

Board O'Gram

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

Prior to the meeting, a group of talented third graders from North Heights Elementary School performed a musical selection from Disney's movie, *Frozen*. The selection was also performed in the Winter PTO program in December at North Heights. The third grade singers are under the direction of Mr. Jody Boutwell and Mrs. Brittany Little. The singers were Jamia Chaney, Jaazaniah Chaney, and Maggie Lowery.

Ms. Huffman called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. Mr. Swann 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 December 9, 2014 regular board meeting, financial, and other reports.

Ms. Huffman recognized the members of Leadership Rome who were in attendance at the Board meeting.

Public Recognition

Cyber Patriot Team

Dr. Dixon announced that cadets from Rome High School's Air Force JROTC Unit GA-957 recently concluded an exceptional round of competition in the seventh season of CyberPatriot – the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. In all, 2,175 teams registered to compete in CyberPatriot VII, including 23 teams from Georgia.

The CyberPatriot team excelled in the State Round held December 5-7, demonstrating teamwork, critical thinking skills, and technical knowledge key to a successful career in cyber security. The team's performance earned it Georgia's 1st Place Award. Dr. Evans thanked Colonel Washington and Sergeant Thrash for their excellent work in developing the ROTC program.

Dr. Dixon stressed that we are all incredibly proud of Cadets Kane Bearden, Kyle Banks, Lauren Gaston, Henry Rodriguez, and Tristyn Jordan who comprise Rome's first-ever CyberPatriot Team. We are grateful to Georgia Highlands for allowing Mr. Richard Davis, Mr. Mike Peterson, and Mr. Josh Rumphol to serve as Mentors for our team as they invest themselves in a new generation of Cyber Defenders. We all look forward to taking the team to new heights in the coming year.

Dr. Evans introduced the following cadets and their parents for recognition:

Cadet Kane Bearden/Rome High School/12th grade – son of Heather Rathbun

Cadet Kyle Banks/Rome High School/12th grade – son of David Banks and Mary Hartman
Cadet Lauren Gaston/Rome High School/10th grade – daughter of Jennifer Cole
Cadet Henry Rodriguez/Rome High School/9th grade – son of Guadalupe Escutia
*Cadet Tristyn Jordan/Rome High School/9th grade – son of Nicola Jordan
*Tristyn has since moved and was unable to attend.

Colonel Washington provided the cadets with certificates and honor coins.

Ms. Huffman recognized North Heights Elementary School for presenting a display picturing students completing project-based STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning activities across the school year.

Superintendent's Report

Georgia School Boards Association- Board Recognition Program

Dr. Buck recognized the Rome City School Board members for meeting the qualifications for being a Georgia School Boards Association Quality Board.

Attendance

Dr. Buck stated that the fifth month of school attendance would not be reported because the fifth month of school would not be completed until January 15, 2015. The report will be given at the February Board meeting.

Personnel

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

Support Employment 2014-2015: Edward Coddington/RHS

Focus on Student Achievement

Per Dr. Buck's request, Ms. Tonya Wood presented the Focus on Student Achievement for North Heights Elementary School. Accompanying Ms. Wood from North Heights was: Ms. Burger, Ms. Ferguson, Ms. Smith, Ms. Lizin, Ms. Little, and Mr. Boutwell.

Ms. Wood began her presentation by referencing North Heights Elementary School's status as a Title I Distinguished School. She indicated that North Heights Elementary School is a small community school in its second year of working toward becoming a STEM certified school. STEM is a program that integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics into the school's curriculum. There is a national campaign for students to graduate high school with stronger skills in the STEM fields. These fields are a necessity in the job market today! Corporate sponsorships are a huge part of becoming a STEM certified school. Sponsorships and collaboration assure real-world applications for our science curriculum, access to the latest information, professional development for teachers, and assistance with resources. Current sponsorships include: Georgia Power, Suhner, OTR, GYSTC, Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful, Cedar Valley Container, and Southern Heritage.

STEM schools are characterized by their mutuality and symbiosis. Engineers work with students to provide real-world guidance. Engineers work with teachers collaboratively to plan student activities and instruction. As a result of the collaboration, North Heights Elementary School can educate students who are more capably prepared for STEM careers.

Professional development is another key component of the STEM model. North Heights Elementary School is using the text, STEM Lesson Essentials, Grade 3-8: Integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, to provide professional development during the 2014-2015 school year.

North Heights Elementary School's faculty views project-based learning as the vehicle for effective STEM instruction. Project-based learning allows teachers to focus on multi-disciplinary instruction in which students learn through the application of real-world problem solving. Students are the leaders of projects with teachers serving as facilitators. Communication and collaboration are emphasized and a real-world workplace is simulated.

Students at North Heights Elementary School in the second grade have completed a project-based learning activity titled, "Living Museum". The second grade students were completing the project based on the driving question, "If you could travel back in time, what knowledge would you need to live with the Creeks?" The museum featured artifacts and experiences of the Creek and Cherokee Native Americans. Students served as tour guides through the museum and wore traditional Native-American clothing. As a part of their unit, second graders published a book entitled Tomochichi. The book provided details on the life of Tomochichi, a leader of the Creek people.

Second graders also completed a bridge construction unit. Students began by observing the features of bridges in downtown Rome. Students then constructed bridges out of index cards and identified the forces of motion acting on the bridges. After reading Bartholomew and the Oobleck on Engineering Day, students then used their knowledge to make economic choices for purchasing supplies and constructing a bridge.

Sixth graders at North Heights Elementary School participated in a project-based learning unit on the book, The Great Fire. Students investigated the interaction of poverty and urban congestion in the development of a catastrophic fire. Students constructed a timeline of the events of the massive fire that engulfed Chicago in 1871.

Current school-wide STEM projects at North Heights Elementary School include Project Green STEM, School Gardens, and the Outdoor Classroom. Future project goals include the development of an irrigation system (6th grade), Manhattan project (5th grade), Leadership project (3rd grade), Popcorn Store (2nd grade), and School Supply Store (2nd grade).

North Heights Elementary School conducted two Engineering Days last year. The goal for this year is to conduct four Engineering Days. Two have already been completed. Parent support is critical to enabling North Heights Elementary School to become a STEM certified school. In an effort to assist parents in working with students, North Heights Elementary School has focused its Parent Workshops upon enhancing understanding of project-based learning. Parental understanding was supported by having parents tour the school to see all of the current projects and complete an engineering activity.

SPLOST IV

Mr. Atha gave an update on the SPLOST IV revenues. The November 2014 collections of \$458,204 were \$24,204 above projections for the month (\$434,000). Project to date collections were \$3,412,895 which were \$59,105 below overall projections.

Anna K. Davie Elementary Update

Dr. Buck provided the Board with a video presentation of the exciting construction at the new Anna K. Davie Elementary School. The state-of-the-art facility will feature spacious classrooms, cutting-edge technology, and classrooms that are well-equipped for 21st century learners.

Dr. Buck indicated that the construction should be completed in the next three months. At that time, the school can begin to be organized with materials to be ready for students at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.

Other Items

- Rome High School girls' and boys' basketball teams will host the Dalton Catamounts tonight at 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. respectively.
- Rome High School's swim team will host Cherokee/Woodstock (Rome Senior Night) on Thursday, January 15, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. at Rome High School.
- Rome High School girls' and boys' basketball teams will play the River Ridge Knights on Friday, January 16, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. respectively.
- The Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday is January 19, 2015. Please attend activities and service opportunities in the area.

New Business

Memorandum of Agreement

Dr. Buck reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) By and Between the Rome City School System, Berry College, and South Rome Redevelopment Corporation, Incorporated. The original agreement was developed previously with Dr. Gayland Cooper and representatives from Berry College, South Rome Redevelopment Corporation, Inc., and Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC). The original MOA included three classrooms for three-year-olds and two adult learning classrooms. In the December Board meeting, Dr. Jackson indicated that some revisions were needed to the MOA. The revisions required for the MOA include removal of the Adult Learning Center. GNTC has deemed the proximity of the Anna K. Davie Elementary School campus to be close enough for adults to access the Adult Learning Center on the GNTC campus. As a result, GNTC will not be participating in the Early Learning Program at Anna K. Davie Elementary School.

An additional revision indicated is the addition of the Urban Education Program, as developed by Berry College, to the Anna K. Davie Elementary School campus. The purpose of this program will be to educate prospective beginning teachers to provide them with experiences in effectively working with students in an urban setting.

Finally, there was a suggestion that the timeline for the MOA be extended due to construction delays with the Anna K. Davie Elementary School. Dr. Buck recommended that the Board of Education adopt the changes to the MOA. On a Collins/Jones motion the Board approved the MOA.

Dr. Buck indicated that the new programs at Anna K. Davie Elementary School will have the potential to bring in support for students from across the state.

Construction Manager at-risk for Main Elementary Cafeteria

At Dr. Buck's request, Mr. Atha presented on the process of determining a construction manager at-risk for the Main Elementary School cafeteria project. SPLOST IV has enabled Rome City Schools to undertake projects to improve infrastructure. Projects must be prioritized based upon need with input from community advisors. SPLOST IV also enables Rome City Schools to pay for projects as they are undertaken. One project of high priority is the renovation of the cafeteria at Main Elementary School. On November 17, 2014 a request for proposal was published for the purpose of selecting a construction manager at-risk for the project. Rome City Schools received two proposals for the estimated \$1.1 million dollar project. Based on the evaluation of the proposals submitted by Pinson's and J & R Construction, it is recommended that J & R Construction be awarded the contract for the Main Elementary Cafeteria and Kitchen Addition Project. On a Collins/Dixon motion the Board unanimously approved J & R Construction as the construction manager at-risk.

The project is estimated to start in February and end in July 2015.

Sarah Hightower Regional Library Board Appointment

Dr. Michael L. Buck will fill the unexpired term of Dr. Jeffrey Bearden until June 30, 2016.

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