

REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2023

"All Remsen students will Soar to Success"

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Lou Allen, Brian Parent, Stephanie Karis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeannie Scouten, Patrick Nolan

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, John McKeown, Sanya Pelrah, Gary Winghart, Olivia Woolheater, Kevin Roberts, Adam DeGrace, Kelly Runniger, Dale Dening

Mr. John McKeown and Mr. Timothy Jenny presented the Budget Workshop #2 from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order by Mary Lou Allen, Board President, at 6:30 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 Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved the minutes from the meeting held on January 10, 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: 3 yes; 0 no

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

- **Upcoming Events:** Feb 14th – Valentine’s Day. Feb 15th – 100th Day of School. Feb 16th – Orange and Black Day. Feb 20th – 24th – Mid-Winter Break. Feb 27th – Mar 3rd – Read Across America Week. Mar 10th – Pirates of Penzance: Elementary Preview. Mar 10th – Pre-K/Kindergarten Registration ends. Mar 13th – End of Trimester 2.
- **Student Council; Leading the way in Celebrations:** For the 100th day of school, the Elementary student council has organized a few fun activities for the students to participate in. On Feb 7th, the student council hid 100 rams throughout the school for classes to find. Each class was asked to find 6 to 7 rams and were asked to write down one thing that they love about Remsen Elementary. The rams were placed on the bulletin board in the front lobby and will serve as a backdrop for 100th day of school pictures. Orange and Black Day – The student council has organized a Black and Orange day on February 16th. Students are asked to come dressed in black and orange to school to represent their school spirit.
- **Spirit Week:** Spirit week was Jan 17th through Jan 20th. Everyone enjoyed dressing up for the themed days. Tuesday was Dress Like a Teacher Day, Wednesday was Wild West Wednesday, Thursday was Color Day, and Pajama Day was rescheduled due to a Snow Day to Friday Jan 27th.
- **Mystery at Shady Acres:** On Friday Feb 3rd, the Elementary Drama Club presented *Mystery at Shady Acres*, which was an audience participation mystery-comedy. The students all did a wonderful job bringing the drama to life.
- **Beginner Band and Fourth Grade Chorus Concert:** On Wednesday Feb 8th, fourth grade students performed in their first concert as members of an ensemble. Students in both band and the chorus did a wonderful job.
- **Around the School:** Positivity Project: So far this year the Elementary has already learned about and practiced 21 character strengths. Students have learned about the Other People Mindset and what it means and looks like. The students have also learned about everything from curiosity to gratitude. Bowling in PE: Mr. Jones recently finished up the popular bowling unit in PE class. Students love to learn to play the game, improve their bowling skills, and to keep score.

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

- **Team Workshop and Instructional Focus:** In the most recent Team Workshop, staff continued their collaborative data work by analyzing data and then creating goals with an action plan that is focused on student improvement. The Instructional Committee has created a teacher-led professional development, open to Elementary and High School Staff.
- **Culture and Climate:** The Culture and Climate Committee met on Feb 7th to make plans for the staff to write Valentine’s cards to the students to remind that we care about each of them. The committee also finalized positivity posters which will hang throughout the halls as encouraging reminders for the students.
- **Clubs and Activities:** 12th grade: The senior class has completed their Utica Coffee fundraiser. The next fundraiser will be the TD&J car wash from Mar 6th – 17th. The class has voted to use the funds towards prom expenses. The theme for prom this year is “Come Join Us for a Night of Enchantment.” The senior class is also planning their

senior trip. 11th Grade: The junior class is discussing what their next fundraiser should be and are brainstorming ideas for their senior trip. Drama Club: They are continuing to prepare for their musical, *Pirates of Penzance* which will take place on Mar 10th and Mar 11th. International Club: They are planning for an after school cooking class on Feb 28th with BOCES dietician and guest chef Hayley Mielnicki where they will make foods like Mexican Churros. International Club is also preparing for their trip to NYC on Mar 31st. Mock Trial: Has been preparing for their first scrimmage scheduled for Mar 1st. The meets are scheduled for Wednesdays in March. There are many new members on the team this year and they are looking forward to a fun season. Ski/Snowboard Club: They have had a successful first half of their season. Several of the students are first time skiers and have been learning. Mr. Gallo has received several compliments regarding the students' behavior and positive representation of our school district. Science Department: The 7th and 8th grade science classes are preparing for the science fair on Mar 6th. This year families will be able to attend. Student Council: The student council held a Snowflake Hunt where students located snowflakes hidden in the school. The 8th Grade class found the most snowflakes and won Remsen Cup Points.

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

- **Important Dates:** Feb 7th – Volleyball Seeding Meeting (Sectionals): Indoor Track & Field Class D Championship. Feb 10th – Senior night for Indoor Track. Feb 15th – Basketball Seeding Meeting (Sectionals)
- **Winter Sports:** Varsity Basketball: The overnight trip to Schroon Lake went very well. We received many compliments from different individuals up north regarding the behavior of our team's players and coaches. Varsity Volleyball: The fundraiser for Steven Swan Human Society went well. The volleyball program raised \$400 and delivered a van full of supplies to help support the facility. The volleyball team was a #13 seed this year and traveled to #4 Fabius-Pompey where they were defeated 3-1 in the preliminary round. Indoor Track & Field: The Boys' Varsity won the Center State Conference Championships for Division III. The boys' and the girls' teams participated in the Section 3 Class D Championships at the SRC Arena on the campus of Onondaga Community College on Feb 7th. The Boys' Varsity are the Section III Class D Champions. There will be three individuals who will go on to participate in the State Qualifier Meet on Feb 15th at OCC.
- **Senior Nights:** Varsity Volleyball (Jan 27th) vs. ODY/Richfield – Marissa Hefner, Sabrina Gates, Teaghan Fox. Varsity Basketball (Jan 24th) vs. Poland – Kyrian Hall, Grady Helmer, Josh Jordan, Ben Staskoski. Indoor Track & Field (Feb 2nd) - Grace Hajdasz, Grace Shufelt, Taylor Hollenbeck, Matt Murphy.
- **Spring Sports:** Sign ups have been completed for spring sports.

Facilities Report given by Kevin Roberts included the following items:

- **2023 Capital Outlay Project:** The contract for new Elementary Lockers has been awarded to R.E Alexander Construction of Marcy, NY. Work was planned to start over the mid-winter break. R.E Alexander has informed us that the delivery date for

the new lockers won't be until the second week of April. The work is now scheduled to take place during April Break.

- **Next Capital Improvement Project:** There has been preliminary discussions on the scope of work for the next major Capital Improvement Project. The Facilities Team met Jan 30th to prioritize the work list and narrow down the scope of proposed work. We have done that to a point and are now waiting for King & King to give us more detailed costs and options.
- **Lead in Drinking Water Testing:** The NYSDOH has lowered the threshold for lead in applicable water outlets from 15ppm to 5ppm. The new round of testing must be completed between Jan 1st 2023 to Dec 31st 2025. Awaiting direction from the OHM BOCES Safety Office on further guidance.
- **February 3rd – 5th Deep Freeze:** Many Schools and buildings suffered heating system freeze ups during the extreme cold weather from Feb 3rd to 5th. We made a decision to run the heating systems on occupied cycle the entire weekend and incurred no damage. We did have the water main coming into the High School boiler freeze up due to a combustion air damper for the boilers dumping outside air right next to the water main. It was thawed quickly and there was no damage.

Transportation report given by Adam DeGrace included the following items:

- **Bus Inspections:** Buses 96, 97, and 98 all passed inspection.
- **Bus Fleet Updates:** The buses are in good condition. The new buses are expected around the middle of March. We are testing a new corrosion prevention chemical on the high corrosion areas of the buses.
- **Bus Driver News:** All drivers are current on their qualifications. Adam has completed his 19A Certified Examiner training. There are two new bus drivers, one is ready to drive and is fully qualified and the other is a trainee. There have been a few more applications that can hopefully become substitute drivers.

John McKeown complimented Adam DeGrace, Rainer Beers, and the bus garage for their hard work keeping the buses in great condition and passing inspections.

Capital Project Planning Information: We are currently working with the architects and Rick Timbs on our provisional list of prioritized scope items and should have more information to share soon.

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from meetings held on January 9th, 13th, 19th, 26th, 27th, and 30th 2023. Please be reminded that discussion of a specific IEP should be referred to Executive Session.”

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

SEQRA Capital Outlay Project – RECOMMENDED ACTION – Approve the following:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District (the “Board”) has considered the effect upon the environment of the proposed 2023-2024 Capital Outlay Project work, included but not limited to the following:

Districtwide security improvements at the Elementary School and Jr./Sr. High School including door status monitoring, lockdown capabilities and interior and exterior strobes.

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the scope of the project has been further received and considered the advice of its architects with respect to the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the proposed action; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the Proposed Action with respect to the Type II criteria set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617.5 (c), now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education as follows:

1. The Proposed Action does not exceed thresholds established under 6 NYCRR Part 617, the State Environmental Quality Review Act, (SEQRA).
2. The Board hereby determines the Proposed Action as a Type II action in accordance with the SEQRA regulations.
3. No further review of the Proposed Action is required under SEQRA.
4. This resolution shall be effective immediately

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the donation from UpMobility Foundation, in the amount of \$20,000 for the virtual welder project.”

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the final retirement notice of Jodi Richard effective June 30, 2023.”

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the request of Amy Sears for medical leave of absence beginning April 3, 2023 through April 6, 2023.”

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Barney Sweeney to the position of Substitute Bus Driver retroactive to January 30, 2023, at the hourly rate of \$18.22.”

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Barney Sweeney to the position of Bus Driver effective February 14, 2023 at the hourly rate of \$20.00.”

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Daniel Polce to the position of Bus Driver effective February 14, 2023 at the hourly rate of \$19.71.”

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved the request of Nicole Nehme for Maternity Leave from May 22, 2023 to the end of the academic school year on June 23, 2023.”

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint McKayla West as a long term substitute for Lauren Carpenter retroactive to January 17, 2023.”

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Brian Parent:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Julius Colon to the position of substitute cleaner at the hourly rate of \$14.20.”

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Information and Correspondence given to the Board included the following:

Remsen Central School District’s Fiscal Stress Score Report: “No Designation” – The best rating a district can receive. The district is in good fiscal condition.

BOCES Annual Meeting: April 5, 2023, OHM BOCES at 5:00 p.m.

- Mr. Timothy Jenny reminded the Board members that they are welcome to attend the OHM BOCES Annual meeting on April 5th.

Community Building Use Requests (Information Only)

- Remsen Alumni Association – 1st RAA Banquet Planning Meeting – Elementary Art Room: February 7, 2023 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Remsen 4-H Group – Meetings, crafting, and learning – Elementary Art Room: 4:20 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – 1/11, 1/25, 2/1, 2/15, 3/1, 3/22, 4/5, 4/19, 5/3, 5/17, and 6/7, 2023.

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:

Brian Parent: Mr. Parent complimented all of the effort that went into the 4th grade band/chorus concert and the Shady Acres performance. Mr. Parent said that both the students and the teacher did a great job. Lastly, Mr. Parent said thank you to all staff members.

Stephanie Karis: Mrs. Karis showed her appreciation towards the staff and said thank you to Adam DeGrace, John McKeown, Dale Dening, Gary Winghart, and Sanya Pelrah. Mrs. Karis congratulated Dale Dening for all of the winter sports accomplishments.

Mary Lou Allen: Mrs. Allen pointed out that all of the staff members have great teamwork and leadership skills. Mrs. Allen also commented on how positively impactful the painting assemblies by Tom Varano were.

Timothy Jenny thanked the Remsen Teacher Association for purchasing the sun glasses for the students for the Tom Varano assemble. The assembly was a success, Tom delivered a great message for the students and several students won t-shirts, candy, and gift cards. All students received a bracelet that said Dream BIG. It was great to see the kids smiling and happy. Mr. Jenny thanked Kevin Roberts for all of his work ensuring that our buildings operate and stay up and running, especially during the extremely cold temperatures. Mr. Jenny also thanked Adam DeGrace and Rainer Beers for all of their hard work in the bus garage.

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis to enter executive session at 7:15 p.m.

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis to return to regular session at 8:46 p.m.

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Brian Parent to adjourn regular session at 8:46 p.m.