: first day of school on July 29, 2016; Fall Break scheduled October 3-7, 2016; Thanksgiving Holidays on November 21-25, 2016; Winter Holidays on December 19, 2016-January 2, 2017; Spring Holidays will be March 27-31, 2017; and the last day of school will be May 19, 2017.

### **New Business**

#### Georgia School Boards Association Delegate

Ms. Huffman appointed Ms. Collins as the Rome City Schools Delegate and Dr. Jones as the Alternate Delegate for the 2015 Georgia School Boards Association Delegate Assembly in Savannah, Georgia on June 12, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.