

Board O'Gram

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Report of Rome Board of Education — Action Compiled by Dr. Dawn Kemp, Director of Special Education/ESOL

Ms. Huffman called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m. Ms. Collins gave the opening prayer, and Ms. Huffman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

On a Collins/Dixon motion, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the January 13, 2015 regular board meeting, financial, and other reports.

Public Recognition

All State Chorus (Rome Middle School)

Ms. Beeman announced that the following students were named to the Middle School All State Chorus and will represent Rome Middle School at the All State Chorus event March 5-7 in Athens, Georgia.

Mr. Christian thanked Mrs. Campbell for her direction of the choral program. Mr. Christian introduced the following students and their parents:

Josie Cole/Rome Middle School/8th grade – daughter of Joseph and Meredith Cole
Autumn Coughlin/Rome Middle School/8th grade – daughter of James and Diane Coughlin
Daniel Davis/Rome Middle School/8th grade – son of Al and Heather Davis
John Knauss/Rome Middle School/8th grade – son of Mark and Sunny Knauss
Laura McCurry/Rome Middle School/8th grade – daughter of Mac and Andrea McCurry
Sam Nisbet/Rome Middle School/8th grade – son of David and Jan Nisbet
Emma Warren/Rome Middle School/8th grade – daughter of Michael and Carie Warren
Ryan Ward/Rome Middle School/8th grade – son of Jeff and Jenny Ward

All State Chorus and All State Reading Chorus (Rome High School)

Ms. Huffman stated that Rome High School has an awesome tradition of sending a high number of students to participate in the Georgia Music Educators Association All State Chorus and All State Reading Chorus. This year, 13 students were selected by audition to participate in the Reading Chorus, and 27 will participate in the All State Chorus.

Dr. Evans praised Mr. Salter for his direction of the choral program at Rome High School. Dr. Evans introduced the following students and their parents:

All State Chorus (Rome High School):

Lydia Bailey/Rome High School/11th grade – daughter of Michael and Julianne Bailey
Matthew Boyd/Rome High School/10th grade – son of Tony and Brenda Boyd
Isabella Carlton/Rome High School/9th grade – daughter of David Carlton and Dagmar Schmitz-Carlton
Nicholas Carlton/Rome High School/11th grade – son of David Carlton and Dagmar Schmitz-Carlton

Abigail Childers/Rome High School/10th grade – daughter of Barry and Tammy Childers
Andrew Davis/Rome High School/11th grade- son of John and Susan Davis
Anna Davis/Rome High School/12th grade – daughter of Al and Heather Davis
Evan Davis/Rome High School/12th grade- son of John and Susan Davis
William Douglas/Rome High School/10th grade – son of Jimmy and Laurie Douglas
Brady Drake/Rome High School/12th grade – son of John and Lori Drake
Nicholas Ehmann/Rome High School/12th grade – son of Graham and Jennifer Ehmann and Karen Dobson
Bryan Escutia/Rome High School/12th grade – son of Saturino and Maria Escutia
Christopher Fincher/Rome High School/12th grade – son of Susan Fincher
Giavanna Gonsalves/Rome High School/10th grade – daughter of Michael and Deena Gonsalves
Martin Guzman/Rome High School/10th grade – son of Martin and Maria Guzman
Katherine Head/Rome High School/12th grade – daughter of John and LeeAnn Head
Alan Hester/Rome High School/10th grade – son of Mark and Donna Hester
Alex Hodges/Rome High School/10th grade – son of Wanda Cantrell
Rachel McCurry/Rome High School/10th grade – daughter of Mac and Andrea McCurry
Matthew Nedvin/Rome High School/12th grade- son of Brian and Karin Nedvin
Cannon Rogers/Rome High School/9th grade – son of Chip and Kathy Rogers
Zac Rohner/ Rome High School/10th grade – son of David and Trina Rohner
Lisa Shoemaker/Rome High School/11th grade – daughter of Mathew and Pam Shoemaker
Marlee Smith/Rome High School/12th grade- daughter of Rob and Renee T. Smith
Jarrett Swanson/Rome High School/9th grade – son of Mark and Susan Swanson
Ian Van Riper/Rome High School/10th grade – son of Jurian and DeAnne Van Riper
Brant Wheeler/Rome High School/12th grade – son of Tod and Vanessa Wheeler

All State Reading Chorus (Rome High School):

Matthew Boyd/Rome High School/10th grade – son of Tony and Brenda Boyd
Nicholas Carlton/Rome High School/11th grade – son of David Carlton and Dagmar Schmitz-Carlton
Abigail Childers/Rome High School/10th grade – daughter of Barry and Tammy Childers
Andrew Davis/Rome High School/11th grade- son of John and Susan Davis
Anna Davis/Rome High School/12th grade – daughter of Al and Heather Davis
Evan Davis/Rome High School/12th grade- son of John and Susan Davis
Brady Drake/Rome High School/12th grade – son of John and Lori Drake
Christopher Fincher/Rome High School/12th grade – son of Susan Fincher
Alan Hester/Rome High School/10th grade – son of Mark and Donna Hester
Jessica Lewis/Rome High School/12th grade – daughter of Bobby and Beth Lewis
Matthew Nedvin/Rome High School/12th grade – son of Brian and Karin Nedvin
Marlee Smith/Rome High School/12th grade – daughter of Rob and Renee T. Smith
Ian Van Riper/Rome High School/10th grade – son of Jurian and DeAnne Van Riper

After the presentation of certificates to the chorus students, the group performed an outstanding musical selection, “Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal.”

Ms. Huffman announced that the artwork displayed in the Boardroom foyer was provided by students from West Central Elementary School. Ms. Huffman also recognized the members of Leadership Rome who were in attendance at the meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Attendance

Dr. Buck reported the attendance for the fifth month of school. West End Elementary School had the highest elementary school percentage of student attendance at 96.49 percent. At the secondary level, Rome Middle School had the highest attendance at 96.25 percent. The staff with the highest percentage of attendance was North Heights Elementary School at 97.75 percent.

Personnel

On a Dixon/Collins motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Buck's personnel recommendations:

Certified Employment 2015-2016: Ashley Hamby/RMS
John Reid/RHS

Support Employment 2015-2016: Louis C. "Lou" Byars/CO
Thurman E. Morris/Transportation

Focus on Student Achievement

Mrs. Leslie Dixon presented on the achievement at West Central Elementary School. In attendance with Mrs. Dixon were: Ms. Carpenter, Ms. Hammonds, Ms. Lawson, Ms. Nation, Ms. Riddle, Ms. Colbert, Ms. Cromer, Ms. Austin, Ms. Hufstetler, Ms. Campbell, Mr. Bowen, Mr. Price, Ms. Price, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Uldrick, Ms. Wilkinson, Ms. Galang, Ms. Burell, Ms. Skeen, Ms. Meadows, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Miller, Ms. Hugo, Ms. Cole, Ms. Cipolla, Ms. Jackson, Ms. Davis, Ms. Threadgill, Ms. Mann, Ms. Ferrell, Ms. Reaves, Ms. Wallace, Ms. Ingram, Ms. Dean, Ms. Carr, and Ms. Self.

Mrs. Dixon said the focus at West Central Elementary School is "Every Child, Every Day!" West Central Elementary School was named a 2015 Georgia Reward School for demonstrating highest progress over 3 years. West Central Elementary School is a highly diverse school with 55% Hispanic, 23% African-American, 13% White, 5% Multiracial, and 3% Asian students. There are 189 English Learners, 46 students with disabilities, and 98% free or reduced lunch students. There are 735 students at West Central Elementary School.

The key to the success at West Central Elementary School is a focus upon best practices, being data driven, valuing collaboration, and emphasizing real-world experiences. Best practices in literacy include: Writers' and Readers' Workshop, Differentiated Phonics, Guided Reading, Leveled Literacy Instruction, and Lucy Calkins Units of Study. Ms. Dixon illustrated the elements of differentiated phonics at various grade levels through video clips.

Math best practices include: Engage New York Curriculum Modules and fact fluency. English learners are provided with support in math with a dedicated ESOL paraprofessional. Science and social studies emphasize project-based learning, visual aids, technical vocabulary, opinion writing, close reading of content texts, debate, and hands-on experiences. Next year, Ms. Dixon would like to develop a STEM lab.

West Central Elementary School teachers have a focus on data-driven instruction through the implementation of two new initiatives, data team and data spreadsheets. The data team meets

monthly and contains a mixture of math and literacy teachers. The focus of the team is to pinpoint students in need of significant remediation. The team reviews interventions and suggests additional strategies and remediation. Data spreadsheets are all reviewed in Google Drive.

West Central Elementary School also believes heavily in parent involvement and training. As a result, the following workshops for parents have been provided: PowerSchool training, assessment meetings, parent math training, family math night, and family science night.

Teachers at West Central Elementary School have participated in the following professional development: Teacher Keys, CCRPI, WIDA standards, collaborative planning, Longitudinal Data System, and content-area training. Teachers have built ties with the community through a number of exciting activities including: Jump Rope for Heart, Salvation Army Can-a-thon, Black History Program, RISE, Georgia Hop, and Kids with Character.

Students are participating in a number of real-world experiences including: field trips; the Step Team; the Lego Team; Mayor for a Day; Future Problem Solvers; and Trunk, Treat, and Read. Ms. Dixon concluded her presentation by reiterating the goal of meeting the needs of, "Every Child, Every Day!" All students will graduate from Rome High School prepared for college or work.

Celebrating Black History Month

Per Dr. Buck's request, Ms. Debbie Downer reported on school activities in celebration of Black History Month. Below is just a sampling of the activities that the schools will participate in during the month:

East Central Elementary School students completed posters regarding famous African-Americans such as Harriet Tubman, Jackie Robinson, and Dizzy Gillespie as a part of a contest. There were several winners.

Elm Street Elementary School has a display of books featuring different African-American role models from the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Many of the books have been purchased through the Striving Readers Grant.

Main Elementary School students will conduct a program on February 25, 2015, titled, "Looking Beyond the Dream." The emphasis is on the dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students will also give their own dreams.

Southeast Elementary School students are conducting a ball on February 26 featuring African-American heroes.

West Central Elementary School students conducted a school play celebrating Black History Month.

Rome Middle School students are celebrating the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and their contribution to the American military.

SPLOST IV

Mr. Atha gave an update on the SPLOST IV revenues. He stated that the December 2014 collections of \$531,015 were \$97,015 above projections for the month (\$434,000).

Under Other Items, Dr. Buck announced:

- Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce Confluence Conference will be Thursday and Friday, February 19-20, 2015.

New Business

Proposed Calendar for 2015-2016 & 2016-2017

On a Swann/Dixon motion, the Board unanimously approved, on first reading, the proposed 2015-2016 School Calendar and the proposed 2016-2017 School Calendar as presented by Dr. Buck. The key elements of the proposed 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 proposed 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.

Dr. Buck indicated that the calendars represented balanced instructional time in each semester. He also indicated that a two-year calendar would assist parents and teachers in long-range planning.

Resolution to Revise Main Cafeteria Capital Outlay Project

Mr. Steve Atha provided the Board with the following information regarding the Main Cafeteria and state capital outlay funds:

1. State capital outlay funds are appropriated by the legislature to help local school systems with educational facilities as documented in the school systems local facilities plan.
2. The amount claimed via the FY 15 Capital Outlay Application is \$2,556,282 and contains: Main Elementary New Cafeteria \$233,994.
3. It was previously contemplated that the Main Cafeteria would be demolished and rebuilt. Therefore, a phase-out resolution for the Main Cafeteria was established.
4. It has since been resolved to expand and renovate the existing Main Cafeteria, also known as Main Elementary Building 2040.
5. The FY 15 Capital Outlay Application must be revised to reflect the above in order to obtain capital outlay funds.
6. The Main Elementary Cafeteria, Building 2040, must be restored to the facility plan before construction on the project may commence.

On a Beeman/Jones motion the Board unanimously approved the resolution to revise the Main Elementary Capital Outlay Project. The objective of the resolution is to restore the existing Main Elementary Cafeteria (Building 2040).

Resolution to Oppose the State of Georgia's Transportation Funding Act of 2015

The proposed House Bill 170 would have significant economic consequences on the SPLOST revenues being collected by Rome City Schools and other school systems. House Bill 170 is designed to take the revenues from local sales tax that would be generated for SPLOST and E-SPLOST in order to fund transportation infrastructure. If motor fuel is removed or exempted from local sales tax, as proposed, Rome-Floyd County could lose \$3,073,165 annually. Rome City could have an E-SPLOST loss of \$490,370.

Rome City Schools drafted a resolution strongly urging the Georgia General Assembly and our local delegation to oppose any provision or measure to reduce allocations of sales tax funding to local governments.

On a Swann/Beeman motion the Board unanimously approved the resolution.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.