

REMSSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
APRIL 14, 2020

VIDEO/WEB CONFERENCING
DISTRICT WEBSITE LINK

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Reilly, Brian Parent, Mark Williams, Stephanie Karis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Lou Allen

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, Kristy McGrath, Gary Winghart, Kelly Runninger,
Kevin Roberts, Catherine Chandler

Meeting called to order by James Reilly, Board Vice President, at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by all in attendance.

No public input.

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve minutes from meeting held on
March 10, 2020 and approve agenda dated April 14, 2020.”

Vote - 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve warrants for payment; accept
Treasurer’s and Budget Status Reports for the period ended February 29, 2020; accept
Revenue Budget Status Report, Appropriation Status Report and approve budget
transfers.”

Vote - 4 yes; 0 no

Elementary Principal’s Report given by Gary Winghart included the following:

- Remote learning has been going well with the assistance of Anne Reilly and Lisa Davis (BOCES). Both have provided support to our teachers with additional help from BOCES staff members. Some platforms being used are Google Classroom, Zoom Meetings and Google Meet.
- Trying to maintain connections between school and students. Mr. Reilly asked – How many students have we heard from? Mr. Winghart replied that our teachers contact each of their students twice a week. Phone calls are made to students. Physical learning packets are going home to all elementary students via school buses. Online classes vary with grades 3-6 engaging online more than the PreK-2.
- Devices available to families who need them.

High School Principal's Report given by Kristy McGrath included the following:

- Events impacted by closure include Snow Ball (March 13); Spring Varsity Sports Season (March 16); Grade 5-12 Concert; Junior High All County; National Honor Society Inductions; Utica College Science Fair; Mock Trial Competitions; Modified Spring Sports Season; Blood Drive. Postponements at this time are the Prom scheduled for May 9 and the State FFA Convention (May 14-May 15).
- Yearbook orders being done on-line and will be shipped directly to students' homes.
- Timeline for March 16- April 2 Plan – Faculty meeting held on March 16th. Teachers were advised to provide work to students from that day through April break. Student work can be hard copy (delivered on bus runs) or electronic. Parameters provided were that students should spend approximately 20 minutes per day per course which equates over 2 hours of work per day. Learning should be a review of content students have already learned or if it is new material, tutorials and teaching needs to accompany it. Priority given to Regents courses, college courses and AP courses. Teacher Assistants called every family to determine who wanted lunches and what technology needs were at home. Special Education teachers, social workers and guidance counselor met to map plans for our students at high risk. Nurses returned all medicines to families.
- Timeline for April 3 – April 29 Plan – Virtual faculty meeting held on April 1st. Teachers informed they needed to ensure learning opportunities continued over vacation to April 29th. At any time, teachers can send work electronically to students. If there are items to go home, teachers label for delivery and cafeteria staff put materials with lunches which are delivered daily. Next large scale delivery will be April 20 – April 21.
- April 9th – virtual faculty meeting to update everyone on Regents information and district grading plan
- April 10th – Kristy sending communication to parents/students that outlines/reiterates all information regarding prom, grading, progress report dates, cancelled Regents and NYS exams. All of this information will be posted to school district web page and emailed to all families that we have an email address for.
- All 3-8 state exams canceled for this year. June Regents canceled. AP exams will be given in May electronically.
- In order for students to get college credit, they must have covered the content of the course (per MVCC).
- Students are on home instruction from March 16- April 29th. Governor Cuomo will determine if we close beyond that in 2 week increments.
- 41 chromebooks have been sent home for students. Everyone who requested a chromebook received one. 6 hot spots have been ordered.
- Out of almost 200 students in the building, we are not aware of anyone who cannot access the internet somehow. We do know that internet speed and consistency has been impacted by increased usage and not all of the internet is sufficient.
- Congratulations to Julia Cooper and her family on the birth of Francis Cooper.

Mrs. McGrath stated she is extremely thankful for the hard work, flexibility and dedication of all students, staff, parents and administration.

Mr. Reilly asked if there was a list of the addresses without sufficient internet. Mrs. McGrath stated 3 or 4 households have no internet. Social workers are working with these families to

assist in receiving internet access through Spectrum. Mr. Reilly suggested sending this information to our assemblymen and senators so they are aware of this situation.

Athletic Director's Report – There are no updates at this time.

Facilities Report given by Kevin Roberts included the following items:

- Smart Bond Project – Day Automation has all interior and exterior cameras up and running. Card reader at the HS Cafeteria should be installed April 16, 2020 which will then complete this project.
- Capital Improvement Project – Most of the punchlist items completed. Still some HVAC issues which Schmaltz and Trane are aware of. Looking at Phase II of current project. Facilities Committee looking at options including HS stage and underground fuel storage tank.
- Current Capital Outlay Project – J. Priore Construction of Utica was low bidder. Oneida Electric and Star HVAC are subcontractors. Received notification on April 7th from Empire State Development Corp. that has labeled all school construction as essential. J. Priore on site Friday, April 10th and started demo work on April 13, 2020.
- Previous Capital Outlay Projects – Problems with exterior doors at the high school which were manufactured by one company which are experiencing delamination issues. Contractor and manufacturer's representative on site. Manufacturer will replace affected doors.
- Buildings have been disinfected and shut down. Custodial and maintenance staff working one-two days a week to maintain building cleanings and repairs. All HVAC controls are set on unoccupied settings to conserve money.

Mr. Reilly asked if anyone had COVID-19. Mr. Jenny replied that to his knowledge no staff members or students had been infected with this virus.

Transportation Report given by Mr. Jenny who informed the Board of the following:

- Adam DeGrace doing a great job in the bus garage to coordinate meal deliveries and the delivery of student materials
- Bus inspections last week – all passed

Budget Discussion – In light of the current situation and unknown dates of votes and unknown funds available, the adoption date of the 2020-2021 budget will take place on April 28, 2020. Administration trying to maintain budget without much increase. Hoping to do a 0% increase in the operating budget between this year's and next year's budget. In order to do this, the TRANE efficiency dollars gained will be used. Long term substitute expenses will be reduced. Two bus runs will be consolidated into one run for next year. Student services provided by BOCES will be returned to the district. Two mid-year retirements during the 2019-2020 school year. Same operating costs for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

Tax Cap will be 2.26% which is fiscally responsible while still maintaining programs for students.

Mr. Reilly asked about a date for school elections which were scheduled for May 19, 2020. Mr. Jenny replied that all school elections have been postponed until at least June 1st.

Mr. Reilly also asked what the difference would be in our proposed budget and a contingency budget. Calculations will be completed for the April 28th special BOE meeting.

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from meeting held on March 11, 2020.”

Vote - 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt OHM BOCES calendar as the 2020-2021 calendar for Remsen Central School District.”

Vote - 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Stephanie Karis:

“**WHEREAS**, it is the plan of a number of PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS and the MADISON-ONEIDA BOCES (the “BOCES”) during the 2020-2021 school year to bid jointly for the purchase of various types of computers and technology commodities (the “Commodities”); and

WHEREAS, the Remsen Central School District (“the School District”) is desirous of participating in the joint bidding of the Commodities, as authorized by General Municipal Law, Article 5-G; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Education has received and reviewed the Cooperative Bid Procedures (“the Procedures”) governing its right and responsibilities should it elect to participate in the joint bidding of commodities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with Cooperative Bid Procedures the Board of Education agrees to award bid purchase item purchases according to the recommendation of the BOCES if such award is in the best interest of the school district.”

Vote - 4 yes; 0

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Brian Parent:

“**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has resulted in the Federal, State and County governments declaring a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has ordered, pursuant to Executive Order No. 202.4, the closures of schools statewide through April 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has previously ordered the closures of all Oneida County schools starting on March 16, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Education resolves as follows:

1. The Board of Education hereby declares the COVID-19 virus is an emergency for the School District.

2. The school district is closed for students at Remsen Central School March 16, 2020 ending April 29, 2020 pursuant to the Governor’s Order and the earlier County Executive Order.

3. During the period of school closure for students, all District stake holders shall establish plans to ensure the continuity of learning to the extent feasible and appropriate in accordance with consultation with the State Education department, Department of Health and the Office of Children and Family Services consistent with Executive Order 202.4.

4. The Board of education meetings from March 16, 2020 forwarded until further notice shall be closed to the public under Governor Executive Order 202.1. The school district shall make the meeting accessible to public participation through video streaming or by conference call at the time of the meeting and the school district will record the Board of Education meeting and post the video, audio or transcript on the district website.

5. The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to follow the Federal, State and County orders and to take such action as necessary and proper to operate the school district during this time of emergency.”
Vote - 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“**WHEREAS**, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in the Federal, State and County governments declaring a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida County Executive has ordered schools closed for student attendance beginning from March 16, 2020 to April 13, 2020 due to the threat from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 202.4, has closed schools statewide for a period ending on April 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Remsen Central School District (“School District”) intends to provide alternate instruction and continue the operation of educational and related programs provided by the School District to the extent reasonable and consistent with direction from the State Education Department, Department of Health, Office of Children and Family Services, and Federal, State and Local officials; and

WHEREAS, the School District desires to pay hourly School District employees during the closure of the traditional School District operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Board of Education hereby declares the COVID-19 pandemic is an emergency for the School District.
2. To the extent not already provided for in a collective bargaining agreement, hourly employees shall continue to be paid for the period from March 19, 2020 to April 2, 2020, and from April 14, 2020 to April 29, 2020 of the School District closure for students, provided such employees are available for work and report to work when directed to do so. This is meant to make such employees whole for missed work due to the school closure and shall be consistent with such employees’ regular compensation during normal school district operations.
3. Depending on the length of School District closure, the Superintendent of Schools may extend the length of paid leave to reflect an extended School District closure.
4. This resolution shall apply only for the specific and limited purpose of addressing the unique challenges presented by the outbreak of COVID-19. It shall not set any precedent or practice regarding any aspect of the Resolution.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.”
Vote - 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept donation of \$200.00 from Mailin Rounds to use for our elementary band and music program in memory of Everett Newman.”
Vote - 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve Policy 8104 - Class Rank and Valedictorian/Salutatorian Selection for the 2019-2020 school year only due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.”
Vote - 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Scott Zeigler as school bus driver/dispatcher effective March 13, 2020.”
Vote - 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education abolish the position of technology teacher effective as of June 26, 2020.”
Vote - 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Debbie Haynes of Clinton, NY as long-term substitute to cover leave of Julia Cooper.”
Vote - 4 yes; 0 no

REMINDER - Special BOE Meeting – April 28, 2020 - For the purpose of voting for BOCES Board Candidates, BOCES Administrative Budget, and Adoption of Remsen Central School District Budget for 2020-2021.

BOARD FORUM

- Mr. Reilly very impressed that with all the chaos happening around us, the district is taking very good care of the students.
- Mr. Parent stated that he was proud and encouraged by all district staff and administration. He was very pleased with the delivery of school lunches and learning packets to all students.
- Mr. Jenny thanked anyone who has tuned in to tonight’s Board of Education meeting. We will continue to meet in this way until we receive the okay to return back to open meetings.
- Thank you to our health care workers and all workers considered essential. Thank you to bus drivers, cafeteria staff, custodians and groundsworker.
- Thank you to our teachers who have had to switch gears to meet our students’ needs.
- Thank you to our administration team who have had to plan, coordinate and organize and then do it all over again when changes occur.
- Thank you to students and their parents for their resiliency through this crisis. Parents have had to balance their work at home (or at their workplace) and work with their children at home.
- Thank you to community members for their offers of assistance in any way to the district.

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM