



REMSSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2025  
*"All Remsen students will Soar to Success"*

MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, John McKeown, Abigail Roberts, Jody Lamphere,  
Sanya Pelrah, Kelly Runniger, Kurt Crossett, Joe Bessmer, Dale  
Denning

Mr. McKeown and Mr. Jenny presented a budget work shop from 6:00 pm to 6:09 pm.

Meeting called to Order by Mary Lou Allen, Board President at 6:09 pm

Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present

Mrs. Allen read the following statement: Public Participation- We are about to convene into the the public comment period of out 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 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. As a reminder, discussion or comment about personnel matter, any district employee or any particular student is prohibited. Those concerns should be brought directly to the Superintendent.

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 or to the Superintendent, Mr. Timothy Jenny at any time.

No public participation this evening.

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from meeting held on January 15, 2025, approve the agenda dated February 11, 2025; and be it further resolved that the Board of Education approve warrants for payment; accept Treasurer's Report, Revenue Status Report, Appropriation Status Report, and approve budget transfers."

Unanimous vote

Elementary Principal's report given by Jody Lamphere included the following items:

- The second Family Night was held, where families got to enjoy pizza and salad then separated into groups. The students got to play some fun games while the parents attended a presentation about Social Media Safety then everyone joined back together to play board games. About 20 families that attended.
- PTG Winter Family Night was held January 24<sup>th</sup>, alot of families attended. There was a cookie decorating station, Valentine crafts, Bingo and an indoor snowball fight.
- The second quarter Evening of Excellence was held February 4<sup>th</sup>, and over 80 awards were given for various achievements. There was a great turnout of families and staff to support our student's as we are extremely proud of their accomplishments.
- Grades three through six held State Testing Simulations, all went well and we are ready to begin the actual state testing in April.
- Our February Team Workshop will be a "deep dive" into the reading instruction that we are providing to our students in grades pre-k through sixth. As the year progresses we will take a closer look at the state recommended Instructional Best Practices.

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

- Ms. Pelrah met with the Instructional Committee for the feedback on designing the February Team Workshop. They will be connecting with a brief circle time and collaborating on curriculum mapping and data analysis, this really helps staff work together.
- The Culture and Climate Committee is going to make Valentine's cards for every student again this year to remind them that we care about them, each department participates in this activity.
- January 16<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Dineen hosted a Guidance Information and Senior FAFSA night, she provided important information about programming, graduation requirements and we had speakers from MVCC provide information and work time with parents about FAFSA. We plan to do this every year to help improve information on FAFSA.
- Congratulations was given to Hunter Wilcox and Michael Nelson for being presented the Remarkable Ram Award on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The Remarkable Ram Award is a principal's award, the criteria for this award include; the student being active in school/community, being empathetic, having integrity, being helpful, being kind, having Remsen pride, being resilient and being respectful. They were given Remarkable Rams t-shirts with their last names on the backs and we will be being giving this two more times this year.
- The last week in January was the Spirit week and Winter Pep Rally, the winter athletes were recognized and the students participated in or cheered on their classmates during a few fun games. The seniors and staff competed in a game of tug a war, which the seniors did win this year.
- Mrs. Martin and a small group of juniors and seniors attended the Legislative Breakfast at the Hart's Hill Inn on January 31<sup>st</sup>. They got to hear from and interact with local legislators and elected officials, this is something that was brought back and we hope to continue to do.
- The seniors are continuing to work on the details for the prom and senior trip, which will be just a day trip this year.

- The 10<sup>th</sup> graders are busy planning the Spring Fling which will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The Diversity Club created a bulletin board that recognizes Black History Month, and wrote an article in the Journalism Club's first newspaper of the year. They will also be holding the Crush for a Crush fundraiser which started February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- January 17<sup>th</sup> the Senior High Choir performed the National Anthem in front of thousands at the Utica Comets game. Jasmine Colon, Lydia Gates, Trent Jenny, Kadence Kozak, Owen Piaschyk and Wyatt Rapson performed at the Zone 4 Junior High Area All-State Festival at VVS on January 31 through February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Ski and snowboard Club have had a great season, thanks to mother nature providing plenty of snow. The students are having lots of fun and making us very proud with the great behavior at the ski area.
- March 4<sup>th</sup> will be the science fair, prepared by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade science class.
- This year's yearbook progress is well underway, they have lots of students willing to be involved in gathering information, taking photos and helping build a wonderful yearbook for 2025.

On behalf of Mr. Denning, Mr. Jenny gave congratulations to the indoor track for their third year in a row for capturing the CSC Division III Title at OCC on January 25<sup>th</sup>, and there will be a victory parade this Friday at 3pm from the Remsen Fire House ending at the Jr/Sr High School. Mr. Jenny also gave a congratulation to the Varsity girls volleyball, they rocked the house and defeated DeRuyter then went on to Sandy Creek. They had two very close matches.

Dale Denning gave the Athletic Director's Report:

- Tomorrow is senior night for basketball and indoor track
- Sign-ups for spring sports were held January 21<sup>st</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup>, we will not be offering varsity baseball again this year. We currently have 14 signed up for modified baseball, this will be the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 4 years that we will have modified baseball.
- There may be modified softball but not varsity as only 7 girls signed up.
- Waterville indoor track has a player who has qualified for State Qualifiers but their coach is going to be away when they are held so he is going to be unable to practice with the athlete. We have been asked if the athlete could practice along with our long distance runners, they have received written permission from Waterville Central school as long as the parents provide transportation and Mr. Bunker is willing to coach him.

Facilities Report given by Joe Bessmer include the following:

- The High school and elementary maintenance team has been busy with sporting events and concerts.
- We installed a new ice machine and volleyball organizer in the High school.
- Grounds and maintenance have been busy with snow removal and repairs.
- The tractor was down for 3 weeks, but we finally got the parts in and repaired.
- We purchased a new snow blower for the tractor.
- We had a local farmer come in with their large equipment to blow back the banks for more room in the parking lots and roadways. Big thank you to them, if it wasn't for them we would not have enough space for everyone to park.

- We are hoping for better weather to free up our team so we can get some other projects done around the schools.

Transportation Report given by Kurt Crossett included the following:

- We have two new drivers that have started training, John Grabowski and Michael Bessette. Everything is going well so far and we are excited to have more drivers.

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from meetings held on January 14, 16, 22, 24 and 30, 2025; February 5, 2025.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Temporary Use Agreement allowing Remsen Central School District to use County of Oneida Optical Scan Voting Systems, privacy booths, as well as other ancillary equipment, supplies and services related thereto for school election May 20, 2025 in the amount of \$900.00.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the sports combine with Holland Patent Central School for the spring 2025 Varsity and JV Baseball season, pending approval from the Holland Patent Central School District.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, the Board of Education approve:

**WHEREAS**, on or about 2019, the Remsen Central School District (“the District”) paid for flooring improvements at the Elementary School as part of the 2018-2019 Capital Outlay Project (“the Capital Outlay Project”); and

**WHEREAS**, the District entered into a contract with Kuehne Construction Inc. (“Kuehne”) to perform work on the flooring as part of the Capital Outlay Project; and

**WHEREAS**, Kuehne applied Schonox, HPS North America, Inc.’s cement-based, self-leveling compound in connection with the flooring improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the District believes that Kuehne failed to properly perform the work on the flooring and/or Schonox, HPS North America, Inc.’s cement-based, self-leveling compound product has failed; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the District’s Board of Education, as follows:

1. That the Board authorizes Ferrara Fiorenza PC to commence litigation against Kuehne and/or Schonox, HPS North America, Inc. in order to recover the

above referenced monetary damages and any and all damages that have or may be incurred by the District as a result of the Elementary School flooring failure as part of the Capital Outlay Project; and

2. That the Board authorizes Ferrara Fiorenza PC to pursue litigation against any other party that may be liable to the School District for the above referenced monetary damages and any and all damages that have or may be incurred by the District as a result of the Elementary School flooring failure as part of the Capital Outlay Project; and

3. That the Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools or his designee to execute any documents necessary to pursue the litigation referenced above; and

4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Unanimous vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Amy Williams as the Long-Term Math Substitute retroactive to January 28, 2025 through May 7, 2025 at a daily rate of \$110 per day for the first 45 days.”

Mr. Jenny stated he would like to thank Ms. Williams and also Ms. Keener stated she is going to teach one period and have recorded videos for the other three periods to help the students out, so a big thank you to Ms. Keener for that.

Unanimous vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Suzanne Winghart as the Long-Term Library Media Specialist Substitute retroactive to January 6, 2025 until position is filled, at a daily rate of \$150 per day for the first 45 days.”

Mr. Jenny thanked Suzanne. Mrs. Allen also stated that she thinks it’s great that she is doing this position and that she can see the kids really like and respect her.

Unanimous vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education grant the request of Kathy Paige, for two full weeks of FMLA leave with a return date of February 14, 2025.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Jordyn Conte of Utica, NY as a substitute teacher effective of February 12, 2025 at the daily rate of \$120 per day until certification verified.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Michael Bessette as a full time school bus driver retroactive to February 10, 2025 at the hourly rate of \$20.30 per hour.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint John Grabowski as a full time school bus driver retroactive to February 3, 2025 at the hourly rate of \$20.30 per hour.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Siena Appleton of Remsen, NY as a substitute nurse effective of February 12, 2025 at the rate of \$20 per hour.”

Tara Kennerknecht stated Siena will be a great asset to the team.

Unanimous vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Chloe Williams as the Modified Track and Field Coach for the Spring 2025 season.”

Unanimous vote

#### Information & Correspondence

Reminder of budget meeting, Mrs. Allen and I will be attending. The culinary students prepare food then split everyone up and send them to different programs to see what the students do. One year Mrs. Allen got to see the pre-k program and advertising design, Mr. Jenny got to see the cosmetology and welding programs. Then they present the proposed budget, anyone that would like to go can also carpool together. There is also a meeting April 29<sup>th</sup> about the budget and March 27<sup>th</sup> for the SBI Showcase.

Mrs. Allen stated that she really suggests going to the annual meeting, its great food from the students and very interesting to see the programs and all the classrooms and what the kids get to do.

Mr. Jenny stated that the SBI Showcase is great to see too OHM BOCES was chosen this year and that means that Remsen will have a booth to showcase, we will be receiving an email soon with the information put out about it.

Mr. Jenny gave a big high five to Mr. McKeown and team for the fiscal stress report, we received “No designation” which is the best you can get.

#### Soaring to Success - Board of Education Roundtable Remarks

Tara Kennerknecht- Stated she would like to give props for the Newspaper the students did, it looks great! Also high five to Mr. Jenny and Mr. McKeown on the budget.

Stephanie Karis- Stated she would like to give big props to Donna Worden for her amazing driving from the past couple volleyball games with the weather. She was white knuckling but always kept her calm and made the students and coaches feel safe, she was able to always get them to and from the games safe and sound.

Jeannie Scouten- She asked to clarify what was meant by the “deep dive” into the reading for the team workshop. Mrs. Lamphere stated that they are going to be looking through the reading

programs and see where adjustments can be made and make sure there is consistency throughout. There is a Scholastic program they want to see if they like since they will be coming out with a primary program.

Mrs. Allen- Stated that she saw Mrs. Phelps came in to help students learn to make pierogis. Mrs. Phelps raved about how great the kids were and how much she loved coming in to do that with them.

Mr. Jenny- Stated that the Elementary Drama Club did a great job at their play, it was awesome seeing them get up on the big stage in front of everyone. He stated he would also like to give high fives to all the bus drivers, and that they have done great with all the weather we have had. They are out doing their runs all day, nights and weekends. It has snowed consistently for the past month, and the drivers have continued to get the students to and from school and events on time and safe.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:54 pm by Patrick Nolan, second by Tara Kennerknecht for:

Proposed, pending, or current litigation for 2018-2019 Flooring project and for the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation.

Unanimous vote

Motion out of executive session by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten at 7:53 pm.

Unanimous vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm.

Unanimous vote