

REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2022

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Lou Allen, Brian Parent, Patrick Nolan, Stephanie Karis,
Jeannie Scouten

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Grace Hajdasz (Student Representative), Timothy Jenny,
Olivia Woolheater, Kevin Roberts, Adam DeGrace, Kelly
Runniger, Erin Muzio, Dale Denning, Sanya Pelrah, Gary
Winghart, Jack Lombardi

Mrs. Mary Lou Allen, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present.

Mrs. Allen read the following statement regarding 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 to the district clerk, Ms. Olivia Woolheater or to the Superintendent, Mr. Timothy Jenny at any time.

No public participation at this meeting.

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve minutes from meeting held on October 11, 2022, approve agenda dated November 8, 2022 with the following addition:
7.8 - Notice of Retirement.

Unanimous vote

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

- **Upcoming Events** - November 10th: Veterans Day Concert. November 11th: Veterans Day. November 15th: Elementary School Picture Day. November 17th: 50th Day of School. November 23rd -25th: Thanksgiving break. November 24th: Thanksgiving. December 5th: End of Trimester 1.
- **One School, One Book** - The One School, One Book kick off went well. The week before there were “teasers” planned to catch student’s attention. For example, paper

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squirrels were placed all over the school and a very random announcement was made about a dog chasing squirrels around a dog park. On Monday morning, October 24th, all staff were called together to kick off the One School, One Book event. Mrs. Eileen Hamlin arrived dressed for the occasion and read the first chapter of Fenway and Hattie.

- **Elementary Parade of Costume** - On Monday, October 31st, the annual Parade of Costumes took place. Students had the opportunity to get into their Halloween costumes to parade around the school, to the track, and around the track to show their costumes to others and see the costumes of others. Since the weather was beautiful the parade was held outside and parents and guardians were able to attend.
- **Visits from Napoleon** - On Thursday, October 27th, and Thursday, November 3rd, Mrs. Clark (retired teacher) and her dog Napoleon came to visit for the first time at Remsen and spend time meeting the students. Napoleon is a therapy dog; he is a friendly little Bichon Frise. Moving forward, we hope to have Napoleon visit regularly at the Elementary School to spend time with the students.
- **Elementary Clubs** - The Elementary Student Council Elections were held towards the end of October. Students that were interested in Student Council, filled out the application and prepared a speech for their peers. Students in grades 4-6 then voted for the students they felt best represented their classes. The Elementary STEAM club members have been busy learning and exploring with STEAM. The 6th grade STEAM started off with the Pringles ring challenge. Then students spent two weeks experimenting with Sir Isaac Newton's Laws on Motion. Most recently, STEAM students had some fun designing and carving pumpkins that were donated by Murphy's Pumpkins.
- **Elementary Family Nights** - This year there are plans to hold three Elementary Family Nights. The idea is to invite families to come to the elementary in the evening for a night of learning and fun. The program for the Elementary Family Night would include a short program for parents, with activities for students to take place during the parent program, and then a STEAM activity.

High School Principal's Report given by Sanya Pelrah included the following items:

- **Team Workshop** - The November Team Workshop provided time for staff to come together for team building which included, sharing tips and information, reviewing safety procedures, and collaborative curriculum mapping time.
- **Instructional Focus** - Classroom observations are underway. The main focus is on providing teachers with concrete and actionable feedback.
- **Culture and Climate** - The Culture and Climate Committee met on October 26.
- **Thanksgiving Breakfast** - The 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Breakfast was planned and will take place at the High School on November 22nd.
- **Halloween** - To celebrate Halloween, Mrs. Pelrah handed out treats during lunch.
- **Principal's Cabinet** - The Principal's Cabinet will begin soon. This group is composed of the Student Council president, National Honor Society president, class presidents from grades 10, 11, and 12, and teacher nominated representatives from grades 7,8, and 9. The students will receive a special invitation and will meet with Mrs. Pelrah to get their feedback on how to make the high school even better.
- **Senior Meetings** - Senior Meetings are underway. These are informal meetings which serve as a great way for Mrs. Pelrah to spend a little time with each senior. There will also be meetings with each seventh-grade student.

- **Clubs and activities** - 12th grade: Students will be transitioning and preparing for their December fundraiser. Graduation caps, gowns, and tassels will be ordered soon. 11th grade: Students had class elections last week. Tayler Nelson will serve as president, Imagin Aiken as vice president, Ava Russo as secretary, and Isabella Lalyer as treasurer. FFA: FFA is currently doing their fruit, sausage, and cheese fundraiser until November 15th. After this FFA will begin to put together their Remsen in a Box fundraiser. Drama Club: The RCS Drama Club has started rehearsals for their December production of "A Christmas Carol" that will take place on December 9th and 10th. Poinsettias are currently on sale for the Drama Club Fundraiser. Music Department/Fund: The Music Department will be presenting its annual Veteran's Day Concert on November 10th at 6:30 p.m. Benjamin Staskoski was accepted into the Area All-State Band and will perform at Little Falls on November 19th. National Honor Society: Students volunteered to rake for the Oneida County Intergenerational Fall Clean up. Ski and Snowboard Club: Information is out to students who are interested in this fun winter club. The first day of Skiing and Snowboarding is January 6th. Yearbook: Yearbook is in full swing. They meet on Mondays and Fridays after school.

Student Representative report given by Grace Hajdasz included the following items:

- **Fall Ball** - The Fall Ball was a success with a record number of students (127) who all came and had a good time. Lemonade and water were provided and Corn hole boards were set up for additional fun.

Facilities Report given by Kevin Roberts included the following items:

- **2023 Capital Outlay Project** - The plan is to replace the Elementary Building Intermediate Wing student lockers along with \$10,000 of classroom floor/wall painting work to make this project aide able. The project has been approved by SED and bid documents are currently being reviewed. The Pre-Bid Meeting took place on November 8th with a bid opening date of November 22nd.
- **Day to Day Operations** - The new Cleaner, Randell Dolly, who was approved last meeting is working out very well.
- **Room Temperature Setbacks** - Due to the skyrocketing cost of fuel oil, we have made the decision to set the temperature of all classrooms at 68 degrees. This change should result in noticeable savings.
- **HS Kitchen Cooler** - There has been an installment of a new 6 door commercial cooler to replace a similar 40 plus year old unit. The new unit is much more energy efficient, which will result in energy saving.
- **Grounds** - The winter snow removal equipment is prepped and ready for the winter. There is a large order of ice melt on premises. The summer equipment is being prepped for storage and fall athletic equipment is being stored away.
- **Building Maintenance** - Building maintenance projects are still being caught up. A retiree, David Buhite has been coming back to help get caught up.

Transportation Report given by Adam DeGrace included the following items:

- **Bus Inspections** - There is a bus inspection scheduled on November 9th on buses 11, 94, 96, and 99.
- **Bus Fleet Update** - The bus fleet is in good condition. The replacement buses are scheduled for delivery in January.
- **Bus Driver News** - All drivers are current on their qualifications.

Athletic Director Report given by Dale Dening included the following items:

- **Important Dates** - November 3rd: District Medical Director - Visitation for physicals. November 5th: Varsity Cross Country - Class D Sectional Championships. November 9th: National Spring Day (All D1/D11 Athletes - all sports except football). November 12th: NYSPHSAA Cross Country Championships. November 14th: JV/Varsity Winter sports begin.
- **Fall Sports** - The Girls' Varsity soccer team qualified for the Sectional Tournament this season. The girls defeated DeRuyter 8-1 and then were defeated by the #1 seed Cincinnati Lions in the quarterfinals 5-0. Remsen/Old Forge Cross Country: Ran at HCCC on October 22nd at the Center State Conference Championships. Both the girls and boys captured the DIV III Championship in their respective races.
- **All Star Team** - Congratulations to Julia Dening and Grace Shufelt for being named to the Section 3 Class D All-Star Team for Girls' Soccer.
- **November 9th: National Signing Day for Division 1 Athletes** - Remsen will hold a short ceremony on November 9th to recognize Julia Dening and her commitment to Siena College for Women's Soccer. Julia Dening is the 3rd Division 1 student-athlete to come out of Remsen in the past 25 years.
- **Winter Sports** - There are still current coaching vacancies for JV Boys' Basketball and Modified Boys' Basketball.

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from meetings held on October 17, 29, and 31, 2022. Please be reminded that discussion of a specific IEP should be referred to Executive Session.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declares the six door stainless steel cooler, Fisher XLS snow plow, and Farm King 840 3-point snow blower items as noted on the attached list to be excess.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Jeannie Scouten:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the Remsen Central School District Vision Statement: *Remsen Central School District forever aspires to be a unique, distinguished, welcoming learning community that fosters a growth mindset and essential traits of great character. RCS will remain dedicated to cultivating and supporting each student's individual abilities and interests as they confidently work to realize their full*

*potential to lead happy, healthy, successful lives. All Remsen students will **Soar to Success.***"

Unanimous vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten:

*"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the Remsen Central School District Mission Statement: **The mission of Remsen Central School District is to lead by example, instill essential traits of great character, foster a sense of belonging, and provide a solid academic foundation. Students will be empowered to learn and achieve to their individual potential through diverse, challenging, relevant and engaging educational opportunities and differentiated learning experiences.***

*A commitment to students first, positive relationships, quality instruction, continuous personal and professional growth, recognition for hard work, as well as a comprehensive system of student supports provided in a safe, encouraging learning environment with consistently high expectations for everyone, will ensure that all Remsen students **Soar to Success.***"

Unanimous vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten:

*"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the Remsen Central School District Core Values: **We are committed to quality student learning, service, and preparation.***

Academic excellence and hard work will be valued and recognized.

We will model and instill integrity, kindness, hard work, perseverance, professionalism, commitment, teamwork, respect, independence, self-discipline, humility, responsibility, love, and empathy.

The little things make a big difference.

We will provide a safe, healthy, welcoming and supportive learning environment with clear expectations that motivates students to do their best, solve problems, be creative, think intelligently, understand multiple perspectives, collaborate, and have fun.

Consistency in routines and procedures is essential.

We will enthusiastically embrace and encourage a growth mindset, learn to persevere through challenges, and understand that failure is an opportunity to learn and grow throughout life.

Always strive to improve.

We will utilize student data and feedback, the thoughtful application of knowledge, skills and traits, daily interactions, assessments, projects and state and national standards to measure student growth, learning, and achievement.

Every day is a gift, full of possibilities.

We are grateful for our school community. We will work collectively to ensure we are able to leave our children, for generations to come, with an even better community and school than we have today."

Unanimous vote

First read of Board of Education Policies - Section 6000

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Patrick Nolan:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Budget Development Calendar for the 2023-2024 year."

Unanimous vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the request of Renee Morrison for medical leave of absence from November 15th through December 27, 2022."

Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the request of Lauren Carpenter for Maternity leave from January 20, 2023 through May 1, 2023."

Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Jeannie Scouten:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Zachary Prosser to the position of Cleaner effective November 9, 2022, at the hourly rate of \$14.60."

Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Patrick Nolan:

"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 Timothy Jenny, Superintendent of Schools does hereby appoint Erin Muzio, of Remsen, NY who holds a valid NYS certificate permitting her to teach subjects in the area of General Special Education - Educating Children with Handicapping Conditions in public schools of New York State, to the position of Special Education 7-12 teacher in said tenure area for a probationary period of three years to commence on December 12, 2022, and to expire December 12, 2025; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Erin Muzio, during her first year of this appointment be paid at the annual salary as outlined in the 2018-2026 agreement between Remsen Teachers' Association and the Board of Education at Step 11, Column A, plus an additional \$300 for six graduate credit hours earned above her Master's Degree."

Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the request of Brittany Austin for Maternity Leave from February 27, 2023 through April 10, 2023.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Jeannie Scouten:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Elizabeth Bellinger to the position of Scorekeeper for the Girls' JV and Varsity Volleyball teams for the 2022-2023 season.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Jeannie Scouten:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Jared Williams as a Volunteer Assistant Coach for the Remsen Girls' Volleyball program for the 2022-2023 season.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the final retirement of Dennis Quackenbush effective December 30, 2022.”

Unanimous vote

Information and Correspondence given to the Board included the following:

- Tim Jenny reminded everyone that the Veterans Day Concert will take place on Thursday November 10th.
- Tim Jenny also mentioned that the Drama Club is presenting “A Christmas Carol” on Friday December 9th at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday December 10th at 2:00 p.m.

Soaring to Success - Board of Education Roundtable Remarks

Board Members reflected and shared their thoughts about the activities and events that occurred over the past month.

Stephanie Karis: Complemented the principals on their very detailed monthly reports that they presented to the Board at the meeting. She mentioned how wonderful it is that the High School and Elementary provide so many activities for the students. Mrs. Karis also mentioned how well the Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Core Values were put together. Mrs. Karis also commented on how the seniors on the Girls' Varsity soccer team were very welcoming to the younger girls that joined Varsity.

Jeannie Scouten: Mrs. Scouten commented on all of the fun things happening at school and how it can make students happy to come to school. Mrs. Scouten also said congrats to all of the sports teams that did well this fall season.

President Mary Lou Allen: Mrs. Allen gave thanks to all of the staff that make all of the fun activities at the schools possible. Mrs. Allen also gave congrats to Julia Dening for her soccer accomplishments.

Timothy Jenny: Mr. Jenny commended everyone for their work on the Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Core Values. He also stated that planning will begin for sharing the statements with students, parents, staff, and the community.

Mr. Jenny wished all present a Happy Thanksgiving.

Motion by Brian Parent, second by Stephanie Karis to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m.