

# Board O'Gram

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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 5:45 p.m. Dr. Jones 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 unanimously approved the minutes for the September 8, 2015 regular board meeting, financial, and other reports.

## **Public Recognition**

### Boardroom Artwork

Ms. Huffman thanked West End Elementary School for having provided the Boardroom artwork for the month.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### Attendance

Dr. Buck reported the attendance for the second month of school. Elm Street Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 97.42 percent. Rome Middle School had the highest secondary student attendance rate at 96.26 percent. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was Elm Street Elementary School at 99.11 percent.

### Personnel

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

Certified Employment 2015-2016: Stacy Lee Kirby/RHS  
Aimee Purser/RMS

Support Employment 2015-2016: Ana Victoria Creel/RHS

### Focus on Achievement

At Dr. Buck's request, Mrs. Buffi Murphy gave a presentation on student achievement at West End Elementary School. Accompanying Mrs. Murphy from West End Elementary School were Mr. Self, Ms. Abbott-Fuller, Ms. Boyd, Ms. Wright, Ms. Lorrens, Ms. Clarke, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Potts, Ms. Gore, Ms. Davis, Ms. Harrison, Ms. Mull, Ms. Patton, Mr. Foster, Ms. Turley, Ms. Strack, Ms. Rowell, Ms. Pruet, Ms. Gable, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Sidwell, and Ms. Cole.

The title of Mrs. Murphy's presentation was "Quality and Rigor through Teaching and Learning at West End." She began her presentation with a review of standardized testing and curriculum-based assessment data. CCRPI data from the 2013 and 2014 school years revealed that West End's CCRPI scores increased in ELA, math, social studies, ACCESS testing, and number of students who exceeded on the CRCT. SRI data from the Fall 2014 and 2015 administrations for grades 3 through 6 revealed the following significant increases: 4<sup>th</sup> grade percentage of students scoring at the proficient range increased from 28% to 46%, 5<sup>th</sup> grade percentage of students scoring at the proficient range increased from 40% to 47%, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade percentage of students scoring at the advanced range increased from 18% to 23%. ACCESS testing data revealed overall score increases in the majority of grades as students went from one grade level in 2014 to the next grade level in 2015.

In order to support teachers as they provide quality instruction that is more rigorous, Mrs. Murphy and her administrative staff have focused on professional learning. Using the book Visible Learning for Teachers, the teachers and staff at West End Elementary School are using John Hattie's research on maximizing classroom impact by focusing on building feedback, engaging students in classroom discussions, and increasing success by setting higher expectations.

Quality and rigor is reflected in all academic areas. In reading, students collaborate and complete work in small groups and complete independent reading assessments. Students also had the opportunity, provided through Scholastic Reading, to take home books over the summer. In science, students can be observed completing hands-on activities such as making clouds and using microscopes to observe plant and animal cells. In math, students complete real-world activities such as Market Math that require them to add, subtract, and round to estimate the amount of money they can spend. The new Apple Mac lab and iPads are used daily to support students in all curriculum areas.

Quality and rigor is also exhibited throughout the clubs, teams, and other student activities at West End Elementary School. The West End Leadership Team under the direction of Mrs. Katie Cumming, school counselor, prepared anti-bullying scenarios, skits, and simple costumes based on the book The Hundred Dresses. The West End Running Club regularly participates in local events and has great student participation. Also, students participated in the STEM fair, submitting over 300 projects, which helped to raise over \$1,800 for their STEM initiative.

Finally, relationships are vital for quality and rigor. West End Elementary School teachers and staff place a large emphasis on developing relationships with students and families. West End Elementary School has a wonderful PTO that places a great emphasis on parent and grandparent volunteer days. Additionally, fourth graders participate in parent partner homework nights. During this time, students teach their parents how they learned a skill and then the parents teach their child how they learned the skill. This great activity is capped off with the parents and students taking a selfie and sending it to Mrs. Murphy to display in the school.

Mrs. Murphy concluded her presentation by stating, "Quality and rigor prepares students to graduate from Rome High School prepared for college or work!"

## SPLOST IV

Mr. Atha gave an update on the SPLOST IV revenues. He stated that the September 30, 2015 collections for the tax period of August 2015 were \$459,140 which was \$25,140 above the projection for the month (\$434,000).

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

- The Teacher of the Year and Support Employee of the Year Banquet will be tonight at Rome Middle School at 7:00 p.m.
- The Principals' Meeting will be at West End Elementary School in the Media Center Thursday, October 15, 2015, at 8:30 a.m.
- The Rome Board of Education Luncheon will be at West End Elementary School Friday, October 16, 2015, at 12:00 noon.
- The Rome Wolves will host the Woodland Wildcats for Homecoming at Barron Stadium on Friday, October 16, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.
- The Community Leaders' Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in the Boardroom.
- Peach State Marching Festival will be held Saturday, October 24, 2015, at Barron Stadium.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.