

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

Rome Middle School Performance: Students from Rome Middle School, who have been chosen to participate in the 2011 All-State Chorus, performed three selections for the Board and audience. The selections they performed included *Someday*, arranged by Brock Keiper, *Liza*, Arranged by Steven Burnett, and *Love*, Arranged by Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi.

Students performing included: Nicholas Carlton, Daimen Carter, Abigail Childers, Andrew Davis, Alan Hester, Julia Hodges, Alex Hodges, Bennett Poorman, Sarah Ray, Adam Tarrant, and Tyler Wallace. They sang under the direction of Ms. Susan Campbell.

Rome Middle School All-State Chorus: Mr. Wilson, on behalf of the Board, recognized the eleven members of Rome Middle School who have been chosen to participate in the All-State Chorus. The All State Chorus is sponsored by the Association of Georgia Music Educators with around 500 students chosen from across the state to participate in the Middle School Treble Chorus and the Middle School Mixed Chorus. Students must perform well at a rigorous audition to be selected. The first audition consists of singing a prepared solo, singing three lines of music they have never seen before, singing their scales, and taking an assessment which includes vocabulary and discriminatory listening. Under the leadership of Ms. Susan Campbell, eleven middle school students selected from the first audition! The students include:

Nicholas Carlton/ 8th Grade – son of Dr. David and Dagmar Carlton
Daimen Carter/ 8th Grade – son of Trina Williams and Carlos Carter
Abigail Childers/ 7th Grade – daughter of Barry and Tammy Childers
Andrew Davis/ 8th Grade – son of John and Susan Davis
Alan Hester/ 7th Grade – son of Mark and Donna Hester
Julia Hodges/ 8th Grade – daughter of Wanda Hillman and Dr. Chris Hodges
Alex Hodges/ 7th Grade – son of Wanda Hillman and Dr. Chris Hodges
Bennett Poorman/ 8th Grade – son of Nathan and Lori Poorman
Sarah Ray/ 7th Grade – daughter of Cindy and David Ray
Adam Tarrant – 8th Grade – son of Fred and Melissa Tarrant
Tyler Wallace/ 8th Grade – son of Sonya and Rance Richards

Boardroom Artwork: Mrs. Sims recognized the artwork in the foyer prepared by the students and faculty of North Heights Elementary School.

Attendance Report for Third Month: Dr. Cooper reported the attendance for the third month of school. West End Elementary School had the highest percentage of student attendance at 97.90 percent. It was also noted that Rome Middle School had 97.08 percent of student attendance for the third month of school. The school with the highest percent of staff attendance was North Heights Elementary School at 97.82 percent.

New Personnel: On a Wood/Collins motion, the board members present unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations:

Support Employment 2011-12: Melanie T. Scott / ES

Focus on Student Achievement - North Heights: At Dr. Cooper's request, Ms. Wood presented the Focus on Student Achievement for North Heights Elementary School. Accompanying Ms. Wood was Dana Smith (Math Coach), Ginger Rowston (Parent Involvement Coordinator), Susan O'Dell (fourth grade teacher), Ashlyn Ritch (fifth grade teacher), Esther Burger (special education teacher), Ginger Jarrell (kindergarten teacher), Renea DeAngelus (secretary), and Lori Poorman (SLP).

Ms. Wood reminded the Board and audience that North Heights has earned the Title I Distinguished School award nine years in a row. She discussed the 2011 CRCT results in reading and math for grades three through six. Ms. Wood is especially proud of the fact that 100% of the sixth grade students either met or exceeded expectations in reading. The school is employing proven best educational practices focusing on math in third and sixth grades where the students appeared to be the weakest. As part of their educational strategic plan, the faculty has a renewed focus on reading at the school in all grade levels.

The 25 Book Campaign Kickoff began this year with the theme: Reading Takes You Places. Each grade has a special way to emphasize this effort. The school-wide goal is to read and celebrate the country Mexico. They will learn about the culture and participate in projects.

The Parent Involvement Program sponsored a Math Night at North Heights. Parents participated in the standards, they learned aspects of the curriculum, and were given hands-on ways to work with their children.

Science is another subject where the hands-on approach is very effective. Students can learn from other students as well as adults. North Heights makes an effort to promote this teaching and modeling strategy. Ms. Wood summarized by saying that the teachers at North Heights are Simply the Best! They work in small groups with the students, work individually, and help foster a feeling that all students can learn. In summary, North Heights' teachers want all students to be successful at Rome Middle School and Rome High School so they will graduate prepared for college or work.

Advanced Placement Program at RHS: Dr. Cooper presented information about the 2011 Advanced Placement Program at Rome High School. An AP Scholar is a student who has taken at least three AP Classes and earned at least a three on the end of course exam. This year there are nine AP Scholars from Rome High School. The students who still attend Rome High School are Austin Beachman, Ethan Byrd, Brennan McElhone, and Michael Nedvin. Grayson Keating, Sarah Mansoura, Dan Fincher, and Elizabeth Holland graduated in May 2011. The ninth student, Charles Fisher, has further distinguished himself by earning AP Scholar with Honors. The AP Scholar with Honors means that the student has earned an average of at least 3.25 on all AP exams and a three or higher on four or more exams.

Dr. Cooper showed a five-year history of students taking AP exams in 15 different subjects. The totals revealed that the number of students taking AP exams grew from 211 exams taken in 2007-08 to 573 exams taken in 2011-12. The courses which showed marked growth were English Literature which grew this past year from 38 students to 71 students and most notably Calculus AB which grew from 19 to 40 students.

Dr. Cooper played a video clip from *Wolf Cry* for the Board and audience. In the clip, the AP Calculus teacher, Mrs. Mary Holcolmb, was interviewed along with a couple of her students. The clip also showed some activities which took place at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. Even though the clip only featured the AP Calculus seminar at Georgia Tech, there was an AP Physics seminar at State University of West Georgia, an AP Chemistry seminar at Berry College, and an AP Biology seminar at the University of Georgia.

SPLOST III Update: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST III revenues. He stated that the September 2011 collections of \$425,962.82 were \$76,766.68 below projections for the month (\$502,729.50). Project to date collections were \$12,289,840.43 which is \$2,289,315.07 below projections. Dr. Cooper displayed four photographs. One was of the tennis courts and the others were of the activity gym to show progress toward completion.

Announcements:

- Rome High Schools Wolves will play their first play-off game on Friday, November 9, 2011 at Heritage, in Conyers, Georgia starting at 7:30 p.m.
- Dr. Cooper announced that Monday, Nov. 21, 2011 and Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011 would be non-paid days. Wednesday through Friday, Nov. 23 – 25, 2011, would be Thanksgiving holidays for the Rome City Schools and the school system will be closed.
- Mrs. Sims congratulated Mr. Daniel Bell for being one of five recipients of the GSBA Beacon Award.

Other Board Actions: On a Wilson/Wood motion, the board members present approved Dr. Cooper's recommendation to declare a surplus of three buses, five vans, some furniture, and other tools. The surplus items will be auctioned off on December 3, 2011, at the Rome City Schools Maintenance Department on 172 North Avenue, Rome, Georgia at 10:00 a.m.

On a Collins/Huffman motion, the board members present unanimously approved the minutes for the October 11, 2011, regular board meeting, financial and other reports.