

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

MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stephanie Karis

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, John McKeown, Olivia Woolheater, Gary Winghart, Sanya Pelrah, Kevin Roberts, Kurt Crossett, Kelly Runniger, Carlleen Taylor, Kelly Countryman, and Joel Beaton, John Gates, Ivan McDougal

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.

No public participation this evening

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approved the minutes from the meetings held on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 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: See attached

High School Principal’s report given by Sanya Pelrah: See attached

Facilities Report given by Kevin Roberts: See attached

Transportation report given by Kurt Crossett: See attached

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education retroactively approve the 2022-2023 School District Special Patrol Officer Agreement between Oneida County, through the Oneida County Sheriff’s Office, and the Remsen Central School District Note: This contract was provided to the district from the county on 8/14/2023.”

Vote 4 yes, 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the following policies;

6404                      7008                      8201

Vote 4 yes, 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District (the “Board”) has considered the effect upon the environment of the proposed District-wide 2023-24 Capital Project work, which will include, but is not limited to the following:

Certain reconstruction rehabilitation, replacement, and other improvements to the building and grounds at the Junior/Senior High School, Elementary School, and Bus Garage.

**WHEREAS**, the Board has reviewed the scope of the project and has 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 the respect to 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 4 yes, 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. A special meeting of the qualified voters of the Remsen Central School District shall be held at the Elementary School Cafeteria in said District, on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 8:00 PM, for the purpose of voting on the proposition described in the notice of special meeting hereinafter set forth.

2. Said special meeting shall be called by giving the following notice thereof:  
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF  
REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the qualified voters of the Remsen Central School District shall be held at the Elementary School Cafeteria in said District, on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 8:00 PM. The following proposition will be submitted for voter approval at said meeting:

#### 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 certain capital improvements consisting of construction and reconstruction of existing school buildings and facilities, various site improvements and the acquisition of certain original furnishings, equipment, and apparatus and other incidental improvements required in connection therewith for such construction and school use, all at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$9,905,000; and to appropriate and expend from the existing capital reserve funds \$2,225,000 for such costs, and that the balance of such cost, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments, with such tax to be offset by state aid available therefor; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district as may be necessary not to exceed \$7,680,000 shall be issued.

The School District, acting as lead agency to the extent necessary, if any, for this purpose under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the applicable regulations promulgated thereunder ("SEQRA"), has completed its environmental review and, on September 12, 2023, has duly determined and found the purpose to be a type II action under SEQRA which will not have a significant impact on the environment and is not subject to any further environmental review under SEQRA.

AND NOTICE IS GIVEN that qualified military voters may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk at 315-205-4300 or [owoolheater@remsenscd.org](mailto:owoolheater@remsenscd.org). For a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the District Clerk must have received a valid ballot application no later than 5:00 PM on November 9, 2023. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or email.

AND NOTICE IS GIVEN, that applications for absentee ballots shall be obtainable during school business hours from the District Clerk; completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the vote and election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the vote and election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 PM on December 5, 2023.

A list of persons to whom absentee and military ballots are issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District in the office of the District Clerk on and after November 21, 2023, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM on weekdays prior to the Election; and on December 5, 2023, the day set for the Election, said list will be posted at the polling place.

The District Clerk is authorized to amend or modify this notice to comply with applicable legal requirements.

3. At such meeting taxes to be levied by installments will be proposed providing for payment of such capital costs and providing for the financing costs therefor. 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.

4. The District Clerk or the Clerk's designee is hereby directed to publish a copy of said notice of special meeting in two newspapers having general circulation within the School District in the manner prescribed by law for publication of notice of the annual meeting of the School District.

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

Duly put to a vote as follows:

AYES  
4

NAYS  
0

Vote 4 yes, 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the donation to the Remsen Elementary School from FedEx in the amount of \$2,223.00.”

Vote 4 yes, 0 no

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Jeannie Scouten

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint retired Bus Driver Dennis Quackenbush as a long term substitute Bus Driver retroactive to September 1, 2023 at the hourly rate of \$22.32.”

Vote 4 yes, 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Richard Gallo and John Glass as Co Advisors for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade class for the 2023-2024 school year.”

Vote 4 yes, 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan

“RESOLVED, that the Board of education accept the resignation of Sarah Walker as Teacher’s Aide effective October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.”

Vote 4 yes, 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint retired Teacher Assistant Charlene Wilcox, as a long-term Substitute Teacher retroactive to September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.”

Vote 4 yes, 0 no

Information & Correspondence

Community Building Use Requests (Information Only)

- Good News Club (After school Bible Club) October 4<sup>th</sup> through May on Wednesdays

Thank you letter from student

School board meetings will be held in the Elementary Building from October through May 2023.

NYSSBA Conference for Board Members is in October, please let Ms. Wooheater know if you are interested.

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 thanked Kurt Crossett, Kevin Roberts, Sanya Pelrah, Gary Winghart, and Tim Jenny for all of their hard work to get ready for the school year. She also mentioned that the Superintendent’s Conference Days went very well.

Mr. Timothy Jenny: Mr. Jenny said it was a good opening to the school year. He also mentioned that Superintendent’s Conference Days went well. He said it is great to have the students back in school and is looking forward to a great school year.

Jeannie Scouten; Mrs. Scouten said that Back to School night went well and all of the students had a great time. She also commented on how nice the letters are to students that Mrs. Sanya Pelrah sends to students throughout the summer for birthdays. Mrs. Scouten said how great it was to receive a donation for FedEx.

Tara Kennerknecht – Mrs. Kennerknecht commented on how well Back to School night went this year.

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

# Elementary Report

## Remsen Elementary September 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

- September 20 - Elementary Band Recruitment Night (6:30 PM)  
September 21 - Fire Safety w/Remsen Fire Department (8:30-9:30  
Grades 3-6, 1:00-2:00 Pre-K - 2)
- October 6 - Superintendent's Conference Day  
October 9 - Columbus Day (No School)  
October 10-13 - Elementary Spirit Week  
October 25 - Elementary Family Night (5:00 PM)  
October 31 - Parade of Costumes (1:00 PM)



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### Back to School Night and our First Day of School

Back to school night on Wednesday, September, 6th was very well attended. Students and families had the opportunity to come into the school to see their new classrooms for the first time and to meet their teachers. As a special treat we had our popcorn and orange Cotton Candy. We also had information from the Didymus Thomas Library and representatives from the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts present to share information with families.

ENR 4.1

## Grades 3-6 ELA Curriculum Update

I have a few updates to share since our last meeting.

**SCHOLASTIC**  
**LITERACY™**

- We have decided to move forward with grades 3-6 rather than phasing in the grades over 2 years.
- On August 28th, 29th, and 30th our 3rd through 6th grade teachers participated in three full day training sessions provided by a Scholastic Literacy Reading Specialist. Teachers were trained in implementing the whole group reading, whole group writing, small group reading, independent reading and bookroom components of the program. All of our teachers are excited to be using the program with students this school year.

## Fire Safety

Our Remsen Fire Department will be coming to the Elementary School to meet with students on Thursday, September 21st to discuss fire safety. Mr. McDonald has been working with Miss Kistowski to put together a presentation utilizing resources from the National Fire Prevention Association. We will have two assemblies on the 21st, one for grades Pre-K - 2 and the other for grades 3-6.



*Thank you*  
**FOR YOUR SUPPORT**



**Gary Winghart**

Remsen Elementary Principal





Remsen Central School  
Jr./Sr. High School Update  
Sanya Pelrah, Principal  
9/12/23

### **Back to School Night**

Back to School Night, on Wednesday, September 7, was well attended. Students and families toured the school, visited classrooms, met teachers, went to lockers, and turned in important paperwork. We continued to offer early Chromebook pick-up and tables with club and sports information. Also, many families enjoyed the hamburgers, hot dogs, and salads that were served outdoors.

### **Team Workshop**

Our first Team Workshop was held on Wednesday, September 7. Mr. Winghart and I brought the elementary and high school instructional staff together with a team-building activity that simultaneously reviewed important instructional strategies from our *Highly Effective Instructional Strategies* district resource. The workshop began with the teams of staff creating a visual representation which was judged by members of our custodial staff. They then participated in an engaging and friendly competitive game based on the idea of *The Amazing Race*, which asked them to review instructional practices. Additionally, we discussed the curriculum mapping process, which is an ongoing process that we will be continuing this year.

### **Before and After School Programs**

We are continuing our Strength Training program before and after school as well as our Rams Can Soar in the mornings. We are hoping to get the Rams Can Soar after-school program going soon as well.

### **Culture and Climate**

- **Summer Communication** - Over the summer I sent students with summer birthdays a card and voucher for a treat from my office when they returned in the fall. I also sent each seventh-grade student a personal note explaining that I was looking forward to having them at the high school this year.
- **Community Wellness Fair** - Mrs. Laurey planned the community wellness fair held on September 7 from 4:00-7:00 in the high school gym. Various organizations attended to provide health and wellness information for families. We hope to grow this event for next year.
- **Senior Gift Bags** - I gave each senior a gift bag with goodies like Gatorade, sweet treats, and colored pens to help make their first day extra special.
- **Music** - I continued the tradition of playing fall/welcome back-themed music during transitions between classes. This helps add to a fun and welcoming atmosphere.
- **Student Assemblies** - These were held on Monday, September 11 to remind students this will be a great year and to review expectations including information from the Code of Conduct.

--We are off to a wonderful start this year and I am looking forward to the great things our students and staff will accomplish!

ENC4.2

### Back to School Night



### Senior Gift Bags



### Superintendent's Day Team Workshop



Dale Denning

# Athletic Director's Report



**Section III** September 2023

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## RAMS ATHLETICS

### Important Dates

September 9,10 - Girls Varsity Soccer @ West Canada Valley Tournament  
September 13th - Center State Conference AD Meeting @ Waterville  
September 20th - Cross Country Home Meet - Senior Night

### Fall Sports

#### Roster Numbers

Girls Varsity Soccer - 15

Dual-Sport Athletes - 7

Boys Varsity Soccer - 16

Boys Varsity Cross Country - 9

Girls Varsity Cross Country - 8 (3 Girls from TOW)

-Both modified soccer practices were heavily attended on the first day of participation (September 7th)

### Certifications

All district coaches/assistant coaches will be recertified in CPR/AED on September 28th, 2023 in the media center of the HS per NYSED regulations.

### New Equipment

Thanks to donations from the Wadas Foundation and the 2023 senior class, Remsen will have 2 new soccer benches on the varsity field this fall!

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Enc4.3



### NYSPPHSAA Pilot Program

The NYSPPHSAA will be initiating a pilot program beginning with the 2023-2024 school year regarding spectator behavior and consequence.

If a spectator gets ejected from a contest due to improper behavior, they will have to take an online course regarding sportsmanship, code of ethics, etc., before returning to the next scheduled event. If they choose not to participate in the program, then they will have to serve a 1 game suspension.

NYSPPHSAA Language below:

c. *Spectator:*

**1. Expectation Statement:** *Officials, just like student athletes and coaches, are critical to interscholastic sports programs. Without officials, NYSPPHSAA and its member schools would not be able to provide interscholastic sports in the manner that is desired and expected by student athletes, coaches, and parents. Spectators are expected to "Be Loud, Be Proud, and Be Positive." Negative comments and inappropriate behaviors by spectators are required to be addressed by all and any school supervisors and administrators, as a member of NYSPPHSAA. Spectators may be prohibited from attending current and future interscholastic contests based on their behavior. (Oct. 2022)*

**2. Spectator Regulation:** *Any negative, inappropriate, derogatory comments or actions that draw the direct attention of a supervisor or school administrator by a spectator or group of spectators are required to be addressed by the host school, Sectional or NYSPPHSAA representative in the following non-sequential order depending on the comments or behavior:*

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- *First warning – Directing the spectator or group of spectators to refrain from any negative comments or actions.*

- *Second warning – A personal discussion with the spectators or group of spectators on the above NYSPHSAA expectations and reminding the spectators or group of spectators of the next step, removal of the game or event, will be utilized if the behavior continues.*

- *Removal from the contest – The spectator or group of spectators will be directed to leave the facility for the remainder of the game or event. If spectators or groups of spectators refuse to leave the game or event, play will be stopped until they vacate the premises.*

*Penalty for being removed from a game or event: Any spectator removed from a game or event will have a minimum penalty of completing the NFHS Parent Credential course or a one game suspension before they are allowed to attend any interscholastic event. Once the course is completed the spectator will provide a certificate of completion to the athletic department office. Schools are required to communicate with the offending spectator on the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Spectator Expectations.*

- *Depending on the severity of the behavior/comments or future disqualifications by the offending spectator NYSPHSAA and the Section may get directly involved in the situation. (May 2023)*





**REMSEN CENTRAL**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FACILITIES REPORT**

**9/12/2023 BOE Meeting**

**2023 Capital Outlay Project**

New Elementary Lockers. Majority of final inspection punch list completed. Contractor is waiting for paint from locker manufacturer to take care of the cosmetic issues.

**2024 Capital Outlay Project**

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. We have a Construction Kick-Off meeting scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup>.

ENC4.4

### **Next Capital Improvement Project:**

Scope of work has been completed to fit our financial goals. Approx. \$9.9 million project. Facilities Committee met on 8/28 to discuss timeline to proceed. Looking at a December 5<sup>th</sup> vote with construction to begin in the spring of 2025.

### **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. All of the data and necessary information have been collected from all of the participating BOCES component school districts. The next step is where CiTi BOCES will be putting this information out to the public for bid. Once they have a date of when the bid is awarded and who it is awarded to, they will provide that information to us so that scheduling of testing can begin in the fall 2023.

### **General Updates**

Grounds worker, Craig Gallant, is still out with a shoulder injury. Had surgery last week of August. Barney Sweeney did a great job covering grounds

this summer but needs to go back to bus driving. He will still work a couple of hours a day to help. Will need to bring Dave Buhite back in from retirement to cover HS building and put Joe Griswold out on grounds for the busy sports season. Summer cleaning and maintenance work went well over the summer. The 5 student workers did a great job. We still have substantial work to do as always but will prioritize and take it day by day.



No Bus inspections since the last board meeting but the next are due on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. They are bus numbers 94, 96, 99, 11, and 15.

Bus number 10 will be heading to R.C. Enterprises to have the body repaired very soon and then will need to be inspected before returning to service.

Trevor Stevens started on September 11 as the new bus mechanic.

We currently only have one spare driver besides myself. Sarah Walker should be returning around the 25<sup>th</sup> of September to add to our spare drivers. Trevor needs training before he can transport students.

ENC4.5