

REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MARCH 20, 2023

"All Remsen students will Soar to Success"

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Lou Allen, Jeannie Scouten,
(Patrick Nolan: Arrived at 6:01 p.m.)
(Stephanie Karis: Arrived at 6:07 p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Parent

OTHERS PRESENT: (Grace Hajdasz: Student Representative) Timothy
Jenny, John McKeown, Sanya Pelrah, Gary
Winghart, Olivia Woolheater, Kevin Roberts, Adam
DeGrace, Kelly Runniger, Dale Dening, Christine
Goossens

Mr. John McKeown and Mr. Timothy Jenny presented the Budget Workshop #2 from 6:00 p.m.
to 6:20 p.m.

EV Bus Presentation given by Christine Goossens from 6:20 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present.

Mrs. Allen read the following statement: Public Participation - We are about to convene into the public comment period of our meeting. Any district resident wishing to speak during public session is required to sign in, stating your full name, address, contact information and the topic that you wish to discuss. If you have not signed in and you wish to speak, the District Clerk will bring the sign-in sheet over to you at this time. We will insist that all speakers and members of the audience maintain civility and respect. The board will now entertain public comments for up to a maximum of 30 minutes. Each individual speaker will be allotted three minutes. Please be reminded that written comments or concerns to be shared with the Board may also be submitted or emailed District Clerk, Ms. Olivia Woolheater or to the Superintendent, Mr. Timothy Jenny at any time.

No public participation this evening

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved the minutes from the meeting held on February 14, 2023; and it be further resolved that the Board of Education approve Warrants for Payment; Treasurer’s Report; accept Revenue Status Report; and Appropriation Status Report.”

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no

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

- **Upcoming Events:** March 23-24: Parent Teacher Conferences. March 28: Trimester 2 Evening of Excellence. March 31: PK-3 Field Trip to the Stanley Theatre.
- **Positivity Project Assembly:** On March 16th, students in Pre-K through 6th grade, came together to celebrate positive character. The assembly was student led as the 6th graders talked about character traits and shared how they have seen them displayed at Remsen Elementary.
- **Student Recognition:** Several students were selected for the month of February as Soaring Students of the month. Trimester Two Evening of Excellence: On March 28th, students will be recognized for their academic behavioral achievements for the second trimester. Students will be awarded with Good Citizenship and Soaring to Success awards as well as honor and high honor roll awards.
- **Pete the Cat:** Pete’s Big Hollywood Adventure: On March 31st, students in Pre-K through 3rd grade will be traveling to the Stanley Theatre to watch Pete’s Big Hollywood Adventure.
- **Around the School:** 6th Grade Presentations: The 6th grade students have been working hard on their research and presentation skills. Their most recent assignment required the students to research a type of weather related to natural disasters, learn about weather conditions, and where the natural disaster typically occurs. Peep Activities: Mrs. Davis spent time throughout the month with many of the students working on PEEP themed STEAM activities. Some of the classes designed containers/contraptions that would keep their Peeps safe from melting or getting wet.
- **Clubs and Activities:** Elementary Student Council: The Elementary Student Council has teamed up with the High School Student Council to raise money for St. Jude’s Research Hospital. The theme of this event is called, ‘Rock Childhood Cancer.’ Students are working to bring in money donations. When someone donates, their name would be placed on a shamrock. Steam Club: On March 7th, the STEAM club met and engaged in more thoughtful STEAM activities. Students were supplied eggs and had the task of designing a structure to keep their egg safe.

High School Principal’s report given by Sanya Pelrah included the following items:

- **Team Workshop and Instructional Focus:** The March workshop was an opportunity for staff to come together for a reflective and team-building activity. The staff were asked to create a visual representation of what Remsen means to them and their “why” for being here. Ms. Richard kindly offered her room, supplies, and expertise.
- **Culture and Climate:** The Culture and Climate Committee approved positivity posters that will be displayed throughout the school. The goal is to add a little encouragement and school spirit to the physical space. On March 3rd, honor roll celebrations were held. It

was wonderful to see so many of the students working hard and reaching success. The Middle School Science Fair was a success. The students put a great amount of effort into their projects. There are several students who were finalists and will present their projects at the Utica University Science Fair.

- **Clubs and Activities:** 12th grade: The senior class is holding multiple fundraising events to help offset senior year expenses. The latest fundraisers were, Utica Coffee, car wash cards, and a spaghetti dinner. 11th grade: Students have begun to look for their prom location for next year. International Club: The International Club is looking forward to the NYC day trip on March 31st. The club also celebrated World Languages Week (March 6-10) by playing Spanish and French music during passing time and conducted a scavenger hunt bingo where students have to find staff who have various cultural experiences. Mock Trial: The team lost their last match but did a great job. National Honor Society: The induction Ceremony for the new members will be March 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the High School cafeteria. All board members are invited to attend. Ski/Snowboard Club: The last day for the club was March 10th. Mr. Gallo, the club advisor, reported that the club had a lot of fun this season and did a great job representing Remsen.
- **Student Council Representative: Grace Hajdasz:** The Student Council is fundraising for St. Jude's Hospital with the 'Rock Childhood Cancer' initiative. Students and Staff can donate \$1 and get a shamrock with their name to display. The Student Council also sold candy at the musical and supported the student body.

Athletic Director's Report given by Dale Denning included the following items:

- **Important Dates:** March 9th: Exceptional Senior Basketball All-Star Game at HCCC. March 13th: Varsity Spring Sports begin.
- **Winter Sports:** Varsity Basketball: The Boys' Varsity Basketball team hosted the first round sectional game for the 1st time in many years. The boys lost 50-39 but remained competitive during the game. Boys & Girls Modified Basketball: The teams finished their seasons. Thank you to Shannon Meeker and Katey Secor for their time and leadership during the past 10 weeks and stepping up to coach.
- **NYSPHSAA Team Scholar-Athlete Awards:** All four varsity teams this past winter have qualified for the NYSPHAA team Scholar Athlete Award (Varsity Volleyball, Boys Varsity Basketball, Boys/Girls Varsity Indoor Track and Field).
- **Spring Sports:** Sign-ups for spring sports have been completed. There are still two coaching vacancies.

Facilities Report given by Kevin Roberts included the following items:

- **2023 Capital Outlay Project:** New Elementary lockers. The contract has been awarded to R.E Alexander Construction of Marcy, NY. The work for this project will begin over the April break.
- **Next Capital Improvement Project:** We have met multiple times to further narrow down the scope of work to fit our financial picture.
- **Lead in the Drinking Water Testing:** The NYSDOH has lowered the threshold for lead in the applicable water outlets from 15ppm to 5ppm. This new round of testing must be

completed between 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025. The testing must be conducted on a triannual basis after the test is completed.

- **February/Mid-Winter Break Work:** There was productive days of work over the February Break. Besides the usual routine of general cleaning we were able to complete other jobs to enhance the buildings: 1. Additional framing/molding was installed in the high school first floor hallway so the alumni association could add up-to-date senior class pictures, which we assisted with. We are in the process of adding brass plates to indicate the graduating year. There is now enough room for 20 plus years of pictures. 2. The bell area over the front entrance of the high school was cleaned, the old plaster was scraped and removed, and the plaster was patched and painted.

Transportation report given by Adam DeGrace included the following items:

- **Bus Inspections:** There are no bus inspections this month. Inspections will take place around the end of the month or beginning of next month.
- **Bus Fleet Updates:** The buses are in good condition. The new buses are expected March 28th.
- **Bus Driver News:** All drivers are current on their qualifications. The newest driver is taking the village route and doing very well. The other new driver is doing great with his training.

Capital Project Planning Information: We are working with Rick Timbs to ensure that our project scope fits within our financial scope for the upcoming proposed Capital Project. A successful proposition on the ballot in May to create a Capital Reserve will allow us to start funding this reserve in preparation for the potential upcoming Capital project. We should be ready for a project referendum in November. Receiving estimates for items. Will act on proposition tonight.

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from meetings held on February 16th and 28th and March 7th 2023. Please be reminded that discussion of a specific IEP should be referred to Executive Session.”

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Remsen Central School District Calendar for 2023 – 2024.”

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the grant from the Adirondack Foreign Language Enhancement fund in the amount of \$3,000.00 on 2/25/2023 for the project “Cultural Immersion Field Trip” requested by Laura Boyd and in the amount of \$2,000.00 on 2/15/2023 for the project “Juntos Podemos (Together we Can!)” requested by Michele Izzo.”

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan:

“WHEREAS,

The Cooperative Purchasing Service is a plan of a number of public school districts in the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services Area in New York (known as the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation [CiTi]), to bid jointly for water testing and sampling services, and

WHEREAS,

Remsen Central School hereinafter the “Participant”) is desirous of participating with Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi and other Boards of Cooperative Educational Services and public school districts in the joint bidding of the services mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, and

WHEREAS,

The participant wishes to appoint the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi to advertise for bids, accept bids, tabulate bids and award bids on their behalf; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED,

The participant hereby appoints Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi to represent it in all matters relating above, and designates the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi designated newspaper(s) as the legal publication(s) for all Cooperative Purchasing bid notifications, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

The participant authorizes the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned services, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

The participant agrees to (1) assume its equitable share of the costs of the Cooperative Bidding; (2) abide by majority decisions of the participating districts; (3) abide by the Award of the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi; (4) and that after the award of the bid it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).”

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten:

“This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is made by and between the Remsen Central School District (referred to in this document as “the District”), and CSEA LOCAL 1000, AFSCME AFL-CIO Remsen CSD UNIT #7769 Oneida County Local 869 (“the Association);

WHEREAS, the parties are subject to the stipulations of Collective Bargaining Agreement (“the Agreement”), commencing July 1, 2021, and remaining in effect through June 30, 2025, and;

WHEREAS, Appendix A of the Agreement provides for Minimum Starting Hourly Rates for Employees in the Association; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State law, the minimum wage for all New York State employees has increased to \$14.20, effective December 31, 2022;

IT IS, THEREFORE, HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The parties agree that the Minimum Starting Hourly Rate for the positions of Monitor, Teacher Aide, Bus Attendant, Motor Vehicle Operator, Mechanic’s Helper provided for in Appendix A is modified to the hourly rate of \$14.20. Additionally, the following minimum starting salaries are amended as follows: Cleaner - \$29,536, Grounds-worker - \$30,151.68, Custodian - \$30,151.68, Grounds-worker/Cleaner \$30,151.68, Senior Custodian - \$36,068.24.
2. The parties further agree that all existing employees with a current hourly rate below \$14.20 will be increased to \$14.56 effective December 31, 2022 and will be subject to the annual increases provided by the Agreement thereafter.
3. The parties further agree that all other employees and hourly positions in the unit will receive an hourly rate increase of \$0.36 effective December 31, 2022 as provided by this MOA and will be subject to the annual increases provided by the Agreement thereafter.
4. All other terms and conditions of the Agreement remain unchanged.
5. The circumstances of this MOA are unique and shall not serve as precedent, nor shall it be cited as such, in the future.
6. This MOA is subject to the approval of the Board of Education.”

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no

First read of Board of Education Policies – Section 7000

7001	7003	7005	7007
7002	7004	7006	

Superintendent’s Regulations for information only:

7002.1	7003.2	7005.1	7102.1	7102.3
7003.1	7004.1	7006.1	7102.2	

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten:

“**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District, as follows:

Section 1. The proposition hereinafter set forth is hereby authorized to be submitted for the approval of the qualified voters of the District on the 16th day of May 2023 (the "Vote").

Section 2. The proposition set forth below shall be submitted at the Vote and the District Clerk shall include notice of the proposition in substantially the following form in the notice of the Vote:

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that at the Vote to be held on May 16, 2023, the following proposition will be submitted:

PROPOSITION

2023 Capital Reserve Fund

“RESOLVED, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO ESTABLISH A CAPITAL RESERVE FUND PURSUANT TO SECTION 3651 OF THE EDUCATION LAW TO BE DESIGNATED, “2023 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND” CREATED TO DEFRAY THE COST OF THE CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY, APPARATUS, APPURTENANCES, FURNISHINGS, LAND ACQUISITIONS, AND OTHER INCIDENTAL IMPROVEMENTS AND EXPENSES IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND TO DEFRAY THE COST OF, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THE SAME, THE BOARD IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO ESTABLISH THE ULTIMATE AMOUNT OF SUCH RESERVE FUND TO TWO MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,500,000) INCLUSIVE OF ACCRUED INTEREST AND OTHER INVESTMENT EARNINGS, WITH A PROBABLE TERM OF TEN (10) YEARS. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO PAY FUNDS FROM THE AVAILABLE FUND BALANCE, STATE AID REIMBURSEMENT TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ON ACCOUNT OF CAPITAL PROJECTS, SUCH OTHER MONIES AS THE VOTERS MAY DIRECT, AND/OR OTHER LEGALLY AVAILABLE FUNDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO SUCH RESERVE FUND IN AN AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION UP TO THE MAXIMUM AUTHORIZED AMOUNT.”

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. The following notice shall be added to the notice of annual meeting and Election that the following proposition will be submitted for voter approval at such time:

PROPOSITION

Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit:

“RESOLVED, THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO UNDERTAKE THE ACQUISITION OF ONE (1) SCHOOL BUS, AT AN ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST OF \$151,888, LESS TRADE-IN VALUE, IF ANY, AND THAT SUCH COSTS, OR SO MUCH THEREOF AS MAY BE NECESSARY, SHALL BE RAISED BY THE LEVY OF A TAX TO BE COLLECTED IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS; AND, IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH TAX, DEBT OBLIGATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS MAY BE NECESSARY NOT TO EXCEED \$151,888 SHALL BE ISSUED, OR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY ENTER INTO AN INSTALLMENT PURCHASE CONTRACT IF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DETERMINES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE IN THAT METHOD.”

2. At such meeting taxes to be levied by installments will be proposed for authorized indebtedness providing for payment of the acquisition of a school bus at an estimated maximum cost of not to exceed \$151,888. Such taxes shall be levied upon all the taxable property of the District, shall be levied in annual installments and shall be of such amounts and levied in such years as may be determined by the Board of Education

3. The District Clerk or the Clerk’s designee is hereby directed to add the above to the notice of the annual meeting of the School District.

4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Duly put to a vote as follows:

 4 AYES 0 NAYS

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Tax Cap for 2024.”

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the bid from DeNooyer Chevrolet for the 2023 Chevy Suburban.”

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the resolution to nominate Steve Boucher of 9812 Twin Rock

Road, Remsen, NY 13438 for three (3) years to serve on the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Cooperative Board.”

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Jeannie Scouten:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education grant the request of Autumn Fasolino for an unpaid leave of absence on March 6, 2023.”

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Jim Wilder as the Boys’ Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2023 season.”

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Shannon Meeker as the Boys’ Varsity Golf Team Volunteer Assistant Coach for the 2023 season.”

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no

Information and Correspondence given to the Board included the following:

Community Building Use Requests (Information Only)

- Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways – Service Unit 213
 - March 10, 2023 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 - March 11, 2023 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting, April 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to:

1. Elect four members to the Board of Cooperative Educational Services.
2. Adopt a public resolution concerning the approval or disapproval of the tentative 2023-2024 Oneida – Herkimer – Madison BOCES administration budget.

Soaring to Success – Board of Education Roundtable Remarks

Board members reflected on and shared their thoughts about activities and events that occurred over the past month:

Mrs. Mary Lou Allen: Mrs. Allen commented on how excellent the Musical, ‘Pirates of Penzance’ was and how all of the students were so talented. Mrs. Allen also showed her appreciation to all of the people who supply grants for the students.

Mrs. Jeannie Scouten: Mrs. Scouten also commented how how great the musical was and the students did a great job.

Mr. Timothy Jenny: Mr. Jenny thanked Adam DeGrace for having Christine Goossens come to the district and give the EV Bus Presentation at tonight's meeting.

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan to enter executive session at 7:46 p.m.

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten to return to regular session at 7:56 p.m.

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan to adjourn regular session at 7:57 p.m.