

REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
APRIL 13, 2021

VIA VIDEO/WEB CONFERENCING - DISTRICT WEBSITE LINK

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Lou Allen, Brian Parent, Mark Williams,  
Stephanie Karis, Patrick Nolan

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, Daniel O’Bryan, Gary Winghart, John McKeown,  
Catherine Chandler, Kevin Roberts, Adam DeGrace, Dale Denning,  
Kelly Runniger, Tenure Candidates

Budget Work Session from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order by Board President, Mary Lou Allen, at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present.

No public participation.

Mr. Winghart and Mr. O’Bryan read their letters of recommendations for tenure candidates.

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Mark Williams:

“RESOLVED, that in compliance with the provisions of Section 3012(d) of the Education Law and Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that Carina Mettelman be appointed on tenure to the position of teacher in the Elementary tenure area, who holds a valid New York State Certificate permitting her to teach subjects in the aforesaid tenure area, the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District does hereby make this appointment effective September 1, 2021.” Unanimous vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that in compliance with the provisions of Section 3012(d) of the Education Law and Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that John Bunker be appointed on tenure to the position of teacher in the Social Studies tenure area, who holds a valid New York State Certificate permitting him to teach subjects in the aforesaid tenure area, the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District does hereby make this appointment effective September 1, 2021.” Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that in compliance with the provisions of Section 3012(d) of the Education Law and Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that Anthony Dangler be appointed on tenure to the position of teacher in Music tenure area, who holds a valid New York State Certificate permitting him to teach subjects in the aforesaid tenure area, the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District does hereby make this appointment effective September 1, 2021.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Mark Williams:

“RESOLVED, that in compliance with the provisions of Section 3012(d) of the Education Law and Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that Rayne Ives be appointed on tenure to the position of teacher in the Agriculture tenure area, who holds a valid New York State Certificate permitting her to teach subjects in the aforesaid tenure area, the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District does hereby make this appointment effective September 1, 2021.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve minutes from meeting held March 9, 2021; approve agenda dated April 13, 2021, with the following additions: Contract and resolutions for 6.6-Pilot Program – Solar Energy.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve warrants for payment; accept Treasurer’s Report and Budget Status Report for period ended February 28, 2021; accept Revenue Status Report and Appropriation Status Report; and approve budget transfers.”

Unanimous vote

Gary Winghart, Elementary Principal, gave his report to the Board which included the following:

- Trimester 2 Awards presented to students in their classrooms. Photos from the award presentations shared on district’s website and social media. Awards were mailed home to students following presentations.
- March Reading Madness took place from March 1 – April 1<sup>st</sup>. Classes read 16 books that were selected for the event. After reading each of the pairs, students voted for book they preferred. Each week the winning book from each pair moved forward to the next round. The book chosen by the staff and students of Remsen Elementary as the March Reading Madness Book of the Year was The Junkyard Wonders by Patricia Polacco.
- Water Safari Reading Challenge – Students are challenged to read a total of 6 hours outside of school in order to earn a free child pass to the Enchanted Forest Water Safari. This challenge begins the week of April 12<sup>th</sup> through May 12<sup>th</sup>.

- NYS Testing – NYS assessments in Math, ELA and Science will be administered this spring. Students in grades 4-6 will be taking the computer based assessments and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will be taking paper based assessment. We will be administering only part 1 of the assessments to our Remsen students.  
April 26<sup>th</sup> – Grades 3-8 ELA Assessment; May 10<sup>th</sup>-Grades 3-8 Math Assessment and June 7<sup>th</sup>-Grade 4 Science Assessment.
- STEAM Day – We are in the process of planning a school-wide STEAM day with the assistance of Mrs. Lisa Davis. This will be a half day event that will consist of a number of hands on science, technology, engineering, art and math activities for students to participate in with their classmates. We are planning to utilize outdoor space as much as possible, incorporating a variety of nature themed and outdoor activities into the event. STEAM day currently scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Dan O’Bryan, High School Principal, gave his report which included the following:

- On April 12<sup>th</sup> all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students returned from their hybrid model of instruction to attending classes in person every day. This marks the return of all in-person high school students to everyday instruction for the first time in over a year.
- Results from the National MathWorks Math Modeling (M3) Challenge Competition have been released. Our students, Abby Barton, Ryan Graves, Morgan Jones, Paige Loveric and Emma Skermont were recognized to have submitted a “viable solution” to the real world problem of providing high speed internet access to rural communities. This placed them among the top 20% of teams throughout the county. Congratulations to Mr. Glass and team members for this accomplishment.
- As part of the Virtual Utica College Regional Science Fair, Remsen students took top places in multiple divisions. In the Junior Division-Physical Science, Ella Staskoski placed 1<sup>st</sup>, Jaden Jordan placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and Ean Piaschyk placed 4<sup>th</sup>. In the Junior Division-National Science, Makayla Wilcox placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations!
- Ty Bowers and Burke Gates participated in the District 5 Leadership Development Events for FFA and were selected to compete to represent NYS at the National FFA Conference. Both students did an amazing job. Ty placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the state. Congratulations to both young men!
- Remsen Class of 2021 advisors have begun providing special treats for high school seniors. Special treats are provided once a month to seniors during their Senior Seminar class.
- The International Club is planning a collaborative activity with the elementary school later this month. High school students and teachers plan to meet with elementary classes to teach some introductory language skills and games.

Dale Dening, Athletic Director, gave his report which included:

- The abbreviated winter sports season finished without contracting one single case of COVID-19 among student-athletes. All varsity teams played their full allotted schedule with exception of basketball with NY Mills.
- Fall 2 Sports practices are going well. Modified sports practice every other day. Live streaming of Varsity home games (soccer only).

- Senior Nights – Girls Soccer – April 14<sup>th</sup>; Boys Soccer-April 15<sup>th</sup> and Cross Country on April 16<sup>th</sup>

Kevin Roberts' Facilities Report included the following items:

- Capital Improvement Project – Phase II – Beavers Petroleum Co. onsite on March 30<sup>th</sup> to look over the site for the new underground fuel storage tank. They brought an underground utilities locator service and located water main to the high school which is south and east of the proposed new tank location.
- 2021 Capital Outlay Project delayed due to financial concerns.
- Previous Capital Outlay Projects – Special Lite has replaced the 4 exterior doors at the high school that had warranty issues. Special Lite was on site March 30<sup>th</sup> and have determined there is an installation issue with the door frame itself.
- Grounds worker candidates have been interviewed.
- Custodial crews very busy with cleaning and disinfection process with 100% of students back at school and sports season.

Transportation Report given by Adam DeGrace as follows:

- There are a few Bus inspections which will occur at the end of April.
- We are using new corrosion control program which neutralizes road salt.
- A new radio system has been tested which greatly outperforms our current system.
- Bus drivers up to date on qualifications.
- Bus emergency drill in April for all students.

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the Remsen Central School District Communicable Disease Public Health Emergency Continuation of Operation Plan.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from meetings held on March 17, March 24 and March 25, 2021; and accept recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from meetings held on March 8 and March 16, 2021.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Brian Parent:

“**WHEREAS**, it is the plan of a number of PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS and the MADISON-ONEIDA BOCES (the “BOCES”) during the 2021-2022 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.”  
Unanimous vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Mark Williams:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Temporary Use Agreement allowing Remsen Central School District to use County of Oneida Optical Scan Voting Systems, privacy booths, as well as other ancillary equipment, supplies and services related thereto for school election May 18, 2021, for the amount of \$750.00 and \$800.00 for 2022.”  
Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the Remsen Central School District budget for 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$13,598,332.”  
Unanimous vote

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the Property Tax Report Card for 2021-2022.”  
Unanimous vote

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Brian Parent:

**WHEREAS**, Real Property Tax Law Section 487 provides that certain solar or wind energy systems or farm waste energy systems are exempt from real property taxation for a period of fifteen years; and

**WHEREAS**, Real Property Tax Law Section 487 permits a school district to adopt a resolution providing that the exemption under Real Property Tax Law Section 487 shall not apply within its jurisdiction to such solar, wind or farm waste energy system projects which begin construction subsequent to the effective date of such resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 8, 2020, the Board of Education adopted a resolution opting out of the tax exemption under Real property Tax Law Section 487; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education desires to adopt a resolution rescinding its opt out under Real Property Tax Law Section 487.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that:

1. It is resolved that the Remsen Central School District’s opt out of the tax exemption made available by Real Property Tax Law Section 487 for solar, wind or farm waste energy systems is hereby rescinded and such exemption shall be applicable within the boundaries of the Remsen Central School District.
2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately. Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Mark Williams:

**WHEREAS**, TJA-NY-10761 Buck Rd Remsen, LLC (the “Company”) intends to build and operate a solar energy system as defined by the New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 487 (the “Project”) located at 10761 Buck Road (Tax ID#140.000-1-25.2), Remsen, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, the Remsen Central School District and Company seek to enter into a fifteen year payment in lieu of tax agreement with a payment of \$3,000/megawatt, with a 2% escalation clause, in connection with the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that:

1. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute legal agreements and other documents pursuant to the terms set forth above and in the form approved by legal counsel.
2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately. Unanimous vote

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Brian Parent:

**WHEREAS**, Section 487 of the Real Property Tax Law provides a tax exemption for real property which includes certain solar and wind energy systems, farm waste energy systems, and other alternate energy system; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 487(8) of the Real Property Tax Law authorizes school districts to opt out of this exemption; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District has determined that it would be in the best interest of the District to opt out of this exemption.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that:

1. No tax exemption made available by Section 487 of the Real Property Tax Law shall be applicable within the jurisdiction of the Remsen Central School District with respect to any solar or wind energy system or farm waste energy system constructed subsequent to the effective date of this Resolution.
2. No tax exemption made available by Section 487 of the Real Property Tax Law shall be applicable within the jurisdiction of the Remsen Central School District with respect to any micro-hydroelectric energy system, fuel cell electric generating system, micro-combined heat and power generating equipment system, or electric energy storage equipment or electric energy storage system constructed subsequent to the effective date of this Resolution.
3. The Superintendent of School is authorized to take any other necessary and proper action to implement this Resolution.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately. Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept notice of intent to retire of Carole Blystone, effective July 1, 2021.” Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Craig Gallant as Grounds Worker effective April 29, 2021 at annual salary of \$30,000.00.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of James S. Wilder as Varsity Baseball Coach effective immediately.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Jamie Dening as Girls Varsity Track Coach effective immediately.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Scott Jones to the position of Modified Baseball Coach for the 2020-2021 season.”

Unanimous vote

Information and correspondence given to the Board for their information included the following items:

- BOCES Annual Meeting – April 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
- Nomination of Persons for BOCES Board of Education
- Special BOE Meeting -April 27, 2021-6:00 PM- For purpose of voting for BOCES Board Candidates and BOCES Administrative Budget

Board Forum: Thank you to the custodial crew for going above and beyond in doing the work on school grounds. Thank you to everyone for getting all our students back to school every day. All your hard work is appreciated. Thank you to Mr. McKeown for all his hard work on the school budget for 2021-2022.

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Patrick Nolan to go into Executive Session at 8:10 PM for the sole purpose of discussion of collective negotiations pertaining to the RTA Union pursuant to article 14 of the Civil Service Law.

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Mark Williams to return to Regular Session at 9:42 PM

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Brian Parent to adjourn the meeting at 9:43PM