

Date: January 9, 2024



**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 5:45 p.m. Mrs. Burge gave the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- At Mrs. Collins' request, Mrs. Kristin Teems called the roll and determined that the Board had a quorum.

Election of Board Officers: Board Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson

- Mrs. Collins asked Mr. Chris Twyman to lead the Election of Board Officers for Rome City Schools' Board Chairperson.
- Mr. Twyman opened the floor for nominations for Board Chairperson. Mrs. Faith Collins was nominated by a Burge/Blanchard nomination. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed by a Byington/Burge motion, and the vote was taken. Unanimously, Mrs. Collins was named Board Chairperson for the 2024 Calendar year.
- Mrs. Collins then replaced Mr. Twyman. Mrs. Collins opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Will Byington was nominated by a Davis/Burge nomination, and Mr. Alvin Jackson was nominated by a Jackson/Burge nomination. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed, and the vote was taken. With a vote of 5 in favor, 1 against, and 1 abstained, Mr. Byington was named Board Vice-Chairperson for the 2024 Calendar year.

Minutes and Financial Reports:

- On a Blanchard/Fisher motion, the Board members unanimously approved the minutes for the December 12th regular Board meeting, financial report, and other reports.

Code of Ethics:

- On a Jackson/Blanchard motion, the Board members unanimously approved the Rome City Schools' Board of Education Code of Ethics.

Board Norms:

- On a Blanchard/Jackson motion, the Board members unanimously approved the Rome City Schools' Board of Education Norms.

Public Recognition:

- Mr. Byington and Mr. Chris Boden recognized the following:
Mr. John Reid as Football Region 6-A Coach of the Year
Joe Wilkinson as Football Region 6-A Defensive Player of the Year
- Mr. Jackson and Mr. Chris Boden recognized the following:
Reece Fountain as Football Region 6-A Defensive Player of the Year
- Mrs. Burge and Mr. Chris Boden recognized the following:
2023 All Region 1st Team Wide Receiver D.K. Daniel
2023 All Region 1st Team Offensive Line Jarvis Adams
2023 All Region 1st Team Running Back Javarius McDermont
2023 All Region 1st Team Defensive Line Justin Terrell
2023 All Region 1st Team Defensive Line Rishard Sullivan
2023 All Region 1st Team Defensive End Trey Adams
2023 All Region 1st Team Linebacker Jaedon Harmon
2023 All Region 1st Team Defensive Back Javian Winston
- Mrs. Burge and Mr. Chris Boden recognized the following:
Atlanta Journal Constitution All State Team, 1st Team Linebacker Jaedon Harmon
Atlanta Journal Constitution All State Team, 1st Team Quarterback Reece Fountain
Atlanta Journal Constitution All State Team, Honorable Mention Joe Wilkinson
- Mrs. Blanchard and Mrs. Lindsey recognized the following:
East Central Spelling Bee Winner Annie Rose Cole
- Mr. John Reid recognized the following:
2023 All Region 1st Team Punter Corey Gardhigh
- Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Lindsey recognized the following:
Team Members of the District Winners for the Stock Market Exchange Game Competition -
Elouise Bucariza, Cora Ollis, & Kamilah Clonts

- Mrs. Murphy presented the Rome City Schools Employees of the Month:
 Anna K. Davie Elementary - Mr. Shane Parsons
 East Central Elementary - Ms. Nikole Millsap
 Elm Street Elementary - Mr. Kenny Tribble
 Main Elementary - Ms. Tika Ellis
 West Central Elementary - Ms. Leigh Otting
 West End Elementary - Ms. Hannah Regenniter
 Rome Middle School - Mr. Frank Roberts
 Rome High School - Ms. Tracy McPherson
 PLC/RTA - Mrs. Nicole Hatcher
- Mrs. Felicia Jackson presented the Rome City Schools Students of the Month:
 Anna K. Davie Elementary - Carina Higginbotham
 East Central Elementary - Martay Gibson-Brown
 Elm Street Elementary - Nayeli Ambris
 Main Elementary - Allison Gomez Vincente
 West Central Elementary - Christian James
 West End Elementary - Luke Turlington
 Rome Middle School - Triniti Allen
 Rome High School - Kenny Vazquez-Perez
 PLC/RTA - Clifford Bailey

Public Comment:

- None

Superintendent's Report and Recommendation:

- Attendance Report:
 - No Attendance Report for the January Board Meeting. The 5th month of reporting is December 4th - January 18th.
- 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.
- ESPLOST V:
 - Director of Finance, Mr. Greg Studdard, presented the ESPLOST V receipts for the tax period of December 2023, which indicate the actual amount collected was \$710,851. The anticipated ESPLOST amount was \$505,300. We had a positive variance of \$205,551.
- Spotlight on Anna K. Davie Elementary School, Principal, Mr. Brant Amerman:
 - Mr. Amerman began his presentation by recognizing the staff members of Anna K. Davie Elementary School and Mrs. Kimmie Whatley, the school's assistant principal. He shared the

school's demographics and highlighted the increase in gifted students and the high retention rate of staff members. The presentation continued with the four pillars. Pillar #1 → Student Achievement - the School Improvement Growth Goals - attendance, reading, and math goals. Pillar #2 → Staff Development - professional learning with the academic coaches - Dr. World and Mrs. Scherich, data analysis meetings, collaborative planning, and the TNTP partnership. Mr. Amerman highlighted two 5th grade teachers with 50%+ growth - Mrs. Garvey and Mrs. McConnel. Pillar #3 → Stakeholder Engagement - family events with student performances and parent workshops, Title I family nights, PTO events, holiday events and luncheons, and parent contacts via SchoolStaus. Pillar #4 → Safety and Operations - the RCS - The AKD Way of being Ready to Learn, Courteous, and Safe. Mr. Amerman highlighted Mr. Bowles for always being RCS and for the fact that 72% of his students scored 50%+ growth. Mr. Amerman concluded with the pictures and highlights indicating that #AKD is the Place to Be.

- Other Items:

- School Board Appreciation Month/Week - Dr. Holland recognized and thanked the Board for all that they do for Rome City Schools.
- In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rome City Schools is participating in multiple upcoming events: Talent Show on January 12th @6:30 p.m. at the Rome City Auditorium and Prayer Breakfast on January 13th @9:00 a.m. at Lovejoy Baptist Church with Dr. Lashley being the keynote speaker.
- The school district will be closed on January 15th in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- The district spelling bee will be held on Friday, January 19th @10:00 a.m. at the College and Career Academy.
- It is still basketball season with Rome High Schools' girls and boys basketball teams competing in several upcoming games. Also, a special shout-out to the girls' team for winning the Rome News Tribune Tournament and the Heritage Christian Basketball Tournament.
- Retention Bonus will be distributed to all RCS employees on Friday, January 12th from the state of Georgia, and RCS used ESSER funds to pay those Rome City Schools' employees not included by the state for the bonus.
- Mrs. Walley will reschedule the Parent Training at the Parent Resource Center.
- Dr. Holland and Dr. Lashley will be presenting at the Rotary Luncheon on Thursday, February 1st with information concerning the RCS Literacy Compass.
- Special Shout-out to Anna K. Davie Elementary School and Main Elementary School for all the work they have done so far this school year concerning the CSI list and, specifically, to Anna K. Davie Elementary for no longer being on the elementary list.
- Some Cabinet Members and a couple of principals will be attending GAEL Winter Conference and professional learning training in Athens. In addition, Mr. Fricks will be presenting at the conference on the subject of AI - Artificial Intelligence. Title I funds will be used to pay these expenses.
- Rome City Schools will attend a PL training with Marietta City Schools on the Science of Reading on Monday, January 22nd.
- Dr. Holland and the Board will be at Anna K. Davie Elementary on Friday, January 12th for their monthly luncheon.
- Communication with the Community will be on Artificial Intelligence with Mr. Fricks on Thursday, January 25th,
- Mrs. Murphy send out Letters of Intent via Rome City Schools' email on Tuesday, January 2nd.

- Shout-out to Dr. Wesley Styles for leading Clark's Kids holiday donation and to Mrs. Felisha Jackson for leading the Wolf Wish list in providing Christmas gifts to our students.

Communications:

- None

Unfinished Business:

- Mr. Crabbe reviewed the Proposal 1 of the Rome City Schools 2024-2005 School Calendar. He further explained that since the December Board Meeting, Rome City Schools has received more detailed information concerning the Science of Reading, House Bill 538, and the extensive professional learning required by our teachers. With that in mind, Mr. Crabbe explained that our system would table the second reading and the vote concerning the 2024-2025 School Calendar. Dr. Holland further explained the feedback he is gathering and next steps in presenting a school calendar in February. Mrs. Collins then explained that since the calendar revision is not ready, the board would table presenting the calendar and the Board's vote on the calendar.

New Business:

- None

Announcement:

- Upon Mr. Jackson's request and Mrs. Collins' permission, Mr. Jackson made an announcement concerning the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations in our community for the upcoming weekend.

Closing:

- There being no further business, Mrs. Collins adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.