

Date: September 12, 2023



**ROME CITY
SCHOOLS**

BOARD O'GRAM

MEETING MINUTES



Report of Rome Board of Education

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

- None

Opening:

- Mrs. Collins called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m. Ms. Blanchard gave the opening prayer, and West End students led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- At Mrs. Collins' request, Mrs. Kristin Teems called the roll and determined that the Board had a quorum.

Minutes and Financial Reports:

- On a Jackson/Fisher motion, the Board members unanimously approved the minutes for the August 8, 2023 regular Board meeting, financial report, and other reports.

Public Recognition:

- Mrs. Buffi Murphy presented the Rome City Schools Employees of the Month:
Anna K. Davie Elementary - Ms. Cami Moore
East Central Elementary - Ms. Kelly Dae
Elm Street Elementary - Ms. Penny Atkinson
Main Elementary - Ms. Amy Holt
West Central Elementary - Ms. Jessica Alexander
West End Elementary - Ms. Elizabeth Cruz

Rome Middle School - Mr. Dustin Odom
Rome High School - Mr. Joey Powers
PLC/RTA - Mr. Jason Henderson

- Mrs. Felicia Jackson presented the Rome City Schools Students of the Month:
Anna K. Davie Elementary - De'Brius Ash
East Central Elementary - Bobby Joe Pope
Elm Street Elementary - Alexa McCarthy Herrera
Main Elementary - Tulanee Kent
West Central Elementary - Sofia Cornejo
West End Elementary - Gracie Salmon
Rome Middle School - Alaysia Alston
Rome High School - A.G. Edwards
PLC/RTA - Evelyn Lopez

Public Comment:

- None

Superintendent's Report and Recommendation:

- Attendance Report:
 - Our elementary attendance winner for the first month is West End Elementary School, at 96.71%.
 - Our secondary attendance winner for the first month is Rome Middle School, at 95.23%.
 - Our staff attendance winner for the first month is Main Elementary School, at 98.95%.
 - The overall attendance rate for Rome City Schools for the first month is 94.0%.
- Personnel Report:
 - On a Blanchard/Fisher motion, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Holland's personnel recommendations for employment for the 2023-2024 school year.

Please see attached for a list of the approved personnel recommendations.
- ESPLOST V:
 - Director of Finance, Mr. Greg Studdard, presented the ESPLOST V receipts for the tax period of August 2023, which indicate the actual amount collected was \$847,738. The anticipated ESPLOST amount was \$505,300. We had a positive variance of \$342,438.
- Other Items:
 - There is no varsity football game this week (week of September 11th).
 - The Girls Volleyball Team plays tonight (September 12th) against Coosa.
 - Rome City Schools will be celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 - October 15.

- Rome City Schools received a Safer Schools Grant for \$250,000.
- Mr. Fricks will celebrate our PBIS school winners today (September 12th).
- Dr. Holland gave a special shout-out to Mr. Andrew Wilfong of West Central Elementary School, Rome City Schools' Exemplary Teacher of the Year, Mr. Alvin Powell of Rome Middle School, Rome City Schools' Support Professional of the Year, and to Mrs. Laura Walley, Rome City Schools' Exemplary Leader of the Year.
- Spotlight on West End Elementary School, Principal, Dr. Dennis Drummond:
 - Dr. Drummond began his presentation by acknowledging and thanking all West End teachers, staff, students, and parents in attendance. He shared information about West End in connection to the four pillars (Student Achievement, Staff Development, Stakeholder, Engagement, and Safety & Operations) and Strategic Area Goals 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, and 4.2). Dr. Drummond highlighted his students work in multiple areas and specifically with WEE Cooks and through a STEM presentation.

Communications:

- Mr. John Fricks recognized the schools for their PBIS awards.
 - PBIS Schools: Anna K. Davie Elementary School, East Central Elementary School, Elm Street Elementary School, Main Elementary School, West Central Elementary School, West End Elementary School, Rome Middle School, and Rome High School
 - Operational PBIS Schools: Anna K. Davie Elementary School, Elm Street Elementary School, West End Elementary School, and Rome High School
 - Distinguished PBIS School: Main Elementary School
- Mr. Fricks presented a video highlighting Rome City Schools Family Fun Fest September 9, 2023. The video ended with Dr. Holland thanking everyone for coming to the first ever Family Fest and inviting everyone to the next Fun Fest on Friday, September 29th.

Unfinished Business:

- None

New Business:

- Dr. Holland presented the Local Board Training Plan for the School Year 2023-2024. On a Blanchard/Davis motion, the Board members unanimously approved the Local Board Training Plan for the School Year 2023-2024
- Mr. Chris Twyman explained that the Rome City Schools' Board of Education was being asked to adopt a resolution to ratify the Rome Building Authority's bond resolution to provide for revenue bonds to finance construction of Rome Middle School and, additionally, being asked to adopt an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Rome. On a Burge/Blanchard motion, the Board members unanimously approved the bond resolution and adopted the resolution for the Intergovernmental Contract between Rome City and the Rome City Board of Education.

- Mrs. Collins explained that it was time for the Board to appoint a legislative liaison for the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Jackson was the liaison last year, and he has graciously volunteered to be the liaison again this year. Mrs. Collins expressed to Mr. Jackson the Board's thanks.

Closing:

- There being no further business, Mrs. Collins adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.