

Ms. Huffman called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m. Dr. Dixon 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.

IE²/Strategic Waivers School Systems Contract Public Hearing

Dr. Kemp presented the IE²/Strategic Waivers School Systems contract for public hearing. Rome City Schools was required to indicate the challenges it faced such as:

- Personalizing the learning experience and environment for all students
- Ensuring the financial stability of Rome City Schools despite unstable and unpredictable revenue growth
- Ensuring that Rome City Schools can attract, retain, and recruit the best teachers
- Ensuring that Rome City Schools can meet the unique academic, resource, and support needs of all schools

In order to meet these challenges, Rome City Schools was allowed waivers in educational code sections and rules. Rome City Schools is required to make improvement on the College and Career Ready Performance Index accountability system in exchange for these waivers. This contract allows for seven years of flexibility between the Rome City Schools Board of Education and the Georgia State Board of Education, except as prohibited in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-82(e).

Rome City Schools is seeking flexibility for all its schools from the following state statutes and associated rules:

- Educational Programs to include but not limited to Gifted, ELL, Alternative and Traditional (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-151, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-151.2, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-153, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-154, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-154.1, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-155, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-156).
- Organization of Schools; Middle School Programs; Schedule (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-290)
- Competencies and Core Curriculum, Online Learning (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-140.1, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-142, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-777)
- Promotion and Retention (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-283)
- Graduation Requirements for the purpose of substitution of equivalent or higher level requirements which will assist students in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful as they continue their education at the postsecondary level and/or enter the workforce (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.48)

- School Day and Year for Students and Employees (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-151, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-160, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-168, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-221, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-240 and SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.02)
- Health and Physical Education Program (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.12)
- Statewide Passing Score (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-13)
- Instructional Extension (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-184.1 and SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.14)
- Class-size and Reporting requirements (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-182)
- Direct Classroom Expenditures and Expenditure Controls (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-167, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-171, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-411 and SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.29)
- Scheduling for Instruction/Program Enrollment and Appropriation (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-160, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-168c)
- QBE Financing (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-160, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-161)
- Personnel Required (SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.22)
- Use of Counselors (SBOE Rule 160-4-8-.05)
- Salary Schedule requirements (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-188, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-212, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-212.1, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-212.2, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-212.5, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-214, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-214.1 and SBOE Rules 160-5-2-.05 and 160-5-3-.08)
- Certification requirements (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-108, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-200, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-200.1, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-201, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-204)
- Categorical Allotment requirements, Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-167, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-183 to 20-2-186 and SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.14)
- Employment Conditions of Employment as it relates to Duty Free Lunch (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-218)
- Awarding Credit (SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.15)

On a Swann/Collins motion, the Board unanimously approved the IE²/Strategic Waivers School Systems contract. After providing the Department of Education with the signed contract, Rome City Schools is scheduled to be on the State Board of Education meeting this month (September 2015) for approval.

On a Sims/Dixon motion, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the August 11, 2015 regular board meeting, financial, and other reports.

Ms. Huffman recognized West Central Elementary School for the artwork presented in the entrance atrium.

Superintendent's Report

Attendance

Dr. Buck reported the attendance for the first month of school. West Central Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 98.46 percent. Rome Middle School had the highest secondary student attendance rate at 97.68 percent. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was Elm Street Elementary School at 98.74 percent.

Personnel

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

Certified Employment 2015-2016: None

Support Employment 2015-2016: Latisha Cothran/AKD
Aaron Nobles/Maint.
M. Elizabeth Wilkes/ES

Focus on Achievement

At Dr. Buck's request, Mrs. Leslie Dixon gave a presentation on student achievement at West Central Elementary School. Accompanying Mrs. Dixon from West Central Elementary School were Ms. Johnson, Dr. Galang, Ms. Reaves, Ms. Thornbury, Ms. Carr, Ms. Hugo, Ms. Miller, Ms. Daugherty, Ms. Woodrow, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Hufstetler, Ms. Threadgill, Ms. Davis, Ms. Cipolla, Ms. Carpenter, Ms. Mann, Ms. Ferrell, Ms. Uldrick, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Colbert, Ms. Dean, Ms. Cromer, Ms. Meadows, Ms. Riddle, Ms. Bussey, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Bowen, Mr. Lindemann, Mr. Price, Ms. Hall, Ms. Lewis, and Ms. Raley.

Mrs. Dixon started her presentation by stating, "At West Central, we are Champions." West Central focuses on the 3 R's: Relationships, Rigor, and Relevance. All 709 students at West Central know that the teachers and staff care for them and each one of them deserves a champion.

Students at West Central are engaged in rigorous instruction across all subject areas daily and the teachers provide them with assignments and projects that are relevant to their lives and situations. Students also have the opportunity to use computers and iPads to complete assignments. This year, new Apple computers were installed in the media center. Additional activities such as field trips, the Math Team, and STEM projects provide students with opportunities to be "hands on" learners. Over 300 people attended STEM night last year.

In order to meet the needs of all students, all teachers and staff at West Central participate on Data Teams. These teams use spreadsheets to monitor student progress and interventions to assist students in their classes. Specific interventions that teachers use at West Central includes fluency practice and sound partners. Additionally, the Data Teams provide important information to the teachers so they can differentiate their instruction to meet the needs of all learners.

This year, West Central has adopted the acronym "RCS" to support the implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Support. RCS stands for: Ready to Learn, Courteous, and Safe. As champions, the students, faculty, and staff support one another to be "RCS". To set the example of how to behave, the faculty and staff at West Central have implemented a "Pass the Buck" initiative. Every time another staff member does something awesome for their students or fellow staff members, they "Pass the Buck". This involves them giving a laminated photo of Dr. Buck to another staff member with the reason they gave them the picture written on the back. Teachers then take "selfies" with the picture and send them to Dr. Buck.

At the end of the year, all 6th graders parade around the building as the younger children cheer and hold up posters to congratulate them. As champions, West Central students understand that their mission is to graduate from Rome High School prepared for college or work. As educators, the teachers strive to make a difference in the lives of every child.

Fundraising Requests

On a Collins/Beeman motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Buck's 2015-2016 fundraising recommendations as presented. His recommendation included requests from every school.

The elementary schools all had school pictures as their fundraising activity.

The middle school provided the following fundraisers:

Benefit

Baseball Team
Basketball Team (Boys)
Basketball Team (Girls)
Cheerleaders (RMS)
RMS PTO
Cross Country/Track Teams
Instructional Supplies/Schoolwide
Physical Education
RMS/Clubs
Softball team
Special Education
Volleyball
Wrestling
Yearbook

Project

Coca-Cola Sale
Sports Bag Sale
Fruit Sale
Pancake Breakfast
Cookie Dough Sale
Pasta Sale
School Pictures
T-Shirt Sales
School Dances
Sport Drinks
Spirit Ribbons
Candle Sale
AYP Discount Cards
Yearbooks

The high school provided the following fundraisers:

Benefit

Academic Bowl Team
Armed Drill Team/Unarmed
Awareness Presentation Team
AVTF/Journalism
Baseball
Basketball (Boys)
Basketball (Girls)
BEAR
Cheerleading (Football)
Cheerleading (Football)
Cheerleading (Basketball)
Cheerleading (Basketball)

Project

Para Card Bracelets
Domino's Pizza Cards
Valentine Chocolate Roses Sale
Spirit Items
Powder Puff Game
Gym AD Sales
Gym AD Sales
Cook Book/Shoe Drive
Miss RHS Pageant
Spirit Shirts/Beads
Spirit Shirts/Beads
Pancake Breakfast

Chorus
Color Guard
Corps
Cross Country
Cyber Patriot Team
Drama
FBLA
FCCLA
Football
HOSA
HSTE
Key Club
Kitty Hawk
Swimming
Volleyball
Wolves Strength Team
Wrestling
Yearbook

Talent Show
Pancake Breakfast
Drink Tumblers
Tumbler Cups
Candy Sale
Candy Bar Sales
Domino's Pizza Cards
Spirit Wear/Candy
Discount Cards
First Aid Kits
Hugs & Kisses
Barnes & Noble Book Fair
Gift Baskets
Swim Lessons
Gym Ad Sales
Lift-a-Thon
Pancake Breakfast
Candy Sales

SPLOST IV

Mr. Atha gave an update on the SPLOST IV revenues. He stated that the August 2015 collections of \$444,994 were \$10,994 above the projection for the month (\$434,000).

Under Other Items, Dr. Buck announced:

- The Principals' Meeting will be at West Central Elementary School in the Media Center Thursday, September 10, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.
- The Rome Board of Education Luncheon will be at West Central Elementary School Friday, September 12, 2015, at 12:00 noon.
- The Rome Wolves will play the Cambridge Bears in Milton on Friday, September 11, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.
- The Community Advisory Committee will meet Tuesday, September 22, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in the Boardroom.
- Fall Break will be Monday, September 28, 2015 through Friday, October 2, 2015.

Unfinished Business

Second Reading of Proposed Board Policy JGJA (Suicide Prevention)

On a Sims/Jones motion, the Board unanimously approved, on second 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).

New Business

FY 16 CTAE Perkins Local Plan

At Dr. Buck's request, Ms. Linda Felton presented the budget for the high school vocational program. The Federal Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act provides funds to local school systems for the improvement of the Career Technical and Agricultural Education Programs (CTAE Programs). Rome High School provides students with a number of Pathways through the vocational program including:

- Audio-Video Technology and Film
- Food and Nutrition
- Personal Care Services – Cosmetology
- Therapeutic Services/Patient Care
- Therapeutic Services Allied Health and Medicine
- Entrepreneurship
- Business and Technology
- Networking
- Work Based Learning
- Programming
- Computer Science

The Perkins Program Grant improvement provides \$58,384 which is matched by the local system. The Perkins Grant also provides \$6,240 for professional development and a reserve of \$14,861. The total Federal Grant Allocation is \$79,485.

On a Collins/Sims motion the Board unanimously approved the FY 16 CTAE Perkins Local Plan.

Appoint Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Legislative Liaison

Dr. Jones was appointed to serve as the GSBA Legislative Liaison for 2015-2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.