



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

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Lou Allen, Tara Kennerknecht, Jeannie Scouten,
Stephanie Karis (6:06 p.m.), Patrick Nolan

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, John McKeown, Abigail Roberts, Jody Lamphere,
Sanya Pelrah, Kevin Roberts, Shianne Austin, Kelly Runninger,
Kurt Crossett, Dale Denning, Joe Bessmer, Kevin Roberts, Leian
DiNitto, Beth Lamphere, Deb Geci, Richard Gallo, Dean Lachut,
Carleen Taylor, Lieutenant Carey Phair

Mr. McKeown and Mr. Jenny presented budget work shop information at 6:00 pm.

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

Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present

Mr. Jenny and Lt Carey Phair gave a briefing on the procedures and policies in place for when a threat is made to the school. Lt Phair also explained in depth about the follow ups they do with individuals who make alleged threats. Attendees were given the opportunity to ask any questions, no one had any at the time.

Mrs. Allen read the following statement: Public Participation- We are about to convene into the 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 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 Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from meeting held on February 11, 2025, approve the agenda dated March 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:

- There was an underground spirit week held, the staff got to hold a secret spirit week and had a black out day where they wore all the black they could. They did a drink from anything but a cup and dress like a student one day, staff got pretty creative. One of the students asked a teacher if she forgot to get dressed because she wore sweatshirt and sweatpants. We kept the students guessing throughout the week. Fun was had by all!
- We had our hundredth day of school, some kids came in dressed like they were 100 years old, or dressed like they were 100 years from the future. It was amazing to see all of the creative ideas by students and parents!
- Dr. Seuss’ birthday was March 2nd. Mrs. Lamphere stated she got to go to all the classrooms and read a Dr. Seuss book to the students. The students got bookmarks and a lollipop as a treat.
- The Rotary Club came on February 24th and graciously donated a new dictionary to each third grade student. Big thank you to all of the Rotary members.
- The Elementary Student council collected pictures of staff from when they were in elementary school and placed them on a bulletin board. The students got to stop and try to guess who each picture was.
- We kicked off One School, One book with a reading from The Chocolate Touch. The kick off began with candy riddles and reading one chapter. The day after reading the first chapter, there were candy wrappers hidden in the school. When a student found one they would bring it to the office and get that piece of candy. The students will be challenged with trivia questions each week.
- Twice Upon a Time was performed by the fifth and sixth grade students. They did a great job getting up in front of an entire audience. We are so proud of their bravery! Thank you to Mr. Pietruch for all of his hard work getting the production ready.

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

- At our recent Team Workshop, the staff received important technology updates from Mr. Winghart and were provided time to work collaboratively on curriculum and data analysis.
- The Culture and Climate Committee recently met and planned a few fun things for March, March 17th will begin a spirit week and students will have the opportunity to write a positive note on a shamrock to staff.
- The second marking period Ram Ticket drawings were held on February 25th and the honor roll celebrations were held February 27th.
- The science fair was held March 4th. There were wonderful and creative projects again this year

- Shianne Austin gave the report for the 12th grade. She stated that all students have ordered caps and gowns for graduation. Most seniors have voted for the senior trip and Hershey park has received the most votes. The prom committee met and choose “Under the Stars” as the prom theme for this year. Senior sweatshirts are in the process of being ordered. A senior Service Learning field trip is planned for March 27th to the Rescue Mission in Utica.
- Mrs. Pelrah stated that the Drama Club performed the Fiddler on the Roof March 7 and 8th, they did an amazing job.
- The International club held a corn hole tournament February 28th. Special thanks to families, Officer Lamphere, cleaning/maintenance staff, and local businesses for their support. Due to fundraising and grant-writing efforts, the NYC trip is fully paid for. They will travel to NYC on April 4th with 34 students and 4 staff.
- The Mock Trials began and the students had their first competition March 5th. They lost by just one point to New Hartford but did an excellent job. The judge complimented on how much they improved since last year.
- The music department is repairing for this year’s Music in Ours Schools Month concert which will be held March 26th.
- Shianne gave a report on the National Honor Society, stating that they will be welcoming 14 students into the NHS this year. The induction ceremony will be held on March 20th in the High School Gym.
- Shianne also stated that the yearbook pre-sales have wrapped up and they currently have 78 copies sold. Over the next few weeks, they will be working to complete the 2025 yearbook so that it is all ready for printing.

Athletic Directors Report given by Dale Denning.

- Senior Night recognized 12 seniors who have contributed to our programs in basketball and winter track over the past few years prior to the varsity basketball game that was held February 12th against Stockbridge Valley.
- Boys Modified Basketball completed their season March 1st vs. New York Mills. Both Teams came out victorious with close wins. The 7th grade boys won by a three pointer that was shot in the last ten seconds, that put them one point ahead.
- JV Basketball unfortunately had their schedule shortened due to extreme weather over February recess, they had their final 2 games canceled due to various circumstances. Huge thank you to Hunter Jones for stepping up to coach for the season so that we could have our team improve and enjoy the game of basketball.
- The Boys Varsity Basketball team entered the Section III Class D tournament as the #6 seed and fell to the #11 seed Lyme Lakers in the first round.
- Congrats to Dylan Jones and Matt Helmer for being named to the CSC All-Star squad. Matthew Helmer will be representing Remsen at HCCC in the annual Center State Conference senior all-star game on March 6th. Dylan is unable to play due to a season ending knee injury last month.
- Remsen was represented by Isabella Colon at the annual CSC Exceptional Senior game which was held on February 26th at Dolgeville Central School. Congratulations to Bella! Jaiden Maher and Isabella Colon were both names as CSC All-Stars.

- Congratulations again to Ethan Karis, Gavin Nelson, Ean Piaschyk and Burke Gates for competing in the Section 3 NYS Qualifier which was held at OCC on February 25th. Ethan Karis qualified for the NYSPHSAA Championships in the 1600m. Ethan competed at the Ocean Breeze Complex on March 8th in the NYSPHSAA Championships and placed 19 out of 31.
- Congratulations to Ethan Karis for winning the Track athlete of the meet and Glen LaFave for winning the Field athlete of the meet at the CSC D III Championships. All-stars are Ethan Karis, Ean Piaschyk, Gavin Nelson, Burke Gates, Michael Nelson, Glen LaFave and Marissa Karis.
- Congratulations to Remsen's Lorelai Walker for earning a 2nd place finish in her weight class at the Section III championships on February 16th. Lorelai was seeded 2nd in a 16 girl bracket. Seneca Lyons was also wrestling in the championships but due to an injury earlier in the season, she was unable to compete.
- Two of our winter sports teams qualified this year for the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team Awards and that was the Girls Varsity Indoor Track and Varsity Volleyball. To win this, the team must have 75% of the roster with a 90 or better average.
- Spring sports will begin on Monday, March 17th. We are still in need of a modified baseball coach.

Facilities Report given by Joe Bessmer include the following:

- The high school maintenance team has been busy with sporting events and concerts. We will be starting the high school stage flooring in the next couple weeks.
- The elementary team has been busy with events. We recently had core samples done on the gym and cafeteria floors to determine the best fix for the flooring.
- The grounds and maintenance have been busy with the snow removal and repairs. We are looking forward to spring cleanup and nicer weather.

Transportation Report given by Kurt Crossett included the following:

- John Grawbowski has a road test scheduled for March 18th.
- Mike Bessette is training and will be ready to schedule a road test soon.

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from meetings held on February 7, 12, 13, 25, 26, 27, and 28, 2025; March 5, 2025.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Remsen Central School District Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.”

Unanimous vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. The following notice shall be added to the notice of annual meeting and election:

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the following proposition will be submitted for voter approval at such time:

PROPOSITION #1

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 the acquisition of three (3) school buses, at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$433,375, less trade-in value, if any, 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; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district as may be necessary not to exceed \$433,375 shall be issued, or the School District may enter into an installment purchase contract if the Board of Education determines that it is in the best interest of the School District to finance the purchase in that method.

2. At such meeting taxes to be levied by installments will be proposed for authorized indebtedness providing for payment of the acquisition of school buses at an estimated aggregate maximum cost of not to exceed \$433,375. 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.
3. The District Clerk or the Clerk's designee is hereby directed to add the above to the notice of the annual meeting of the School District.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.
Duly put to a vote as follows:

AYES
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NAYS
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Unanimous vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan:

WHEREAS, the Remsen Central School District Administration and Architect King & King Architects, have determined the flooring at the Elementary School cafeteria and gymnasium is failing and is in need of immediate repair and/or replacement (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District (the “Board”) has considered the impacts to the environment of the Project in accordance with the scope of work prepared by its Architect King & King Architects dated March 7, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the scope of the Proposed Action and has further received and considered the advice of its Architect with respect to the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the Proposed Action; and

WHEREAS, the District has reviewed the Proposed Action with respect to the Type II criteria set forth in 6 NYCRR part 617.5(c) (1), (2) and (3) and concluded that the project involves activities involving no substantial changes in existing structures or facilities, and replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of structures or facilities in kind and routine activities of an educational institution, now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education as follows:

1. The Proposed Action individually and collectively does not exceed thresholds established under 6 NYCRR Part 617 of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).
2. The Board hereby determines that the Proposed Action is 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.

Unanimous vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan:

WHEREAS, the Remsen Central School District’s Administration and Architect, King & King Architects, have determined that as a result of unexpected failure, flooring at the Elementary School cafeteria and gymnasium is in need of immediate repair and/or replacement (the “Emergency Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received and considered the opinion of its Architect opining the Emergency Project a public emergency necessary to preserve the life, health, safety and welfare of students and staff; and

WHEREAS, the School District's Administration concurs that the Emergency Project constitutes an emergency and that it is not possible to operate the School District's educational program safely without repairing and/or replacing the flooring at the Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Project is essential for the protection of the health and safety of students and staff and for the protection of the School District's property; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has declared that the project is a Type II SEQRA Action that will have no negative impact on the environment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Board of Education hereby finds pursuant to the Education Law, the repair and/or replacement of the flooring at the Elementary School cafeteria and gymnasium is necessary for the protection of the health and safety of students and staff and for protection of the District's property, and hereby declares the Emergency Project to be an ordinary contingent expense.
2. The maximum estimated cost of the Emergency Project, as determined by the District's Administration and King & King Architects, is \$175,000. The funding source for the Emergency Project will be unappropriated general fund balance.
3. That pursuant to Section 103(4) of the General Municipal Law, the Board of Education declares that the emergency exists because the condition must be fixed in order to safely operate school. The Board further declares that such condition affects safety and property of the School District, its employees and students, and requires immediate action which cannot await competitive bidding. The Board finds that the proposed purchase and remediation must be undertaken without delay.
4. The Superintendent of Schools and all officers and employees of the School District are hereby authorized and directed to take all steps reasonably necessary or enter agreements to complete the Emergency Project; to carry out the intent of this Resolution.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Unanimous vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the meeting schedule for 2025-2026 as follow: July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 12, December 9, January 13,

February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, May 19 (Budget Vote), June 9; and be it further resolved that all board meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m.”

Discussion: Mr. Jenny stated he would like to make note that the meeting November 12th, 2025 is a Wednesday as there is no school that Tuesday.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Tax Cap for 2026.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

“RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve contract with Cross Country Healthcare services for the duration of the Elementary Nurse medical leave with an expected start date of March 17, 2025 through and including June 27, 2025.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Danielle Kinsley effective March 10, 2025.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Sandra Pineiro effective February 28, 2025.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the request of Kate Wilson for Medical Leave of Absence (FMLA) beginning on May 26, 2025 through June 30, 2025.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten”

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the request of Meghan Dineen for Medical Leave of Absence (FMLA) beginning on March 24, 2025 through April 4, 2025.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education grant the request of Robin McCormack, for full unpaid leave days on March 27 and 28, 2025.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the request of Nicholas Byrne for Medical Leave of Absence (FMLA) beginning on April 28, 2025 through May 5, 2025.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education grant the request of Danielle Kinsley, for unpaid leave days on January 14, 30, 2025; February 28, 2025 and March 4, 2025.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Shannon Meeker as the volunteer assistant golf coach for the spring 2025 varsity golf season.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan:

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education grant the request of Zachary Prosser, for unpaid leave days on January 27, 30, 2025; February 11, 2025 and March 4, 2025.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht:

“RESOLVED, that upon approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby terminates the employment of Donna Worden effective to March 11, 2025.”

Unanimous Vote

Information & Correspondence

SBI Showcase is being held March 27, 2025. Remsen will have two booths, one will be Mrs. Lamphere, Miss K, Easton and several students to talk about why therapy dogs like Easton are so great and helpful to have in the schools. The second booth is Mr. O'Bryan, Mr. Glass and several middle school students to showcase the annual science fair. The deadline for sign-ups is March 21, 2025. Please let Abbie know if you would like to attend.

Mr. Jenny stated please keep Holland Patent community in our thoughts and prayers as they work through this tragic time. The admin group sent a care package to them. The CSEA and RTA groups are also sending care packages and our social worker went yesterday March 10th to help out. Kurt Crossett also reached out and offered any help we could give.

Soaring to Success- Board of Education Roundtable Remarks:

- Stephanie Karis- Thanked Mr. Jenny for bringing in Lt Carey Phair and stated she thought it would be great to have him come back and talk to a group. Thanked Shianne for coming in and presenting for her class after all that happened last week. She also thanked Mrs. Pelrah and Mrs. Lamphere for all they have done in ensuring the safety and de-escalating the situation. Stephanie also gave thanks to Dale. She has been on the board for now 7

years and she sees that every year he gets more student involvement in the sports. It really makes a difference and helps kids. Ethan was not a runner but Mr. Bunker took him under his wing and has shaped Ethan into the person he is today because of track and Mr. Bunker.

- Mrs. Allen – Stated that the school musical was excellent and everyone worked so hard in it. She also stated that she stopped in for the Science Fair last week and Beth Lamphere did a wonderful job with the kids, and there were some really cool experiments. Mr. Jenny stated Beth was a keynote speaker about being a trooper and what it has done for her
- Tim Jenny- Stated he would like to add about the snow removal, our team did a great job this winter. Joe Bessmer was in the plows along the other staff always keeping everything cleared. Thank you to the Simons farm for pushing back the banks was posted online. Congratulations to Ethan Karis and our musical ast and crew. Something really neat about musicals, is that there is something for everyone to get involved. Weather it is the lights, sounds, costume, makeup or being an actor/actress. It's great to see them all come together. Kurt Crossett and all bus drivers thank you for always making it happen. High fives for the BOE going digital. This will save paper and be much more efficient. A big thank you to Office Lamphere, Ms. DiNitto and Ms. Pelrah. You managed the situation last week very well. From when the report was first made to current.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 7:18 pm by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten 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 Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten at 8:45 pm.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm.

Unanimous Vote