

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 5:46 p.m. Mr. Swann gave the opening prayer, and Ms. Huffman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

In honor of Veterans Day, Ms. Huffman thanked all of those who served in defense of our country and all who have family members serving our country in the military and other related departments that preserve our freedom. Many have lost their lives for our way of life, the ultimate sacrifice.

The Main Elementary School Singing Group entertained those in attendance with a song about the characteristics of a leader at Main Elementary School.

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 unanimously approved the minutes for the October 13, 2015 regular board meeting, financial, and other reports.

Public Recognition

2015 One Book Many Voices Essay Contest Winner

Mrs. Collins recognized the winners of the One Book Many Voices Essay Contest. Each year the One Book Many Voices committee chooses a book that fosters a community-wide initiative that seeks to encourage literacy, promote discussion, and build community through reading. This year's book selection was *Voices from the March on Washington* by J. Patrick Lewis and George Ella Lyon. This text is a novel written in verse about the march where the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. The One Book Many Voices committee holds an essay contest each year. For this year's essay contest, students from Rome City and Floyd County in grades 4-12 were asked to read the book and interview someone who remembers the March on Washington and the Civil Rights Movement. The essay contest participants were asked to write an essay that would address the legacy of the March on Washington or share the interviewee's story with a wider audience.

Mrs. Collins recognized Shakira Moore as the overall essay winner and thanked Ms. Teasley, Shakira's teacher, from the Phoenix Performance Learning Center for supporting Shakira as she wrote her essay. Shakira received \$100 for submitting the overall winning essay.

Mrs. Collins also recognized Bre Lieberman as the 3rd place winner of the essay contest and thanked Mr. Ollis, Bre's teacher, from Rome High School for supporting Bre as she wrote her essay. Bre received \$50 for submitting the 3rd place essay.

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

Bre Lieberman/Rome High School/10th grade - daughter of Brian and Rachel Lieberman
Shakira Moore/Phoenix Performance Learning Center/11th grade - daughter of Comika Harris

Georgia Association for Alternative Education (GAAE) Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Beeman recognized Ms. Ana Teasley, a teacher of English Language Arts at Phoenix Performance Learning Center, as the 2015 Georgia Association for Alternative Education (GAAE) Teacher of the Year. The GAAE held its annual conference at Callaway Gardens October 15-16, 2015. During the conference, new board members were elected and the GAAE Teacher of the Year and two runner-ups were announced. The mission of the GAAE is to provide the highest quality of professional learning, promote innovative learning opportunities, and serve as an advocate for students matriculating in nontraditional settings throughout Georgia.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Georgia Educator Laureate Award

Ms. Huffman recognized the winner of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Georgia Educator Laureate Award. Through the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) in partnership with Georgia Power, Ms. Ashley Greenway was the 1st place award winner of the STEM Georgia Educator Laureate Award. She was recognized at the GaDOE STEM Forum in October in Athens and will be featured at many STEM events as well as funded to attend a national conference of her choice.

Ms. Greenway has earned several grants for Elm Street Elementary School including \$2,500 from Modern Woodman of America, \$4,000 for iPads for her classroom from Dollar General, \$800 matching grant for Sugar Kids Beauty donation of food to benefit the Rome Community Food Kitchen from Sam's Club, and \$1,000 start-up grant from Real World Solutions for Sugar Kids Beauty. Sugar Kids Beauty is a first grade company that has sold over \$10,000 worth of their product in two months with online orders from thirty states. It has been in newspapers in Atlanta and Rome, on Atlanta TV, featured at multiple events over Georgia, invited to the Georgia Assembly at the capitol when the January session begins, and their story will be a part of a White House Summit on Education next week.

It is her work with these grants in conjunction with projects she is doing in the classroom and for inspiring and motivating students to excel in the STEM fields which garnered her this award.

Boardroom Art Display

Ms. Huffman stated that the artwork in the foyer was prepared by the students and faculty at Main Elementary School.

Superintendent's Report

Attendance

Dr. Buck reported the attendance for the third month of school. West End Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 97.93 percent. Rome Middle School had the highest secondary student attendance rate at 96.85 percent. The school with the highest percentage of staff attendance was West End Elementary School at 97.77 percent.

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

Certified Employment 2015-2016: Angelica V. Schwartz Delzer/RHS
Seth O. Dodd/RMS

Support Employment 2015-2016: Brandy Benning/Maintenance
Thoan T. Nguyen/WC

Focus on Achievement

At Dr. Buck's request, Mrs. Lora Young gave a presentation on student achievement at Main Elementary School. Accompanying Mrs. Young from Main Elementary were Dr. Washington, Ms. Presley, Ms. Mullinax, Ms. Adams, Ms. Evans, Ms. Farrar, Ms. Hooper, Ms. Miller, Ms. Drummond, Ms. Elliott, Mr. Glover, Ms. Williams, Ms. Johnston, Ms. Rodin, Ms. Wright, Ms. Bloodworth, Ms. D. West, Ms. J. West, Ms. Nabors, Ms. Kerlin, and Ms. Parker.

The title of Mrs. Young's presentation was "It is Our Year to be Awesome." There have been many changes at Main Elementary School since last year, and Mrs. Young is excited about the success that the future holds. She began her presentation emphasizing the importance of the 3 R's (Relationships, Rigor, and Relevance) at Main Elementary School.

Rigor and Relevance are common themes throughout all subject areas. In writing, teachers are using Lucy Calkins and sentence composing models to help students learn the appropriate grammar skills to write at or above grade level. Students are using the Engage New York math curriculum along with the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) model to improve their mathematical reasoning and problem-solving abilities. In grades K-6, teachers are using Differentiated Phonics to target student weaknesses and remediate through small group instruction. Additionally, students complete independent reading activities and celebrate their accomplishments. A critical tool that helps the students take ownership of their learning and set goals are data notebooks.

Technology is an integral part of instruction at Main Elementary School. Teachers use Google Classroom, Quizlet, and iPads to provide children with different opportunities to use technology in the classroom. Students also use Keyboarding Without Tears, a typing program, to develop an important foundational understanding of how to use the computer to type papers and constructed responses.

The administration, faculty, staff, and students work to improve the culture of Main Elementary School by using Positive Behavioral Intervention Systems (PBIS), Second Step, and Leader In Me. PBIS focuses on positive behaviors using the "sign of the wolf" as the expected behavior. Second Step is a social skills curriculum that is taught every day in all classes. Through this program, students are learning how to take care of each other and appropriately handle stress. Based off of Steven Covey's book, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, Leader In Me uses all seven habits to teach 21st century leadership and life skills to help students become leaders.

Mrs. Young concluded her presentation with a video in which the students, faculty, and staff discuss how they use the seven habits to be leaders at Main Elementary School. She re-emphasized a

statement made by a young man in the video, "Come on over to Main Elementary School, and we will help you find the leader in you."

SPLOST IV

Mr. Atha gave an update on the SPLOST IV revenues. He stated that the October 31, 2015 collections for the tax period of September 2015 were \$436,471 which \$2,471 above the projection for the month (\$434,000).

Under Other Items, Dr. Buck announced:

- The 2015 Graduation Rate of 89.8% is the highest in Rome High School history. Dr. Buck stated, "This is a result of the cumulative effect of good teaching that starts in Pre-K through grade 12."
- The Rome High School Wolves will play the Stephenson High School Jaguars at Hallford Stadium in Clarkston, Georgia, Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the first round of the playoffs.
- The Rome Middle School Eighth Grade Wolves will play the Cambridge Bears at Sprayberry High School in Marietta, Georgia, Saturday evening at 8:00 p.m. for the Middle School State Championship.
- All Rome City Schools will be closed November 23-27, 2015 for Thanksgiving Holidays.
- The school district will be closed November 24-27, 2015 for Thanksgiving Holidays.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.