

**Date: December 12, 2023**



**ROME CITY  
SCHOOLS**

# **BOARD O'GRAM**

## **MEETING MINUTES**



### **Report of Rome Board of Education**

#### **Board Members Present:**

- Ms. Faith Collins, Chairperson
- Ms. Toni Blanchard
- Ms. Pascha Burge
- Dr. Melissa Davis
- Mrs. Jill Fisher
- Mr. Alvin L. Jackson, Sr.

#### **Board Members Absent:**

- Mr. Will Byington, Vice-Chairperson

#### **Opening:**

- Mrs. Collins called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Mr. Jackson gave the opening prayer, and a group of West Central students led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- At Mrs. Collins' request, Mrs. Kristin Teems called the roll and determined that the Board had a quorum.
- Mrs. Collins explained there would be an additional item under New Business for the Board's meeting agenda. This new item was approved in caucus.

#### **Minutes and Financial Reports:**

- On a Fisher/Blanchard motion, the Board members unanimously approved the minutes for the November 14th regular Board meeting, financial report, and other reports.

#### **Public Recognition:**

- Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Lisa Strack recognized Mrs. Melanie Arrington as the 2023 GAETC Rising Star Educator.
- Mrs. Buffi Murphy presented the Rome City Schools Employees of the Month:  
Anna K. Davie Elementary - Ms. Michelle Watters  
East Central Elementary - Mrs. Ashley Hoban

Elm Street Elementary - Ms. Hitchel Jacobo  
Main Elementary - Ms. Marquita Davis  
West Central Elementary - Ms. Ida Silva  
West End Elementary - Ms. Leah Fellers  
Rome Middle School - Mr. Corey Newton  
Rome High School - Mr. Caleb Dallimore  
PLC/RTA - Ms. Ceperah Wiggins

- Mrs. Felicia Jackson presented the Rome City Schools Students of the Month:  
Anna K. Davie Elementary - Santa Vicente Perez  
East Central Elementary - Camden Potts  
Elm Street Elementary - Camila Juarez  
Main Elementary - Jaykub Williams  
West Central Elementary - Kelvin Sanders  
West End Elementary - Emmanuel Perez Pineda  
Rome Middle School - Johannah Mondson  
Rome High School - Brandy Ulloa-Ruylcaba  
PLC/RTA - Ashaunte Holmes
- Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Brad Shea, of Herff Jones, presented the Rome City Schools Exemplary Service Award to teachers with 30 years or more service to Rome City Schools.  
Mrs. Beth Atkins  
Mrs. Chris White  
Mrs. Diana West  
Mrs. Brenda Boyd  
Mrs. Debbie Scoggins  
Mrs. April Thornton
- The Sound of the Seven Hills ~ Rome High School's Band, directed by Dr. Tab Brown, performed a medley of Christmas carols.

**Public Comment:**

- None

**Superintendent's Report and Recommendation:**

- Personnel Report:
  - On a Jackson/Fisher motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Holland's personnel recommendations for employment for the 2023-2024 school year and the 2024-2025 school year.  
  
Please see attached for a list of the approved personnel recommendations.
- Attendance Report:
  - Our elementary attendance winner for the fourth month is West Central Elementary School at 94.36%.

- Our secondary attendance winner for the fourth month is Rome Middle School at 91.98%.
- Our staff attendance winner for the fourth month is Anna K. Davie Elementary School at 97.53%.
- The overall attendance rate for Rome City Schools for the fourth month is 96.07%.
- ESPLOST V:
  - Director of Finance, Mr. Greg Studdard, presented the ESPLOST V receipts for the tax period of November 2023, which indicate the actual amount collected was \$726,324. The anticipated ESPLOST amount was \$505,300. We had a positive variance of \$221,024.
- Spotlight on West Central Elementary School, Principal, Mrs. Jennifer Uldrick:
  - Mrs. Uldrick began her presentation with a brief video highlighting how West Central is Connected, Compassionate, and Committed. She then recognized the West Central Elementary Faculty and Staff who attended the board meeting. Her spotlight presentation was organized into the four pillars: Student Achievement - GAME time, literacy work, and math work; Staff Development - STEAM, Gifted, and Lifelong Learning with Professional Development; Stakeholder Engagement - Nurturing Staff and Engaging Community; and Safety & Operations - Maintaining School Safety, Advocating for Students, and Engaging both Students and Families.
- Other Items:
  - Basketball Season has begun.
  - Technology fair was amazing.
  - Friday, December 15th is an inservice day, and the Board will be visiting West Central Elementary School.
  - The student's last day of school for the Winter Holidays is Thursday, December 14th.
  - Rome High School is in the final exam week, and they will have early release days on Wednesday, December 13th and Thursday, December 14th.
  - We want to congratulate our football team, cheerleaders, and band for an amazing football season.
  - Shout out to Mrs. Felisha Jackson for the Wolf Wish Holiday program; we provided special gifts to 259 of our students for Christmas.
  - Shout out to Dr. Wesley Styles for leading the collection for Clarke Kids.
  - Shout out to High Voltage (Jason) for the donation of 20 \$100 gift cards to our students.
  - Our Parent Resource Center had its ribbon cutting ceremony.
  - Request to keep the families of Mrs. Stacy Bonner - employee, Jamarius Wells - student, and Livano Alexander Ramirez Nolasco - student in our thoughts and prayers.
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#### **Communications:**

- Mrs. Walley highlighted the first semester Family Fun Fests with a video created by Mr. Bray Stevenson.
- Mrs. Wally highlighted November's National Family Engagement Month with a video created by Mr.

Stevenson and narrated by Mrs. Laura Bucio.

- Mrs. Julie Reed, Vision to Learn Coordinator, gave an update concerning Rome City Schools' Vision to Learn project. At the six elementary schools, 2,796 students were successfully screened, and 726 students failed their initial screening thus needing a follow-up appointment. With the 726 students who fail the screening and the 215 students who already have glasses, Vision to Learn is serving 941 Rome City Schools' elementary students. In total, Rome City Schools received 369 pairs of glasses. Mrs. Reed ended her presentation with a video highlighting all the students who received glasses.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- None

#### **New Business:**

- Dr. Holland presented the 2024 Board Meeting Dates, Times, and Location. On a Blanchard/Fisher motion, the Board members unanimously approved the 2024 Board Meeting Dates, Times, and Location.
- Mr. Scott Crabbe presented the 2024 Spring Fundraising Requests. On a Davis/Jackson motion, the Board members unanimously approved the 2024 Spring Fundraising Requests.
- Mr. Scott Crabbe presented the Rome City Schools 2024-2025 School Calendar on first reading. On a Blanchard/Jackson motion, the Board members unanimously approved the 2024-2025 School Calendar on first reading.
- Mrs. Collins requested a motion and a second to the motion relating to Acquisition and Construction - a motion to authorize Dr. Holland, or his designees, to execute any and all documents necessary to carry out the construction of the new Rome Middle School, including any documents relating to zoning, variances, acquisitions, road closure, or other use relating to and to facilitate construction of Rome Middle School on Three Rivers Drive and Medical Drive, including the acquisition of Medical Drive properties for \$950,000. On a Blanchard/Davis motion, the Board members unanimously approved the Acquisition and Construction motion. After the approval of the motion, Dr. Holland stated that the purchase of the land will be paid for with ESPLOST dollars, and Mrs. Collins thanked Dr. Holland for this clarification.
- Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Fisher, and Mrs. Burge reported on the recent GSBA conference attended in November.

#### **Closing:**

- There being no further business, Mrs. Collins wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.