

REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2020

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, Kristy McGrath, Gary Winghart, John McKeown, Catherine Chandler, Adam DeGrace, Kelly Runniger, Daniel O'Bryan

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

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag recited by all present.

No public participation.

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve minutes from meeting held on July 14, 2020; approve agenda dated August 11, 2020 with the following additions: 7.6 Teacher Resignation and 7.7 Appointment of Long Term Substitute.”
Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve warrants for payment; accept Treasurer’s Report and Budget Status Report for period ended June 30, 2020; accept Revenue Status Report and Appropriation Status Report.” Unanimous vote

Elementary and JSBS Principals’ report will be given when the COVID-19 Student and Staff Health and Safety Reopening Plan is discussed.

Facilities Report included in board packet for your information as Mr. Roberts on vacation.

Transportation Report given by Adam DeGrace included the following:

- Bus Inspections August 12th for buses 99, 96, 94 and 93
- No fleet updates-all buses operational and ready to go
- Bus Driver news – Article 19A records are being double checked to be sure all drivers are ready for the 2020-2021 school year

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Mark Williams:

“WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the New York State Governor declared, under Executive Order 202.4, all schools within New York State to be closed to students no later than March 18, 2020 for a period of two weeks, ending on April 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, various subsequent executive orders were issued by the New York State Governor resulting in the closure of schools to students for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on or about July 13, 2020, the New York State Department issued interim guidance for in-person instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 schools during the COVID-19 public health emergency for the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, ON OR ABOUT July 16, 2020, the New York State Education Department released reopening guidance for schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

1. In an effort to comply with reopening requirements, the Board hereby temporarily suspends any Board policy or administrative regulation/procedure that conflicts with any current or future federal, state, or county law, regulation, executive order, or guidance released for the purpose of reopening of schools during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to follow the federal, state, or county laws, regulations, executive orders, or guidance and to take such action as reasonably necessary and proper for the purpose of reopening of schools. Unanimous vote

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the COVID-19 Student and Staff Health and Safety Reopening Plan.” Unanimous vote

Discussion: Mr. Jenny explained this plan is fluid and may need to be changed as circumstances change. He thanked the building teams who helped to put this document together. There were many hours spent in several meetings to complete the Health and Safety Reopening Plan. The plan allows as many students as possible to attend within the safety guidelines from NYSED and Department of Health.

Gary Winghart, Elementary Principal, explained the plan for the elementary school. The challenge is the spacing of students within the classrooms. Kindergarten is two classes which will be split into four sections. First grade is two sections with teaching assistant. Grades 3 and 4 – sections added to allow for student spacing. Mask breaks will be allowed during the day in the classroom. Specials will go to the classrooms. Question – if parent chooses not to send child to school, how will that child be taught?

Current enrollment numbers are being used to plan classroom spacing. Surveys have been sent to families. Those families who do not respond to the survey will receive phone call to state their children’s plans for this school year.

7-12 students will receive chromebook to use for the year. In the elementary school, we have enough devices for students who need them (based on need from March-June and survey results). A survey sent in July to families asked if they had device for their child or needed one from the district, internet connectivity or no internet and if the internet was available, but they chose not to subscribe. 198 responses

Another survey sent on Friday, August 7th and 184 responses received back. This survey asked about transportation of their children- was transportation required? Would parent transport? And if so, would they transport AM and PM or just AM or just PM. 54% will transport both ways. 27% need transportation both to and from school.

PreK will be a daily virtual program.

Kristy McGrath and Dan O'Bryan discussed the JSHS plan – Students split into 2 groups (A & B). Each group attends two days. Students are given task or assignment to complete on their at-home days, engaging remotely. This plan splits the JSHS building into two cohorts of 100 students each. If a household loses internet connectivity for extensive length of time, materials will be delivered to the home as well as phone calls from teachers, counselors, etc.

Sports have been postponed until September 21, 2020. Winter and spring seasons have been abbreviated.

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve tax levy of \$5,472,359.00 for the 2020-2021 school year.”
Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Mark Williams:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Kristy McGrath, JSHS Principal, effective September 1, 2020.”
Unanimous vote

Mr. Parent stated that Mrs. McGrath was the confident professional that they interviewed and stated that everyone will miss her.

Mrs. Allen stated that the Board of Education appreciates everything Mrs. McGrath has done for our district. We wish her well in her position.

Mr. Jenny stated Mrs. McGrath has been a fantastic High School Principal. She is leaving us to work with curriculum and data in another district. We will miss her greatly!

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Agreement by and between the Remsen Central School District, Remsen Teachers’ Association and Jennifer LaBella.”
Unanimous vote

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education grant leave to Jennifer LaBella from her position as Remedial Reading teacher for the 2020-2021 school year.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Mark Williams:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District, pursuant to Section 2509 of the Education Law and in compliance with Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint Jennifer LaBella of Boonville, NY to the position of teacher in the Elementary Education tenure area for a probationary appointment of three years to commence on September 1, 2020 and to expire on June 30, 2023.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Mark Williams, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Chelsea Blovat, Special Education teacher, effective August 31, 2020.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Kate Runniger of Remsen, NY as Cheerleading Coach for the 2020-2021 school year.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Mark Williams:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Hunter Brown as long term substitute for French beginning September 2, 2020 through September 28, 2020, pending fingerprint clearance.”

Unanimous vote

Correspondence given to the board for their information was a thank you note from Carol Hamlin for receiving the Margaret Pritchard Davis staff award.

Board Forum

- Thank you for all work done during the pandemic. A great job done by all!
- Tremendous progress is being made in the district. The administrative team work extremely well together.
- Mr. Jenny has done a wonderful job putting the COVID-19 Student and Staff Health and Safety Reopening Plan together.

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Mark Williams to go into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. for

	Matters that will imperil the public safety if disclosed
	Any matter that may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer
	Information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed.
	Proposed, pending, or current litigation
	Collective negotiations pertaining to the _____ Union pursuant to article 14 of the Civil Service Law

X	The medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation.
	The preparation, grading, or administration of exams
	The proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition, sale, or exchange of securities, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value of these things.
	Discussing student records made confidential by federal law (FERPA or IDEA)
	Hearing an appeal of a student suspension
	Hearing an appeal of an employee grievance
	Seeking legal advice from our attorney, which is made privileged by law

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis to return to Regular Session at 9:30 p.m.

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Mark Williams to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.