

Date: November 14, 2023



**ROME CITY
SCHOOLS**

BOARD O'GRAM

MEETING MINUTES



Report of Rome Board of Education

Board Members Present:

- 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:

- Ms. Faith Collins, Chairperson

Opening:

- Mr. Byington called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Mrs. Fisher gave the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- At Mr. Byington's request, Mrs. Kristin Teems called the roll and determined that the Board had a quorum.

Minutes and Financial Reports:

- On a Davis/Blanchard motion, the Board members unanimously approved the minutes for the October 19th 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. Merrimac Forsyth
East Central Elementary - Ms. Lisa Peck
Elm Street Elementary - Ms. Stephanie Weaver
Main Elementary - Ms. Lisa Thompson
West Central Elementary - Ms. Katie Chappell
West End Elementary - Ms. Aubryn Patton

Rome Middle School - Ms. Christy Smith
Rome High School - Ms. Andrea McKenzie
PLC/RTA - Mr. Charles Smith

- Mrs. Felicia Jackson presented the Rome City Schools Students of the Month:
Anna K. Davie Elementary - Abby Woods
East Central Elementary - Anniston Beam
Elm Street Elementary - Cassidy Valiente Escobedo
Main Elementary - Jude Whaley
West Central Elementary - Kevin Joyner III
West End Elementary - Berkeley Huckaby
Rome Middle School - Jude Parker
Rome High School - Miriam Loya
PLC/RTA - Timothy Barton

Public Comment:

- None

Superintendent's Report and Recommendation:

- Personnel Report:
 - On a Jackson/Davis 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.
- Attendance Report:
 - Our elementary attendance winner for the third month is West End Elementary School, at 96.29%.
 - Our secondary attendance winner for the third month is Rome Middle School, at 94.16%.
 - Our staff attendance winner for the third month is East Central Elementary School, at 97.91%.
 - The overall attendance rate for Rome City Schools for the first month is 94.10%.
- ESPLOST V:
 - Director of Finance, Mr. Greg Studdard, presented the ESPLOST V receipts for the tax period of October 2023, which indicate the actual amount collected was \$699,660. The anticipated ESPLOST amount was \$505,300. We had a positive variance of \$194,360.
- Spotlight on Rome Middle School, Principal, Mr. Christian Barnes:
 - Mr. Barnes began his presentation by thanking the Board and Dr. Holland for having the opportunity to spotlight Rome Middle School. Mr. Barnes shared both the enrollment numbers and ethnicity data, and then, he transitioned into sharing information concerning each of the four

pillars - Student Achievement, Staff Development, Stakeholder Engagement, and Safety & Operations. He gave detailed examples of the work occurring at Rome Middle School to achieve the goals of the system's Strategic Plan. The presentation ended with a video highlighting the many wonderful events happening at Rome Middle School and a final slide entitled #Coming Soon with a picture of the new middle school.

- Other Items:

- Rome High School Varsity Football: Region Champion for the 3rd Year in a Row
 - Rome Wolves vs. Langston Hughes Panthers: November 17th at 7:30 PM at Barron Stadium.
 - We also won the coin toss, so we will host next week pending Friday's results.
- Early Signing Day for Baseball: November 15th at 5:00 PM
- Varsity Girls & Boys Basketball vs. Model: November 16th at Rome High School
- RHS Wrestling Team: November 18th at Coosa High School
- Family Engagement Month: November
- Conversation with the Community with Mr. Steve Dennis: November 30th at 6:00 PM in the RHS CCA
- Fall Board Retreat/GSBA Conference: November 27-December 1
- Vision Walks (EC, WEE, and RMS): November 30th-December 1st
- Thanksgiving Holidays: November 20th-24th
- Shout-Out to the Best of Rome Winners
 - Mrs. Evans → Best of Rome Teacher
 - Mr. Evans → Best of Rome School Attorney
 - West End Elementary School → Best of Rome Elementary School
 - Rome Middle School → Best of Rome Middle School
 - Rome High School → Best of Rome High School

Communications:

- None

Unfinished Business:

- Dr. Holland gave a brief update concerning building the new Rome Middle School. He also thanked both the Rome City Commission and the Rome City School Board for their work in this effort.

New Business:

- Mrs. Murphy presented the Rome City Schools' Teacher Retention Program Partnership between Berry College and Rome City Schools specifically for the purpose of building a teacher recruitment pipeline. The partnership will be a collaboration for the continued education of professionally qualified educators for Rome City Schools. On a Burge/Blanchard motion, the Board members unanimously approved the partnership resolution between Berry College and Rome City Schools. Provost David Slade expressed his gratitude and excitement for the partnership with Rome City Schools.

Closing:

- On behalf of the Board, Mr. Byington expressed the Board's gratitude and thankfulness for all of Rome City Schools, the teachers, and administrators.
- There being no further business, Mr. Byington adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.