



REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2023

"All Remsen students will Soar to Success"

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Lou Allen, Tara Kennerknecht, Patrick Nolan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeannie Scouten, Stephanie Karis

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, John McKeown, Gary Winghart, Olivia Woolheater, Kevin Roberts, Kurt Crossett, Kelly Runniger, Carleen Taylor, Faith Kinsella, Ryan Hoskey, Richard Gallo, Emily Smith, Amy Clair

Meeting called to order by Mary Lou Allen, Board President, at 6:00 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.

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan:

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

Elementary Principal’s report given by Gary Winghart: See attached

High School Principal's Report made by Sanya Pelrah and shared by Timothy Jenny: See attached

Athletic Director's Report made by Dale Dening and shared by Timothy Jenny: See attached

Facilities Report given by Kevin Roberts: See attached

Transportation Report given by Kurt Crossett: See attached

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the following policy:

0017

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept recommendations of the Committee on Special Education meeting held on November 13th and 20th and December 4th and 5th 2023. Please be reminded that discussion of a specific IEP should be referred to Executive Session.”

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution for Cooperative Energy Purchasing:

WHEREAS, Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law authorizes municipal corporations to enter into cooperative agreements for the performance or exercise of services, functions, powers or activities on a cooperative or contract basis among themselves or one for the other, and

WHEREAS, Section 119-n of the General Municipal Law defines the term "municipal corporation" for the purposes of Article 5-G as a county outside the city of New York, a city, a town, a village, a board of cooperative educational services, a fire district or a school district; and

WHEREAS, Remsen Central School (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Participant") is a "municipal corporation" as defined above; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes for this municipal corporation to become or remain a Participant pursuant to the Municipal Cooperation Agreement For Energy Purchasing Services dated the 1st day of May, 2005 (the "Agreement"), among municipal corporations collectively identified as the New York School and Municipal Energy Consortium ("NYSMEC") upon the terms of the Agreement and further wishes to authorize participation as an energy consumer as specified below.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board hereby determines that it is in the interests of the Remsen Central School District to participate in the NYSMEC, and authorizes and directs Remsen Central School to sign the Agreement/and or the Billing Schedule and Agreement for natural gas on its behalf; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board authorizes the Administrative Participant (as defined in the Agreement) to prepare, advertise, disseminate and open bids pursuant to the General Municipal Law and to award, execute and deliver binding contracts on behalf of this Board for the purchase of natural gas delivered to the city gate of the local utility distribution company for the Participant's facility or facilities, on a firm basis, for this Participant to the lowest responsible bidder as is determined by the Administrative Participant at a price for such commodity natural gas not to exceed \$.656 cents per therm for a term of at least one year and no more than three years commencing May 1, 2024, and other terms and conditions, all as may be determined by the Administrative Participant, or to reject any or all such bids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Participant agrees to advertise said bid as may be directed by the Administrative Participant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers and employees of this Participant are authorized to execute such other confirming agreements, certificates and other documents and take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution."

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Tax Collector's Report as submitted and approve the return of unpaid taxes to Oneida County and Herkimer County."

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the refund of taxes for parcel 072.2-2-5 located at 397 Spall Road, Remsen. Authorized on October 17, 2023 be approved in the amount of \$2,120.34."

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the results of the December 5, 2023 Capital Improvement Project Vote as follows: Yes - 141; No - 27."

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the final retirement notice of Anne Reilly, effective July 1, 2024."

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the final retirement notice of Kevin Roberts, effective July 1, 2024."

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Jade Dening of Remsen, NY as a Substitute Teacher at the daily rate of \$100.00 per day effective December 13, 2023. Pending Fingerprint Clearance."

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Donna Worden of Cold Brook to the position of Bus Driver at the hourly rate of \$19.71 effective December 15, 2023."

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Donna Worden of Cold Brook to the position of Bus Monitor at the hourly rate of \$14.20 effective December 15, 2023."

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District, pursuant to Section 2509 of the Education Law, upon the recommendation of Timothy Jenny, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint Faith Kinsella of Newport, NY to the position of Teaching Assistant in said tenure area for probationary period of four years, to commence on December 13, 2023 and to expire on November 30, 2027; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Faith Kinsella, during her first year of appointment be paid at the annual salary as outlined in the 2018-2026 agreement between Remsen Teachers' Association and the Board of Education at 40% of Step 1, Column R, in the amount of \$16,071.20."

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Katey Secor as a volunteer assistant coach for the Boys' Modified Basketball team for the 2023-2024 season."

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Charlene Wilcox of Remsen, NY as a Substitute Teacher at the daily rate of \$100.00 per day effective December 13, 2023."

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Erin Muzio as the School Store Advisor for the 2023-2024 school year at a year one stipend of \$1,438 per the extra-curricular salary schedule."

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no

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:

Mr. Timothy Jenny:

- Mr. Jenny thanked the community for the support of the Capital Improvement Project Vote. There were only 27 no votes and 141 yes votes. Mr. Jenny said that this was a great turnout and that this Capital Improvement Project will help maintain the school for generations to come.
- The annual food drive was a success with over 60 boxes of food to be donated. Mr. Jenny said how it is outstanding how a small school can donate that many food items.
- The old elementary furniture was moved out of classrooms and replaced with new furniture. This took place on December 6th and 7th. All of the old furniture was moved and replaced within two days during the afternoons after school. Mr. Jenny gave thanks to all of the volunteers, teachers, custodial staff, students, and the indoor track team for all of their help.
- Lastly, Mr. Jenny wished all present a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2024.

Mrs. Mary Lou Allen:

- Mrs. Allen commented on how great the grounds have been at the schools during the winter months. She mentioned how they are always plowed and salted. Mrs. Allen said that we have wonderful staff here at Remsen.
- Lastly, Mrs. Allen wished everyone present a happy holiday.

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Elementary Report

Remsen Elementary December Update



Remsen CSD Goals

- Ensure each child has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential in a global society.
- Hire, support, develop and retain high quality staff.
- Develop, maintain and improve resources within a fiscally sound and responsible budget.
- Improve the transparency and communication with the district and community.

Upcoming Events

- December 12 - December BOE Meeting
- December 13 - Pre-K through Grade 4 Christmas Concert
- December 14 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- December 15 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- December 18-21 - PTG Sneaky Santa
- December 19 - Trimester 1 Evening of Excellence
- December 20 - Grades 5-12 Christmas Concert
- December 21 - Visit from Santa
- December 22-January 1 - Christmas Break
- January 8 - Wishtree Reading Event Kick-off
- January 9 - Budget Workshop and BOE Meeting



New Student Furniture

On top of the normal excitement of the season, the elementary building is buzzing with the excitement of our new student furniture. On Wednesday, December 6th and Thursday, December 7th, the elementary furniture was delivered and an awesome team of staff and students helped to install the furniture in each of our classrooms. Every student desk was replaced, collaboration tables were added to each classroom, and flexible seating options were added to each learning space. Students and staff are very excited and grateful for the beautiful new furniture.



Holiday Fun!

Throughout the month of December we have a variety of fun events and activities planned for students.

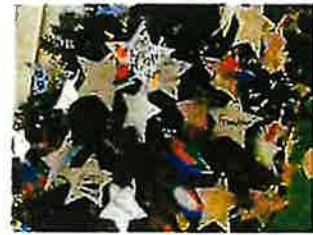
- Our Christmas Concerts are coming up on December 13th and December 20th. Students have been preparing very hard with Ms. Dornburgh and are excited to perform at their concerts.
- Favorite Festive Attire Day will be on Tuesday, December 19th. Students and staff have the opportunity to come to school wearing their favorite festive clothing including ugly sweaters, Christmas socks and blinking lights.
- The PTG has planned their Sneaky Santa Event for December 18th through December 21st. Students will have the opportunity to do a little Christmas shopping for their family members.
- One December 21st, the elementary will be visited by a very special guest. Santa himself will be coming to visit each of our elementary classrooms.

On top of all of this Christmas fun, each of our classroom teachers has planned a variety of fun activities for our students.

Around the School

Student Council Christmas Tree Decoration

Our Elementary Student Council asked each student to design a star that included their Christmas wish. The Christmas wish had to be something, non-materialistic, that they would like to see happen in their families or at school.



One School, One Book - Wishtree

In January, we will be kicking off our One School, One Book reading event in the elementary. This year we will be reading *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate. Below is a little bit of information about *Wishtree*.

Trees can't tell jokes, but they can certainly tell stories. . . . Red is an oak tree who is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree"—people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with a crow named Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this wishtree watches over the neighborhood.

You might say Red has seen it all.

Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experience as a wishtree is more important than ever.

Funny, deep, warm, and nuanced, this is Katherine Applegate at her very best—writing from the heart, and from a completely unexpected point of view.



Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Gary Winghart

Remsen Elementary Principal



Remsen Central School
Jr./Sr. High School Update
Sanya Pelrah, Principal
12/12/23

Team Workshop

In addition to the collegial sharing during Teacher Tips and Tech Time, and the positivity blast, the teachers engaged in a holiday-themed team-building activity. It was a time for them to come together as a staff in a fun and creative way.

Culture and Climate

- On November 13, The *Sweethearts and Heroes* group presented to our students about being kind, how to help prevent bullying, and how to have H.O.P.E. (Hold On Possibilities Exist). Their presentation was interactive and powerful.
- On November 20, we hosted the 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Breakfast and Day of Gratitude. Our students enjoyed coming together for a meal and having time to talk with each other and with the staff. It is a great way for us to show our students that we are thankful for them.
- On December 1, several seniors attended the School and Business Alliance (SABA) breakfast at OHM BOCES. This was a great opportunity for the students to learn about careers that may interest them and to network with professionals.
- The Culture and Climate Committee met on December 7 to plan events to celebrate the holiday with our students. We are continuing our fun festivities including the door decorating contest where students vote for the best-decorated door, the Holly Days, a festive spirit week the four days leading up to our winter break, selfies with Santa, and we are doing a holiday raffle for gift cards during lunchtime. There will also be holiday music playing during transition time.
- Clubs and Activities
 - 12th grade - They have reserved spots for whitewater rafting and will reserve hotels at the beginning of January. An update to the senior trip itinerary is that the dinner cruise is not available so more time will be spent at the indoor water park instead and this will reduce the cost of the trip by \$75 per student. They are also currently fundraising for the senior trip.
 - 11th grade - They are planning this year's Snow Ball.
 - 10th grade - They have finished their first fundraiser and are in the planning stages for a Valentine's dance.
 - FFA - Fruit will be delivered the week of December 11. They doubled their sales from last year! Remsen-in-a-Box is now for sale and anyone interested can contact Mrs. Ives. Remsen FFA and agricultural classes will be making 120 Christmas cards for the Sunset Nursing Home.
 - Drama Club - A *Christmas Carol* is being presented on December 8 and December 9. They are also concluding their fudge fundraiser.
 - International Club - They have concluded their second fundraiser. Mrs. Boyd was also awarded the RT Federal Credit Union grant of \$500 which she will put towards the Montreal trip.
 - Mathletics - They competed in Whitesboro on December 8 and enjoyed being around other mathematicians during these events.
 - Music Department - On November 17 and 18, Leila Ward participated in the Zone 4 Area All-State. On December 20 at 6:30 p.m., the Grades 5-12 Band and Chorus will perform their annual Winter Concert. Several staff and community members will join the high school band and chorus on one of their selections.

ENC 4.2

- Ski and Snowboard Club - They have 52 members this year. This is up from 44 last year. They will be at Woods Valley on Friday evenings from January through the beginning of March.
- Student Council - More than 350 items were collected for the high school food drive. The winning class team was the 11th and 8th graders with their last-minute donations. They will receive cupcakes as their reward. Student Council also supported their fellow students at the play while selling refreshments at the start and during the intermission. They are currently planning the annual Holiday Cheer for all high school staff and students.

Sweethearts & Heroes



2023 Thanksgiving Breakfast



2023 SABA Breakfast



Dale Dening Athletic Director's Report



Section III December 2023



RAMS ATHLETICS

Important Dates

December 12th - Classification Committee Meeting @ Section 3 Office

December 13th - CSC Athletic Directors Meeting @ Waterville

December 16th - Varsity Volleyball @ CCL/CSC Challenge (Morrisville State College)

December 28th - JV Volleyball @ Morrisville-Eaton Tournament

Fall Sports

Scholar Athlete Team Awards

The following teams this fall qualified for the NYS Scholar Athlete Team Award with at least 75% of their roster achieving a 90 or above average for the 1st Quarter:

1. Girls Varsity Soccer
2. Boys Varsity Soccer
3. Girls Varsity Cross Country
4. Boys Varsity Cross Country

All -Star Recognition - Boys Varsity Soccer

Ben Becker - First Team All-Star

Dylan Jones - Honorable Mention Team

ENC 4.3

Winter Sports

Winter Coaches

Boys Modified Basketball - ***Shannon Meeker***

Asst Coach - Boys Modified Basketball - ***Katey Secor*** (Letter of Intent attached)

Modified Girls Basketball - No team this year (lack of numbers with sign-ups)

Final Roster Numbers for Winter Sports

Varsity Indoor Track - **15 boys & 11 girls**

Varsity Boys Basketball - **12**

JV Volleyball - **14**

Varsity Volleyball - **14**

Attendance at Home Contests

-The attendance at home contests varies depending on the sport

- 1) Volleyball games (mod, JV, Var) bring in a large number of spectators
- 2) Varsity basketball games are sporadic - as expected

Chaperones for winter contests - The majority of our winter home contests are covered by chaperones this winter. We are needing coverage for just 4 boys modified basketball games in February and March.

Boys Modified Basketball - the plan for this winter is to provide 2 teams due to the number of 8th graders signed up, along with the 9th grade boys who signed up for JV but did not go on to play varsity.

Preliminary roster - 22





REMSEN CENTRAL

SCHOOL DISTRICT

FACILITIES REPORT

12/12/2023 BOE Meeting

2023 Capital Outlay Project

Elementary Lockers- Awaiting final inspection by King & King – no update at this time

2024 Capital Outlay Project

No Updates - Scope of work involves security measures including lockdown blue lights, 911 dialers, and adding remaining exterior doors to the doors ajar program. Day Automation will head up this job and will not require bidding as these services are already on NYS Contract. Project has been approved by SED. Day Automation has secured our preferred electrical contractor – S.C. Spencer Electric of Constableville – and we are awaiting the project to begin.

Next Capital Improvement Project:

Project approved by voters on December 5, 2023. The next step is to appoint a construction management firm.

ENC 4.4

Lead In Drinking Water Testing:

The NYSDOH has lowered the threshold for lead in applicable water outlets from 15ppm to 5 ppm. This new round of testing must be completed between 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025. Bid to perform testing has been awarded to Pace Analytical Services. I have scheduled testing to take place around October 1, 2024. I see no need to jump into this right away as there may be some issues that need to be ironed out with the testing program

General Updates

It has been a busy late fall/early winter. We are still down our groundsworker and have been shuffling staff around for snow removal duties. Retiree Dave Buhite, who has been helping cover the high school, has been out sick over a week. December is very busy with Drama Club performances and concerts. We also have the elementary new furniture deliveries and old furniture moving to deal with. Having a very difficult time keeping up with work orders and scheduled maintenance.



Board of Education Transportation Report

Remsen Central School District

11-14-2023

- Bus 10 hit a deer on the morning of November 30, 2023. Two students were on the bus and one monitor, but no one was injured, not even the deer as it ran away from the scene. The bus had minor damage to the grill and headlight, both have been repaired and the bus is back on the road.
- New driver update. Donna and Trevor both have their permits and will be starting training very soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Crossett
Bus Dispatcher