

Board O'Gram

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Report of Rome Board of Education — Action Compiled by Dr. Robert A. Young, Director of Title I / Testing

New Personnel: On a Wood/Huffman motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations:
Certified Employment 2010-2011:

Robin Brackett/WE	Misty D. McQuese/RHS	Sarah Bradfield/RMS
Matthew Montgomery/RMS	Krushinda Brannon/SE	Nicholas Blake Mullins/RHS
Natalie Copeland/RMS	Natalie Neal/RMS	Mary C. Crang/RHS
Lori A. Rader/NH	Kristen King/MN	Dylan Chase Slaton/RHS
Kristie Lee/NH	Randy Stafford/RHS	Lauren Miranda Leon/WC
Miranda Styles/RHS	Sarah Locklear/ES	Kellie Wolfe/RMS
Michael Loveless/SE	Kimberli Wright/WE	Yvette Madrid/RHS

Support Employment 2010-2011: Robert Gayton/RHS

School Nutrition Program Report: At Dr. Cooper's request, Mrs. Money presented on changes in the school lunch menu for this coming year. The "Food Pyramid" nutrition guide has been replaced with a more user friendly "My Plate" model. More fruits and vegetables will be offered to the students this year. Healthier options also include whole grain products, fat free chocolate milk, and 1% milk.

Possible New Location for Consolidated Anna K. Davie: Dr. Cooper presented several reasons to centralize a new Anna K. Davie Elementary School building and to keep the student body merged with that of Southeast Elementary.

- 1) Student enrollment declined at Anna K. Davie to an enrollment low of 146 students in 2009-2010.
- 2) State austerity cuts for Rome City Schools total \$16,975,860 for FY-03 through FY-12 with \$10,432,969 being reduced in the last three years.
- 3) As a result of continued state austerity and low enrollment at Anna K. Davie, the Rome Board of Education merged Anna K. Davie Elementary with Southeast Elementary for the 2010-2011 school year. The combined student enrollment of 440 students is closer to the state funding formula size of 450 students for an elementary school.
- 4) As a result of merging Anna K. Davie and Southeast Elementary schools, the Rome Board of Education will be able to reduce the system budget by approximately \$550,000 annually.
- 5) The original site of Anna K. Davie is located on Nixon Street. Southeast Elementary School is located on Crane Street. Now that the two schools have been merged, the total student population of 440 students will eventually be housed at the new Anna K. Davie Elementary School. Southeast Elementary School will be vacated after the completion of the new Anna K. Davie Elementary and returned to the City of Rome.
- 6) The two elementary schools have been merged and the new building site of Anna K. Davie should be in a location that is central to both of the former school campuses.
- 7) Having a building site for the new Anna K. Davie Elementary School that is central to south Rome students will reduce student transportation costs because many students will be able to walk to and from school each day.
- 8) A centralized location will promote safety for students in the south Rome area.
- 9) The new centralized site will be nearer to the Boys and Girls Club in south Rome. The Boys and Girls Club provides a safe environment for children and also assists with after school study programs.

After reviewing the reasons for moving the consolidated Anna K. Davie Elementary School to a more central location, Dr. Cooper announced that no motion would be made at this time because there is a meeting scheduled for August 2, 2011 for public input. The time will be announced at a later date.

Splost III Report: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST III revenues. He stated that the tax period of May 2011 collections of \$422,394.32 were \$80,335.18 below the projections for the month (\$502,729.50). The total collections to date equal \$10,576,563.69. Dr. Cooper then discussed the progress of the high school band/choral and gym additions and showed several photographs of the work in progress.

Other Items:

1. Administrative Workshop began on Tuesday, July 12, 2011.
2. Pre-planning for all personnel will begin Thursday, July 28, 2011.
3. First day of school is Monday, August 1, 2011.

First Reading of Policy DCL (Fund Balance): On a Swann/Wilson motion, the Board unanimously approved, on first reading, the new policy DCL (Fund Balance) as presented by Dr. Cooper. The reason for implementing Policy DCL (Fund Balance) is due to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) implementation of statement #54. GASB statement #54 has been issued to help improve financial reporting by providing fund balance categories and classifications that will be more easily understood. These changes will create clearer and more consistent information reported in financial statements. The changes will also make the financial information more easily understood and less confusing.

Five-Year Facility Plan Resolution: On a Jones/Collins motion, the Board adopted the Five-Year Local Facility Plan resolution as read by Dr. Jones. The resolution specified when the plan would be completed and that a GADOE consultant would assist in the process.

GSBA Conference Report: Mrs. Sims, Mr. Wood, Mr. Wilson, and Dr. Cooper attended the GSBA Summer Conference in Savannah on June 17-18, 2011. Dr. Jones served as the 2011 GSBA delegate representative and Mr. Wood served as alternate for the Rome City Schools. Mrs. Sims served on the Governmental Operations Committee. At Mrs. Sims' request, Dr. Jones reported on what he liked at the conference. He especially enjoyed Diane Ravitch's talk about "What do you want education to accomplish?" Mrs. Diane Ravitch is a Research Professor of Education at New York University and a historian of education. Mrs. Ravitch considers the best change to be slow progress; do not turn things upside down, that there are no miracles. Dr. Jones also enjoyed the session featuring Mr. Michael Thurmond, now serving his third term as labor commissioner for Georgia. Mr. Thurmond's comments centered on the question "What are we trying to accomplish in education?" The goals should drive the practice.

Mrs. Sims added that Mr. Thurmond mentioned his personal heritage. His father was a share cropper and he was a little embarrassed by that as a child. Later he learned that everyone who knew his dad only talked about how good he was and what his values were. It was through his father that Mr. Thurmond developed his work ethic and learned the value of serving others. Mrs. Sims also mentioned that there was lively debate about non-partisan board member elections. This conversation is an ongoing one that comes up every year.

Mr. Wood stated that there was a discussion about how the state should develop additional funding for elementary and middle school counselors and that the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) needs to use safe investment strategies in protecting the retirement assets.

Dr. Cooper, who was also in attendance, reported that he enjoyed Governor Deal's presentation. Governor Deal shared that his wife was an educator, as well as his mom and dad. Governor Deal believes that teachers leave a legacy through the students they instruct in way that no other profession can touch.

Other Board Information: On a Collins/Jones motion, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the June 14, 2011 regular Board meeting, financial and other reports.

In closing, Mrs. Sims recognized Mrs. Collins by wishing her a Happy Birthday.