

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 5:54 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 August 11, 2015 regular board meeting, financial, and other reports.

Public Recognition

Coosa Valley Fair Association Art Fund Presentation

Mr. Kirk Milam, immediate past president of the Coosa Valley Fair Association, presented Rome City Schools with a \$900 Art Supplies Grant check from the Rome Exchange Club and Coosa Valley Fair Association. Mr. Milam stated that he and the Fair Association want to continue to encourage all Rome City Schools students to prepare art projects and photography to enter in the annual Coosa Valley Fair which will be held in the fall of 2015.

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) National Leadership Conference

Dr. Dixon announced that two Rome High School students won awards at the HOSA State Leadership Conference and the HOSA National Leadership Conference in California.

MacKenzie Temple won first place in Medical Photography and the HOSA State Leadership Conference in Athens. She went on to compete against the top three in her category from every state and from other countries such as Italy, Canada, and Qatar. MacKenzie placed seventh in her category.

Crystal Kim won second place in Medical Reading at the HOSA State Leadership Conference in Athens. She went on to compete in the HOSA National Leadership Conference in California and won first place in the Nation. She even beat out the top state winner from Georgia. She is invited to have lunch with the State School Superintendent in September.

Dr. Phillip Brown, Principal of Rome High School, recognized the winners and their parents:

- Crystal Kim/Rome High School/12th grade – daughter of James and Connie Kim
- MacKenzie Temple/Rome High School/10th grade – daughter of Joseph and Alethea Temple

Rome High School Student Heroes

Mrs. Beeman announced that on Monday, June 29, 2015, Rome High graduate and former baseball player Austin Linatoc and rising junior Sarah Eichenberger of the Health Occupations program and swim team were working as lifeguards at Northside Swim Center. During the course of their day, they were alerted to a child who was unresponsive in the water. Instantly, Eichenberger pulled the

child, seven-year-old Luis Padron, from the pool and began Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation. Linatoc then took over CPR while Eichenberger readied the Automated External Defibrillator. The two teens continued resuscitation until Emergency Medical Service personnel arrived.

Padron was transported to Floyd Medical Center and then airlifted to an Atlanta hospital. He was released from the hospital on July 16. On Tuesday, August 4, 2015, HometownHeadlines.com reported that Padron was set to start school at West End Elementary the next day.

Rome City Schools congratulates Austin Linatoc and Sarah Eichenberger for their quick response, superlative professionalism, and heroic actions.

It is worth noting that this is the second time in the recent past that Rome High School students have performed a rescue operation. In the 2013-2014 school year, baseball players Alan Loveman and Zach Cook rescued a baby locked in a hot car by breaking out a window with a bat to free the child.

This story was compiled by the Rome High School journalism staff with research from the Rome News-Tribune, HometownHeadlines.com and interviews with Eichenberger and Linatoc. More information will be coming soon as RomeHighNews.net relaunches this month.

Dr. Phillip Brown, Principal of Rome High School, recognized the heroes and their parents:

- Sarah Eichenberger/Rome High School/11th grade – daughter of Kurt and Rhonda Eichenberger
- Austin Linatoc/Rome High School/Graduate – son of Anthony Linatoc

Board Room Art Display

Ms. Huffman recognized Elm Street Elementary School for the artwork presented in the entrance atrium.

Superintendent's Report

Personnel

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

Certified Employment 2015-2016:	Jacqueline Cruz-Boris/ES	Desiree G. Jones/RHS
	Lindsey E. Davis/AKD	Kena L. Womack/RHS
	Amber R. Garlin/RHS	

Support Employment 2015-2016:	Kevin Boatner/WE	Hannah B. Phillips/RHS
	Chase M. Bowles/ES	Anthony P. Potts/WE
	J. Chad Foshee/EC	Blaine C. Storey/RHS
	Joel A. Hargett/Technology	Kendra A. Straughn/RMS
	Marcellus A. Jones/RTA	

Focus on Achievement

Per Dr. Buck's request, Dr. JoAnn Moss presented the Focus on Student Achievement for Elm Street Elementary School. Accompanying Dr. Moss from Elm Street Elementary were Ms. Walley, Ms. Smith, Ms. Black, Ms. DeVille, Ms. Tatum, Ms. Greenway, Ms. Reece, Ms. Lizin, Ms. Hemphill, Ms. Powell, Ms. White, Ms. Berry, Ms. Ray, Ms. Arrington, Ms. Sargent, Ms. Weed, Ms. Alred, Ms. Connell, Ms. Clark, Mr. Raines, Mr. Williams, Ms. Loveman, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Forsyth.

Dr. Moss began her presentation with a preview video on the students, faculty, and facility of Elm Street. Dr. Moss entitled her report, "Elm Street Elementary, Ninety-Two Years and Counting".

Dr. Moss focused on student and staff celebrations at Elm Street. Based on ACCESS scores, thirty-four students exited the EL program. In all, one hundred eight students showed positive growth by moving one or more bands and sixty-one students showed high growth by moving more than one band. Elm Street students also won the Rome City Schools Young Georgia Author Competition at three grade levels. Staff celebrations include Ms. Arrington and Ms. Greenway being recognized as STAR Discovery Educators. Ms. Greenway has also been named as one of the top three finalists to be named the Georgia Stem Laureate. Also, Ms. Atkinson was recognized as the Atlanta Falcons First Down for Fitness Teacher of the Year and Mr. Franklin had an article published in the Council of Exceptional Children Journal.

Elm Street administrators, teachers, and staff focus on the three "R's" of education: Relationship, Rigor, and Relevance. While relationships with students and parents is a celebration for Elm Street, rigor and relevance are challenges that the teachers and staff work hard to improve. One of the ways that Elm Street works to improve the rigor and relevance is through their Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics program (STEM). Some of the current and future STEM projects at Elm Street include bridge building, velocity and friction, environmental studies and solutions, cardboard challenge, coding, robotics, organic gardening, and 3-D printing.

Currently, first grade students have created their own business, Sugar Kids Beauty. The business started with a grant of \$1,000 and the product is a sugar scrub exfoliator. Elm Street students are using natural resources from the garden as an ingredient for the exfoliator. This project at Elm Street is the only elementary school in the United States that received funding from the start-up grant. Other jobs that students have within this business are product selection, testing, web design, web sales, creative design, irrigation, packaging, accounting, and marketing analysis. Any profits from sales of the sugar scrub exfoliator will go back into the company or will be donated to a charity.

Another STEM activity that fifth grade students at Elm Street are completing requires the use of a 3-D printer. These students have partnered with Berry College to complete a 3-D investigation unit that required them to design a product that will keep pencils from falling off student desks. Students used precise measurements, made prototypes from cubes, made computer renderings from mathematical drawings, and finished by printing their designs.

Elm Street Elementary School works hard to develop relationships with parents and students and uses STEM to create real-world, rigorous activities that allows students to be creative problem solvers.

Young Scholars Program

Per Dr. Buck's request, Mrs. Holly Amerman presented information about the eleventh annual successful Young Scholars Program. Four local colleges and universities participated in hosting Rome City Schools students (i.e., Berry College, Georgia Northwestern Technical College, Shorter University, and Georgia Highlands College). In recent years, STEM has been added to each camp's curriculum. There were a number of impressive guest speakers/presenters at the Young Scholars Academy including the following: Ms. Viola Ibarra (Georgia Power), Lt. Col. David Wright (President, Spectrum Education, LLC), Ms. Mary Hardin Thornton (Keep Rome/Floyd Beautiful), Mr. Frank Pharr (Dean of Academic Affairs Georgia Northwestern Technical College), Dr. Mark Knauss (Professor of Biology, Georgia Highlands College), Rome/Floyd Recycling Center, and Berry Dairy.

Fifth graders participating in Young Scholars conducted activities involving building towers, cleaning oil spills, and solar tubes. Sixth graders conducted activities involving parachutes, gravity, design models, recycled racers, and the design of filters for dirty river water. Seventh graders ventured into the area of dissection, worked with microscopes, and epidemiology. Eighth graders completed activities about the science of flight, design of a helmet to protect the brain, and process engineering. The sixth, seventh, and eighth grade camps used the curriculum, Engineering is Elementary.

There were a number of people who helped to make the Young Scholars Program successful including the following: Dr. Mike Buck, Rome Board of Education, high school volunteers, Mrs. Angela Guilford, Mrs. Brandy Money, Mrs. Leigh Langley, Mr. Christian, Mr. Wilkinson, Mrs. Kristen Teems, Mr. Randy Nobles, Mr. Dudley Freeman, and the parents of the students who participated.

IE² Update

Per Dr. Buck's request, Dr. Kemp presented a timeline for the IE²/Strategic Waivers School System.

- August 18, 2015 – Notice of public hearing of Strategic Waiver School System sent to principals and posted on website
- September 8, 2015 – Public hearing regarding Waiver Application at 5:45 p.m. during the regular Rome Board of Education meeting at the Central Office
- September 10, 2015 - Draft Waiver Application to Georgia Office of Student Accountability (GOSA) and Georgia Department of Education (DOE)
- TBD – GOSA and DOE contacts Dr. Buck, Dr. Kemp, and Mr. Byars for any corrections requested for the Waiver Application
- TBD – DOE/GOSA place the Rome City Schools Waiver on the State Board of Education Agenda
- TBD – Dr. Buck, Dr. Kemp, and Mr. Byars will participate in the State Board of Education Meeting via phone conference
- TBD – DOE/GOSA will send an approval of the Rome City Schools Waiver to Dr. Buck

Enrollment for 2015-2016

Dr. Buck reported that Rome City Schools had a total of 5,980 students on the seventh day of school, including Pre-K students. The system enrollment has decreased by twenty-seven students since the previous year.

SPLOST IV

Mr. Byars gave an update on the SPLOST IV revenues. He stated that the July 2015 collections of \$20,564 were \$413,436 below projections for the month (\$434,000). The actual collections for June 2015 was \$472,776. There was a refund to a local business for overpaid taxes in the amount of \$452,212 before the Rome City Schools collection. Out of the refunded amount, it is estimated that \$290,542 was to account for overpaid taxes and \$161,670 was interest due to the entity that overpaid.

Under Other Items, Dr. Buck announced:

- Thanks to our teachers and administrators for a safe, wonderful school opening. It takes a great deal of planning and coordination, and I appreciate everyone's efforts.
- Open House Dates:
 - Rome Middle School – Monday, August 17, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 - All Elementary Schools – Tuesday, August 18, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
 - Rome High School/RTA/PLC/GLC – Thursday, August 20, 2015, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- On Friday, August 14, 2015, at Barron Stadium, the Rome High School Wolves will host the Calhoun Yellow Jackets in a scrimmage game at 7:30 p.m.
- The Rome High School Wolves will play the Villa Rica Wildcats in Villa Rica on Friday, August 21, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.

New Business

Adopt Local Board Training Plan for 2015-2016

On a Collins/Dixon motion, the board members present unanimously approved the Local Board Training Plan for 2015-2016. The Board will participate in the Georgia School Boards Association School Law Workshop on December 3, 2015. The Board will also participate in whole board training in the spring of 2016.

First Reading of Proposed Board Policy JGJA (Suicide Prevention)

On a Jones/Dixon motion, the board members present unanimously approved, on first reading, the proposed Board Policy JGJA (Suicide Prevention). Mr. Byars, working closely with Ms. Kirsten Thornante presented Board Policy JGJA. The key elements of the proposed Board Policy include the following: annual training for all certificated personnel in suicide awareness and prevention and development of procedures to address suicide prevention efforts (including intervention and postvention).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.