



Girls Volleyball Team Captures Fourth
Consecutive Sectional Championship
Full Story | Page 6

Special School
Budget Edition
pages 4-6

THE REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 2017 | Think big... make a big difference | www.Remsencsd.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- 2** Superintendent's Corner
- 3** 2017-2018 Capital Outlay Project
- 4** **Proposed 2017-2018 Budget**
- 7** District News, Alumni Banquet/ Reunion


CALENDAR

For the complete District calendar, schedule of upcoming events and more District news, please visit www.Remsencsd.org.

Remsen Seniors Prepare for College and Careers with Mindgram Project

For the seventh year, seniors at Remsen High School participated in the Mindgram project, as part of their Senior Seminar. The month-long project, which counts toward their grade, helps students to become more prepared for college and the workforce by allowing them to learn and practice real-world life skills.



 To view a photo gallery, log onto www.Remsencsd.org.

On January 30, Steve and Lynn Boucher, owners of the Soda Fountain Restaurant, spoke to students about making a good first impression during an interview, including appropriate dress and interview skills.

On January 31, the seniors put what they had learned the previous day into action. Each student participated in a mock interview with one of several teachers or community members from the Mindgram interview committee. Students created resumes and cover letters, dressed in a professional manner and tested their skills at answering interview questions in a formal setting. The interviewers offered "manager" positions to students that they felt were the best candidates based on their interviews. Each manager was then able to pick two other students to join their team for the remainder of the Mindgram project.

Continued on page 7

Renewable Energy Class Competes in KidWind Challenge at SUNY Poly

On March 9, Ms. DiNitto's Renewable Energy class traveled to SUNY Poly to participate in the regional KidWind Challenge.

The students competed against 12 teams from eight schools with their homemade wind turbines to see who could generate the most power. The team of Blake Clark, Evan Coopy, Kirk Daley and Jake Kuiken placed 2nd in the high school division and were awarded a \$50 Visa gift card. Remsen's other team, consisting of Brittany Conkling, Eric Jones, Diana Kaufman, Alec Mix, Ty Postol and Haily Ralph, placed 5th in the competition.

Continued on page 2

2017-18 Proposed Budget Hearing

May 9, 2017, at 6 p.m.

2017-18 Proposed Budget Vote and Board of Education Election

May 16, 2017, from 1 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Elementary School

BOE Election

One seat for a five (5) year term:

Mrs. Mary Lou Allen

Mrs. Stephanie Karis

Mr. Ryan Spatto



Superintendent's Corner | 2017-2018 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Hello to all Remsen Central School District voting taxpayers:

The 2017 – 2018 Annual State-wide vote for a school district's proposed budget, buses, special projects and Board of Education candidates will be held May 16, 2017, throughout New York State. The Remsen Board of Education, District Administration and other school district employees have been working many hours in reviewing, preparing and now presenting the proposed General Fund Budget for the May 16 vote.

The proposed 2017 – 2018 General Fund Budget is set at \$11,912,112. This represents a 3.14% increase to the 16 – 17 Adopted Budget. The proposed increase in the tax levy is 2.0%, well below the 3% increase N.Y. allows for Remsen CSD this year under the Tax Cap law. For STAR and Enhanced STAR properties, this will be the fourth year of no increase in property taxes. Overall, this smaller than allowed increase in the tax levy is expected to continue our trend of a generally decreasing tax rate.

The 2017 – 2018 proposed budget includes and supports all current and existing programs and services that are in place for the 2016 – 2017 school year. The 2017 - 2018 proposed budget also includes the addition of (1) new Elementary Teacher and (1) new FFA/Technology Teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School. Both positions will provide much needed instructional and learning opportunities for our students, at both levels, and will allow us to keep our FFA program. In addition to voting on the 2017 – 2018 General Fund Budget, you will also voting on the following items:

- (1) 66 Passenger School Bus
- (1) Board of Education Seat
- Establishing a Capital Reserve Fund for Future Construction Projects

Each of the proposed items listed above will support and/or enhance programs and services already in place at Remsen. The success of our students remains at the core of our instructional focus and our budgetary decisions. I believe the 2017 – 2018 General Fund Budget exemplifies that focus. Although students are at the core of our decisions, we balance those fiscal decisions against the challenges the taxpayers of the Remsen Central School District have expressed to our Board of Education.

I believe the 2017 – 2018 General Fund Budget is a responsible fiscal plan that continues to maintain and support the needs of our students, faculty and staff, our buildings and grounds, while at same time being fiscally responsible to the demands of the Remsen Central School District taxpayers.

The information contained in this Budget Newsletter highlights key aspects of the proposed budget. We will also have additional budget information in a series of PowerPoint slides on the Remsen Central School District website that will also highlight the various components of the 2017 – 2018 proposed General Fund Budget. If you are an eligible voter and reside within the Remsen Central School District, we hope you will support this proposed 2017 – 2018 financial plan for our students.

Please feel free to contact me, should you have any questions.

All the best,

Dr. Jeffrey K. Bryant

Interim Superintendent of Schools
Remsen Central School District

Renewable Energy Class Competes in KidWind Challenge at SUNY Poly *Continued From Cover*

A smaller group also competed in the Junkyard Wars competition where students worked together to build a Rube Goldberg type machine out of a pile of “junk” with a list of criteria and constraints to follow. Although the Remsen High School students did not place in the top three, they gained valuable knowledge that can be passed on to future competitors. The Foundations of Technology class also attended the event as an educational opportunity to observe other competitions and displays.



Moving Remsen Forward: Understanding a District-Funded Capital Outlay

The proposed 2017-18 Remsen Central School District budget includes a \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project.* If the proposed budget is passed, the project would fund continued, much needed work at the Junior-Senior High School, and would also enhance safety. As part of the project, the following will be addressed at the Junior-Senior High School:

- Select interior doors and hardware replaced
- Faucets replaced where lead testing was elevated

The Remsen Central School District will be reimbursed by the state for 83.5% of the capital outlay project's cost

It is critically important that the Remsen Central School District not only continues to provide a quality education for its students, but also a safe and modern place to learn. Capital Outlay Projects allow school districts to make necessary improvements to their infrastructure while limiting the cost burden. They can also pave the way for more feasible Capital Projects, which require a great deal of planning.

The Board of Education and Administration are currently planning a Capital Project (different from a Capital Outlay Project) to address larger projects that are critical to improving and sustaining the student learning environment, such as roofs, infrastructure, and site-work improvements and repairs. Thanks to conscientious stewardship of District funds and taxpayer's dollars, an upcoming Capital Improvement Project will have no additional impact on the tax levy.

Capital Outlay Project 2016-17 Band Room Flooring and Courtyard Drainage



Band room carpet

During the recent Spring Recess in April, Remsen High School underwent two minor renovations as part of a capital outlay project. The renovations will allow the Remsen Central School District to extend the useful life of the high school band room and outdoor courtyard area.

Old carpeting in the high school band room was replaced with new, easier to maintain rubber flooring. The old carpeting had sustained water damage from a drainage issue in the courtyard area that borders the exterior wall of the band room.

Drainage in the outdoor courtyard area was also improved with the installation of a new water drainage system.



Interior courtyard drainage issues



Check the District website for updated project photos.

Mrs. Tucker's Class Experiences New Cultures through International Celebration Day

Mrs. Tucker's blended second and third grade class recently studied North America as part of their social studies curriculum. Each student made a detailed map of North America, researched a country and created a travel brochure for the country they chose. In art class, the students made projects that reflect the culture of Mexico and in music class they learned to sing songs from Canada and Jamaica.

The class' study of North America culminated in an International Celebration on March 24, during which the students and their parents sampled foods from many countries including Canada, Mexico, Jamaica, Cuba, the Bahamas, Costa Rica and Greenland. At the end of the celebration, students took turns trying to break open a piñata.

"It was a unique experience for the kids to be able to sample foods from so many different countries," said Mrs. Tucker.

"Learning about other places and cultures from around the world is an exciting lesson for our students!"



Who Can Vote?

To be eligible to vote, a resident must have lived in the Remsen Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the May 16 election, be at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States and registered to vote with the school district.

Can I Vote by Absentee Ballot?

Residents who will not be in the area on May 16, or who are unable to vote in person, may apply for an absentee ballot at the Remsen Central School District Office. If the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote. If the absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter in person, applications will be accepted until May 15.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the district clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 16.

Attention: Voting Method

The Remsen Central School District will no longer be using paper ballots and hand counting them. Instead, the District will be using electronic voting machines from the Oneida County Board of Elections.

Each voter will receive a pre-printed ballot and after filling it in, will be asked to simply feed the ballot through an electronic voting machine. The Oneida County Board of Elections will also assign a poll inspector to Remsen for the vote.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the District Office at 315.205.4300.

Tax Bill Impact

The proposed increase in the levy is within the NYS "tax cap". As a result, the STAR and Enhanced STAR eligible properties will again receive a rebate check equal to the total amount of tax increase since the 2014-2015 school year budget. This is our fourth year of no increase in cost to those taxpayers.

Changes to property assessments, escrow payments, and town equalization rates can change the actual taxes due. These potential changes are not controlled by the school tax levy. Actual tax rates are set in August and are based on final assessment figures as provided by towns and equalization rates for each town as provided by the State Office of Real Property Tax Service.

While it has been claimed that Remsen CSD tax rates are "among the highest," the data shows that is a misunderstanding. According to NYS data for 2016, of the 16 school districts primarily in Oneida County, eight have higher tax rates than Remsen CSD. While the tax rate won't be available until August, the current Remsen CSD tax rate is below our average rate for at least the last 20 years. Our goal is to continue the gradual decrease in tax rates while restoring the programs and facilities.

Propositions on the Ballot

Bus Purchase Proposition

Seeks voter approval to purchase one (1) 66-passenger school bus at a cost not to exceed \$116,000, less trade in value.

The proposed purchase is part of an ongoing bus replacement plan designed to keep the District's fleet in safe, working order by phasing out buses that are no longer cost effective to maintain.

If the proposition is approved, the actual cost to the District will be significantly less than the amount sought. Approximately 75.3 percent of the cost would be reimbursable through state aid. This would reduce the cost for local taxpayers from \$116,000 to approximately \$29,000, which would be paid for through a five-year Bond. The bus has 105,500 miles and is seven years old.



Bus Purchase Q & A

Why does the District purchase buses on a regular basis?

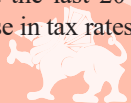
The proposed purchase of one (1) bus is part of an ongoing bus replacement plan designed to ensure student safety and control repair and maintenance costs on older buses. The District plans to replace one or two buses a year to maintain a stable budget, rather than try to replace several at once. The replacement plan has also helped the District establish an excellent safety record with the New York State Department of Transportation.

How does the District determine when to replace a bus?

Mileage is not the only consideration when determining which buses to remove from service and to replace. The primary consideration is the age of the bus and the mileage of the bus. The salt mixture used on local roads is corrosive to a bus's structure. State law requires buses to undergo rigorous safety inspections twice a year. If a school bus fails one of the inspections, it must be taken off the road immediately, and cannot be put back into service until it meets the state's standards. It costs much more to maintain an older bus to the state's standards than it costs to maintain a new bus. New vehicles also carry lower maintenance costs for the first five years when they are under warranty.

Reserve Proposition

Asks voters to authorize the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund, with the purpose of such fund being to finance future construction, reconstruction, improvement and equipping of school buildings and facilities. This reserve shall not exceed the amount of \$3,000,000 over a 10 year savings period, with an initial deposit of \$0. The intent of the Capital Reserve Fund is to save funds to prevent a property tax increase in the manner recommended by the NYS Comptroller. For example, saving to replace a school building roof at the end of its useful life rather than increasing taxes to replace the roof.



Components of the Proposed 2017-2018 Remsen Central School District Budget

Administrative

The administrative component consists of overall management activities including board of education, superintendent's office, business office operations, such as payroll; data processing, purchasing, BOCES, administration, printing, mailing, legal and auditing services.

| Function/Account | Approved 2016-2017 | Proposed 2017-2018 | Change |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Board of Education | \$9,835 | \$15,920 | \$6,085 |
| Central Administration | \$152,000 | \$152,000 | - |
| Finance | \$197,079 | \$238,806 | \$41,727 |
| Legal | \$7,451 | \$7,451 | - |
| Personnel | \$1,500 | \$2,000 | \$500 |
| Records Management | \$4,600 | \$4,700 | \$100 |
| Central Data Processing | \$129,300 | \$130,300 | \$1,000 |
| Other Special Items | \$71,000 | \$104,961 | \$33,961 |
| Curriculum Development & Support | \$23,500 | \$23,500 | - |
| Supervision Regular School | \$343,602 | \$344,325 | \$723 |
| Research, Evaluation, Planning | \$37,950 | \$24,350 | (\$13,600) |
| Employee Benefits | \$236,424 | \$257,327 | \$20,903 |
| Total Administrative | \$1,214,241 | \$1,305,640 | \$91,399 |

Program

The program component consists of funding the instructional and educational support services of the District's 430+ students. Transportation of students, athletics and co-curricular activities are included here.

| Function/Account | Approved 2016-2017 | Proposed 2017-2018 | Change |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Legal | \$33,246 | \$33,246 | - |
| Instructional | \$5,400,858 | \$5,673,274 | \$272,416 |
| Other District Transportation | \$578,381 | \$610,350 | \$31,969 |
| Garage Building | \$21,200 | \$23,500 | \$2,300 |
| Employee Benefits | \$2,677,434 | \$2,685,744 | \$8,310 |
| Interfund Transfer | - | - | - |
| Total Program | \$8,711,119 | \$9,026,114 | \$314,995 |

Capital

The capital component consist of maintenance of buildings, upkeep of grounds, and electricity, heat, oil, water, sewer and telephone services. Funds are also included here for the lease and purchase of buses, payment of debt for the capital project (principal & interest), refund of taxes and insurance.

| Function/Account | Approved 2016-2017 | Proposed 2017-2018 | Change |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Operation of Plant | \$714,700 | \$680,200 | (\$34,500) |
| Maintenance of Plant | \$109,300 | \$114,800 | \$5,500 |
| Judgements & Claims & Insurance | \$45,000 | \$45,000 | - |
| Refund of Taxes | \$1,200 | \$1,200 | - |
| Employee Benefits | \$183,892 | \$169,574 | (\$14,318) |
| Debt Service | \$470,548 | \$469,584 | (\$964) |
| Transfer to capital fund | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | - |
| Total Capital | \$1,624,640 | \$1,580,358 | (\$44,282) |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Total Budget Appropriation | \$11,550,000 | \$11,912,112 | \$362,112 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|

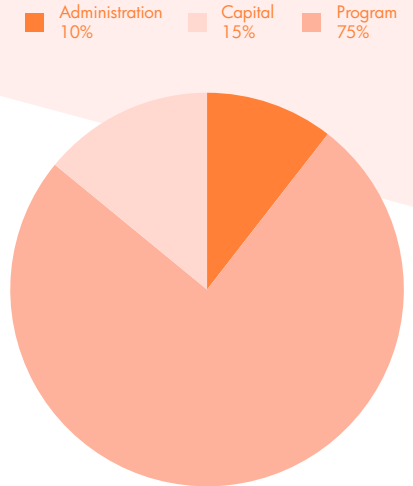
COMPARATIVE SUMMARIES

| REVENUE | Adopted 2016-2017 | Proposed 2017-2018 | Change | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| | | | \$\$ | % |
| Est. State Aid | \$ 6,337,581 | \$ 6,450,045 | 112,464 | 1.77% |
| Federal Aid | \$ - | \$ - | - | 0.00% |
| Tax Levy | \$ 4,982,419 | \$ 5,082,067 | 99,648 | 2.00% |
| *App Fund Balance | \$ 155,000 | \$ 305,000 | 150,000 | % |
| Other Revenue | \$ 75,000 | \$ 75,000 | - | 0.00% |
| Totals | \$ 11,550,000 | \$ 11,912,112 | 362,112 | 3.14% |

*Maintenance & Repair (District-Funded Capital Outlay) from fund-balance

| EXPENDITURES | Adopted 2016-2017 | Proposed 2017-2018 | Change | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| | | | \$\$ | % |
| Administration | \$ 1,214,241 | \$ 1,305,640 | 91,399 | 7.53% |
| Program | \$ 8,711,119 | \$ 9,026,114 | 314,995 | 3.62% |
| Capital | \$ 1,624,640 | \$ 1,580,358 | (44,282) | -2.73% |
| Totals | \$ 11,550,000 | \$ 11,912,112 | 362,112 | 3.14% |

Expenditures



Girls Volleyball Team Captures Fourth Consecutive Sectional Championship

The Remsen Girls Volleyball team captured their fourth consecutive sectional title with a win over third seeded Stockbridge Valley in the Section III Class D Championship on February 18. The Lady Rams won the match 3-2 by scores of 22-25, 25-19, 24-26, 25-17, 25-14.

The team's journey to the Sectional finals began with a triumph over Cincinnatus (9 seed) in the quarterfinals on February 9, beating the Lady Lions in three of four games by scores of 26-24, 16-25, 25-14 and 25-17.

In the semifinals on February 16, Remsen defeated fifth seeded Fabius-Pompey in three of five games by scores of 21-25, 25-17, 25-22, 22-25 and 25-21.

The Remsen Girls Volleyball team previously won the Section III Class D championship in 2014, 2015 and 2016. The championship win in 2014 marked the first sectional volleyball title in Remsen's history.

The Lady Rams also won the Center State Conference league championship for the fourth year in a row with a league record of 11-1 and went undefeated against Class D opponents. The team finished the season with a record of 18-3 overall.

The team was comprised of six seniors (Maddison Cyr, Elisha Hamilton, Megan McCauley, Alexis Perkett, Julia Roos and Rachael Waterbury), two juniors (Molly Barton and Alexis Tartaglia) and one 8th grader (Madelyn McCormack).

Madison, Elisha and Julia were also recently selected to the Center State Conference League All-Star Team. Elisha set a school record for single season assists with 492. Julia set the single season and career school records for kills with 242 and 520 respectively.

Alexis Perkett and Alexis Tartaglia were both selected for Center State Conference League All-Star honorable mention.

Congratulations to the Girls Volleyball team and their coach, Mr. Roos, on a remarkable season!



Seniors Prepare for College and Careers with Mindgram Project

Continued from Cover

Once the teams were formed, students then developed business plans for an imaginary computer chip company. Each team was given a different colored computer chip and \$10,000 with the goals of selling as many chips as possible, possessing all of the different colored chips that were being produced and making a profit.

Students from the Class of 2017 continued to sharpen their business skills with the Mindgram project on February 3, as they participated in a mock networking mixer. During the mixer, students chatted with attendees about their imaginary computer chip businesses. Each team had to pitch their business plan to teachers and Mindgram Committee members who acted as potential investors, all while juggling refreshments and business cards. Groups that successfully pitched their company were rewarded with pretend monetary investments that could be used throughout the remainder of the project.

After the mixer, teams continued to practice their business and decision making skills as they further developed their business plans. Students had to decide how many employees to hire, how much to pay them, when they should work and what type of benefits they should receive. Each team also decided how much it would sell its computer chip for and how much it would spend to purchase others.

The seniors wrapped-up their Mindgram projects on February 15 by presenting their final business plan summaries to a panel of judges.

Each student team prepared an approximately seven-minute presentation explaining the services offered by their imaginary business, how they set up their company and the decision-making process they used to work through the problems that arose. Each group also fielded questions from the judging panel and were asked to explain the thought process behind their business decisions.

The judging panel included several local business and education professionals who rated students based on their presentations and performance throughout the project. These ratings combined with team scores from earlier components of the project determined the winners of Mindgram.

Finishing in first place was Team Blue 1 (Elisha Hamilton, Julia Roos and Madison Cyr).

You're Invited: 105th Remsen Alumni Banquet/Reunion

The Remsen Alumni Association (RAA) will host the 105th Annual Alumni Banquet on Saturday, June 3, 2017 in the Remsen High School Gymnasium. The Banquet will celebrate the graduating class and honor them as they prepare to move to the next chapter of life.

All Remsen alumni and parents of graduating seniors are cordially invited to attend an evening to reminisce, share stories and see old friends, while enjoying a catered meal and special presentation from RCS graduate Scott Paddock ('87). The Remsen Alumni band will perform during the social hour preceding the Senior Grand March and scholarship award presentations.

The RAA is proud to be able to support our graduates and the Remsen Central School District through the contributions and dedication of our members. Please plan to attend and pre-register by contacting Mark Williams, RAA President by phone at 315.576.1974 or by email at markb2055@gmail.com. Reservations must be received by Tuesday, May 23.

If you are a Remsen alumnus or a parent of a graduating senior, and have not received a banquet invitation by May 12, please contact Mark Williams.

Thank you for your interest and continued support.
Mark Williams
RAA President

Go Rams!



Students present their Mindgram projects to a panel of judges.





REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 406, 9733 Main St.
Remsen, New York 13438

BOARD OF EDUCATION

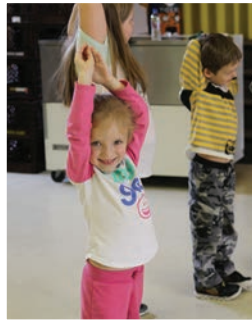
James Reilly, President
Brian Parent, Vice President
Timothy Skermont, Sr.
Sonya Murray
Mark Williams

Dr. Jeffrey K. Bryant,
Interim Superintendent

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ELEMENTARY PHOTO GALLERY



Mission: "Remsen is a dynamic school community of stakeholders providing diverse, demanding and innovative educational opportunities. Our culture fosters a conscientious desire to learn and achieve to individual potential. Students learn that responsible citizenship comes from critical, determined and sustained effort."