

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

Musical Interlude: Dr. Cooper introduced Mr. Lydell Self, Director of Bands, who in turn, introduced two students who performed works that were part of their auditions for the 2012 Georgia High School All-State Band. Dylan Horne performed on the clarinet, while Daniel Hester performed on the snare drum.

2012 Georgia All-State Band: The Board recognized the students for their accomplishments at the 2012 Georgia All-State Band competition. After going through two auditions, the two students from RHS were named finalists with one of them chosen to participate in the Georgia High School All-State Band. This is a great honor—the highest state-wide achievement in band a student can receive. The All-State event will take place in Savannah on March 1-3, 2012. Additionally, both students were selected to participate in the Georgia District VII All-District Band.

Dr. Evans introduced the two students and presented them with certificates. Dylan Horne, eleventh grade, is the son of Alan and Mayumi Horne. Dylan was selected to the All-State Band. He will participate in the event in Savannah in March. Dylan is a member of Rome High School's Symphonic Band. This is Dylan's fourth time to receive the Georgia All-State honors.

Daniel Hester, eleventh grade, is the son of Mark and Donna Hester. Daniel is also a member of the Rome High Symphonic Band.

Boardroom Artwork: Mrs. Sims announced that the artwork displayed in the foyer was provided by students and teachers from Rome High School.

Attendance Report: Dr. Cooper reported that the fifth month attendance would not be reported this evening because the fifth month of school will not complete until January 19, 2012. The report will be forthcoming at the February meeting.

New Personnel: On a Jones/Swann motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Cooper's personnel recommendations:

Certified Employment 2011-2012: Adeline McArthur/RHS

Support Employment 2011-2012: Steve Atha/CO and Bethany Jo Lappe/SE

Focus on Student Achievement: Rome High School: Dr. Evans recognized Dr. Dawn Williams for preparing presentation slides and Mr. Bill Singleton for gathering the data. Dr. Evans also recognized the faculty and staff present at the board meeting: Mr. Singleton, Dr. Williams, Mrs. Felton, Dr. Warren, Dr. Brewer, Ms. Dougherty, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Smith, Mr. Murdock, Mr. Self, Ms. West, Mr. Davis, Ms. Goulding, Mr. Stafford, Ms. Davis, Ms. Thomas, and Mr. Shelton. Dr. Evans identified the indicators of student success to be discussed, however he stated that there are many additional indicators that could be used.

The first screen showed the five-year SAT Scores from 2007 through 2011. Rome High Schools' results were over 140 points above the state average. The five-year GHSGT English results were equal to or above the state average as well. The school is anticipating additional growth in the 2012 results due to the new emphasis in ELA and the hiring of Dr. Brewer as ELA Coach. The GHSGT results in mathematics showed tremendous student achievement growth in 2011 as a result of the efforts of the math department. Dr. Warren serves as the Math Coach.

Dr. Evans stated that state-wide, high school principals are especially concerned with the GHSGT in social studies. Rome High School is no exception. Eighty-one percent of Rome High School students passed the test on their first attempt compared to 80% for the state. The GHSGT results in science over five years shows a constant growth from 82% passing in 2007 to 93% passing in 2011. The five-year GHSWT average results for Rome High were above the average state results.

Dr. Evans also showed the five-year graduation rate for Rome High School. Rome High School has been above the state and national average for ten years. Last year represented Rome High School's highest graduation rate ever at 77.9 percent. Dr. Evans stated that with the efforts that are being employed school-wide, he is hopeful the high school graduation rate will be close to 85 percent in 2012.

One of the efforts employed at the RHS is school-wide Wednesday Professional Development Day. The teachers meet during their planning period to find new strategies to assist students in being successful in their respective subjects. Another effort is their Vertical Planning in ELA and mathematics with the eighth grade teachers. This helps the middle school teachers understand what students need to be prepared for in high school and helps the high school teachers understand what the rising students are capable of performing.

A new program called “All Students Proficient” ensures that all students will have repeated opportunities to review work on which they were unsuccessful. The increased emphasis on drop-out prevention is an effort to keep students in school so they will earn the opportunity to graduate from high school ready for college or work. Another drop-out prevention effort is the increased effort to keep students from opting for a GED instead of a diploma. Students must follow a specific prescribed path in order to drop-out to take their GED. The prescribed path that students must follow has reduced this type of drop-out from five students this time last year, to zero so far this year.

In addition to the academics, other opportunities at Rome High School help engage students in the school climate. Students who participate in clubs, athletics, band, chorus, drama, and other programs become involved in school and learn discipline. It is these traits that help ensure the success of a student in school and life.

2011 Rome High School graduates earned more than \$3.1 million in scholarships excluding the HOPE Scholarship! Looking to the end of the 2011-2012 school year, Dr. Evans stated that RHS should see the sixth consecutive year of an increase in the graduation rate; Rome High School should see their highest graduation rate in its history; and 2011-12 should mark the first year in the history of Rome High that the graduation rate is above 80 percent! In conclusion, the mission of the Rome City Schools is: All students will graduate from Rome High School prepared for college or work.

SPLOST III Report: Dr. Cooper gave an update on the SPLOST III revenues. The November 2011 collections of \$408,944.65 were \$93,748.85 below projections for the month (\$502,729.50). Even though the SPLOST collections are low, since the Board uses a “pay as we go” method and only begins construction when there is money in the bank, financially the capital projects account is in good shape. Dr. Cooper showed the board members and the audience pictures of the auxiliary gym, weight room, band room, and tennis courts.

Policy GAK (1) (Criminal Background Check): On a Wood/Swann motion, the Board unanimously approved, on first reading, amendments to Policy GAK (1) (Criminal Background Check) as recommended by Dr. Cooper.

Announcements: Dr. Cooper announced that Rome High boys and girls will be playing at Central Forsyth in basketball on Wednesday, January 14th starting at 3:00 p.m.

Board Meeting Schedule Change: On a Wilson/Swann motion, the Board unanimously decided to change the date of the February Board Meeting from February 14th to February 21st. The change is due to an anticipated school break on the 13th and 14th that were scheduled as possible inclement weather make-up days / holidays.

Superintendent’s Annual Evaluation: On a Huffman/Swann motion, the Board voted six to one to table the discussion of the Superintendent’s evaluation. By consensus, the Board decided to meet on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom to complete the Superintendent’s evaluation.

Financials and Minutes: On a Collins/Swann motion, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the December 13, 2011, regular board meeting, financial and other reports.