



# REMSSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025

*"All Remsen students will Soar to Success!"*

### MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Patrick Nolan

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, John McKeown, Abigail Roberts, Jody Lamphere, Sanya Pelrah, Joe Bessmer, Kurt Crossett, Dale Dening, Kelly Runniger, Gary Winghart, Ryan Spatto, Kate and Tanner Wilson, Rick Gallo, Daniel Swab, Amy Sears, Marc and Casen Bruni, Beth Lamphere, Leian DiNitto, Mark Harlander, Erika Kistowski, Jake Manley, Carlleen Taylor

Mr. McKeown and Mr. Jenny presented a budget workshop from 6:00 pm to 6:21 pm.

Meeting called to Order by Mary Lou Allen, Board President at 6:21 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present.

Mrs. Allen read the following statement:

We are about to convene into the public comment period of our meeting. Any district resident wishing to speak during a 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. As a reminder, discussion or comment about personnel matters, 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.

Public Participation- Mr. Ryan Spatto spoke stating that his daughter was not able to schedule ASL 2 today, Mr Spatto was reminded that this is a topic that is to be brought and discussed with the high school guidance counselor and high school principal, not the Board of Education.

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“ BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby appoints Sanya Pelrah, of Boonville, NY, to tenure in the tenure area of Jr./Sr. High School Principal, effective September 1, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“ BE IT RESOLVED, that in compliance with the provisions of Section 3012(d) of the Education Law and Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that Erika Kistowski, of Whitesboro, NY be appointed to tenure in the School Counselor tenure area, who holds a valid New York State Certificate permitting her to serve in the aforesaid tenure area, the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School does hereby make this appointment effective September 1, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“ BE IT RESOLVED, that in compliance with the provisions of Section 3012(d) of the Education Law and Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that Kate Wilson of Remsen, NY be appointed to tenure in the Elementary Teacher tenure area, who holds a valid New York State Certificate permitting her to teach subjects in the aforesaid tenure area, the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School does hereby make this appointment effective September 1, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“ BE IT RESOLVED, that in compliance with the provisions of Section 3012(d) of the Education Law and Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that Amy Sears of Boonville , NY be appointed to tenure in the Elementary Special Education Teacher tenure area, who holds a valid New York State Certificate permitting her to teach subjects in the aforesaid tenure area, the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School does hereby make this appointment effective September 1, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“ BE IT RESOLVED, that in compliance with the provisions of Section 3012(d) of the Education Law and Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that Mark Harlander of Utica , NY be appointed to tenure in the Technology Education Industrial Arts-General tenure area, who holds a valid New York State Certificate permitting him to teach subjects in the aforesaid tenure area, the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School does hereby make this appointment effective September 1, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 11, 2025, approve the agenda dated April 9, 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.”

4 yes 0 no

Elementary Principal's Report given by Joy Lamphere included the following items:

- Senior switch day took place thanks to Mrs. Taylor for organizing it. Seniors participated in classrooms, gym and shadowed administrators. The elementary students truly loved having so many seniors around for the day.
- The Third graders had their recorder recital March 19th, and did a wonderful job. The students were excited to have their own showcase and proud to perform for their families.
- The PTG sponsored a dance for grades 4 through 6 on March 21st. There were many students who attended, they had an absolute blast and asked if we are going to do it again next year. There was a photo booth with props in which hundreds of pictures were taken and printed.
- Grades 4 through 12 delivered an amazing concert for our families March 26th for the Music in Our Schools Concert. There were chorus, band and solo pieces presented. Big thanks to Mr. Pietruch and Mr. Dangler for all their hard work in preparing this for our students.
- March 27th Ms. K, Easton, 2 5th grade's and I presented at OHM BOCES Exhibit to discuss Easton (our therapy dog) and his effect on the students in school. Lots of adults stopped at the table to ask questions and talk to the kids about Easton. I am incredibly proud of our fifth grade students as they discussed ways that Easton helps them and others at our school. A huge thank you to Ms. K for the prep work in getting ready for this event.
- April 2nd I visited the grade's 3 through 6 classrooms to kick-off the state testing season. The students viewed a slideshow of well wishes from staff that was set to music. I discussed trying your best on the test and students were presented with “ State Testing survival Kits” and a donut to enjoy!
- The elementary and high school staff joined together April 3rd for a team workshop. Staff participated in team Minute -to-win- it games, fun and laughs were had by all.
- Mrs. Lamphere stated that she was able to attend the Elementary All County band and chorus. It was a packed house, they had to keep bringing in chairs and could not fit anymore people, the students did an outstanding job.

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

- April 3rd the elementary and high schools staff came together to participate in fun team-building activities. Thank you to the high school instructional committee for their input in designing the workshop.
- March 19th we held the annual Senior Switch Day. It is a great experience for all involved and helps students understand all of the work that goes into a typical school day. Ms. Pelrah stated she appreciates Mrs. Carlleen Taylor for organizing this each year.
- March 27th the seniors participated in a Senior Service Learning day where they volunteered at the Rescue Mission in Utica. It was wonderful to see them come together to have a good time doing a good thing for our community. They were treated to a pizza lunch upon their return to school. Mrs. Laurey organized this and reported that she received positive feedback about our visit from the Rescue Mission staff.

- Also on March 27th, Trent Jenny , Waylon Rapson, Jacob Southwick, and Zachary Yousey represented Remsen, along with their science teachers, Mr. Glass and Mr. O'Bryan at the SBI showcase. The students did a great job presenting their science fair projects.
- April 5th was the Utica University Science Fair, all the students did amazing.
- 12th Grade- Prom planning is underway with ticket sales scheduled for April 4-17th. The theme is “ A Night Under the Stars.” The senior trip is scheduled for June 6 to Hershey Park. The Krispy Kreme Fundraiser has started, the 10th grade is also participating.
- 10th grade- they hosted the Spring Fling dance on March 28th and it was a huge success.
- Diversity club - They are preparing for the Elevating Student Voices (ESV) Summit on April 14th. This will wrap up two years of ESV with Dr. Eva and BOCES. They reported that it was an enlightening and informative opportunity for members.
- Internations Club - They took 34 students to NYC on April 4. Some of the exciting things on their itinerary included touring the United Nations, visiting Rockefeller Center, and tasting international cuisines.
- Journalism Club - They are planning their second publication with an anticipated publication date of May 23rd.
- Mock Trial- Their season has come to an end. The students did an excellent job, showed growth and had a lot of fun.
- Music Department- March 14th and 15th, three students, Jayde Hammill, Trent Jenny, and Owen Piaschik participated in OCMEA Junior High All-County and did a fantastic job. The annual Music in Ours schools Month concert was held March 26th and highlighted individual students via solos and duets.
- National Honor Society - In addition to the induction ceremony held on March 20th. The NHS members are hosting an Open Gym for elementary students on April 11th.
- Ski Club- They had a great season and would like to thank the school board and everyone who helped make this a success.
- Soaring Rams Drone Club - the drone club has been meeting several Friday's a month in Mr. Harlander's classroom. The group continues to grow a little each week, students are practicing their flying skills with racing drones. They have moved from flying the drone “line of sight” and are now flying using the FPV (first-person view) goggles.
- Yearbook - The yearbook committee is working hard to add the final touches to the 2025 yearbook. It should be submitted in the next week for printing. The team is excited and can't wait for the printed books to arrive.

Athletic Directors Report given by Dale Denning included the following:

- Spring Sports started at the end of March.
- Modified Baseball, Softball and Track & Field began April 7th.
- Senior night for Varsity Track & Field will take place prior to the start of our home track meet Tuesday, April 29th. Remsen will be honoring 12 seniors who are on the track team.
- We were supposed to have our first home track meet tonight April 8th but mother nature had other plans and we had to reschedule.
- Modified roster numbers (preliminary) Boys modified baseball- 14, Girls modified softball- 6, modified track & field- 9 boys/10 girls. Varsity Roster numbers Boys Track- 30, Girls Track- 26, Golf - 9.
- Mr. Denning stated he is asking for consent from our BOE to combine with Town of Webb school district for girls modified softball. Our hope is that with this combination, we are able to provide this level of competition for our junior high girls here at Remsen. Old Forge is in favor of this combination as there are at least three 8th grade girls who would like to participate.

- April 5th the Remsen Sports booster sponsored a spaghetti dinner at the Remsen VFW for our varsity track & field programs to help pay for apparel towards the boys and girls teams.
- Mrs. Pelrah and Mr. Denning met with the officers of the Remsen Sports Boosters to offer assistance with getting more information out to the public, scheduling meetings at the high school and to update the by-laws. It has been about 9-10 years since the by-laws have been updated. Fall schedules are out if parents would like to check out the schedules.

Transportation Report was given by Kurt Crossett included the following:

- Justine Johnson has returned to full time bus driving.
- John Grabowski passed his road test and is driving full time. He is doing very well and interacting well with all the kids.
- Mike Bessette is training and should be able to sign up for his road test very soon.
- On March 28th the DOT came and inspected buses 96, 99, 11 and 14 all passed. Trevor did a great job getting them ready for inspection.

Facilities Report given by Joe Bessmer include the following:

- The High School maintenance team has been busy with events and concerts.
- There was a new hot water heater installed.
- The High School stage work has begun and they are starting to install the flooring April 9th.
- The elementary team has been busy with events.
- The work for the elementary gym and cafeteria floor will begin at the end of May.
- Grounds have been working hard to get the sports fields and greenhouse all ready.

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from meetings held on March 13, 18, 25, 26, 27, 2025. Please be reminded that discussion of specific IEP should be referred to Executive Session.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the sports combine with the Town of Webb for the spring 2025 Modified Softball season, with the understanding that the Town of Webb will provide transportation for their athletes down to Remsen for practices and games.”

Mrs. Allen asked if they would be starting next week, Mr Denning stated yes they will start the following Monday.

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Cooperative Purchasing Resolution for the 2025-2026 school year:

**WHEREAS**, The Cooperative Purchasing Service is a plan of a number of public school districts in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES Area in New York , and to bid jointly equipment, supplies and contract items, and

**WHEREAS,** The Central School named below is desirous of participating with other districts in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES in the joint bidding of the items mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, and

**WHEREAS,** The Central School named below wishes to appoint the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids and award bids on their behalf; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below hereby appoints the DelawareChenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES to represent it in all matters relating above, and designates the Evening Sun Newspaper as the legal publication for all Cooperative Purchasing bid notifications, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below authorizes the DelawareChenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned commodities, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below agrees to (1) assume its equitable share of the costs of the Cooperative Bidding; (2) abide by majority decisions of the participating members; (3) that it will award contracts based on information provided from the bid; (4) abide by the Award of the BOCES Board; (5) and that after the award of the bid it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the budget for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$14,969,506.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare the following items as surplus and approve disposal of the same:

Windsor Clipper Carpet Machine SN 1000145151

Windsor Titan Super Gulp Vacuum SN 000043

Advance Matador Orbital Scrubber

Task Orbital Scrubber

23" Ludwig Timpani - no model or serial number

26" Ludwig Timpani - no model or serial number

26" WFL Timpani - no model or serial number,

29" WFL Timpani - no model or serial number

Yamaha CVP-303M electric piano (serial number not readable)

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Hunter Jones of Remsen, NY as the Modified Baseball Coach for the Spring 2025 season.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Justine Johnson of Remsen, NY as a full time school bus driver retroactive to March 14, 2025 at the hourly rate of \$21.92.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Sarah Helmer, of Remsen, New York, as the Long-Term Kindergarten Substitute effective May 27, 2025 at the daily rate of \$150 for the first 45 days.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Laura Quinn of Remsen, NY as Recess and Lunch Monitor at the hourly rate of \$15.50 retroactive to April 1, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint John Grabowski of Remsen, NY as a substitute Grounds worker at the hourly rate of \$18.00 per hour.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Jennifer Wilcox of Remsen, NY as a Teacher Aide at the hourly rate of \$15.50 per hour effective April 9, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Sarah Helmer as the Long- Term Mathematics Substitute, effective April 11, 2025 directly transitioning from her current long-term substitute position, at the daily rate of \$200.89 per day.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the request of Nicole Nehme for Medical Leave of Absence (FMLA) beginning on September 2, 2025 through December 1, 2025.”

Mr. Jenny stated, “Congratulations to Nicole and her family, we are very excited for them.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education grant the request of John McKeown, for unpaid leave days on April 11, and May 1, 2, 2025.”

Mrs. Allen stated, “We will miss you John and to be sure to come back.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education grant the request of Mary Jane Keener, for unpaid leave day on March 31, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education grant the request of Zachary Prosser, for unpaid leave days on March 12, 13, 14, 27, 2025 and May 15, 16, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education grant the request of Lacey Carino, for one unpaid leave day on March 11, 2025”

4 yes 0 no

#### Information & Correspondence

The Special Board of Education meeting is April 29, 2025 to vote on the BOCES budget and BOCES Board of Education members. Mr. Jenny stated this is a scheduled BOE meeting that every OHM BOCES district has to have the same night.

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

Board of Education Five-Star Service Recognition - Alyssa vanLieshout was the winner drawn for the month of March and received a \$35 Stewart's gift card. Thank you to all of our anonymous donors for their contribution for the gift card. Mr. Jenny stated that there were 26 entries total and hoping this grows more every month. Every month after the winner is recognized at the BOE meeting, Abbie is going to hand out all the nominations to each staff member that was nominated so they can see what 5 star service they provided was recognized.

#### Round Table Remarks

Jeannie Scouten- Stated that the dance was a big hit and the photo booth was very busy! The concert was amazing and she got a chance to stop and get a spaghetti dinner that was so delicious.



Tara Kennerknecht- stated it is amazing the amount of participation we have for the Track & Field, and everything seems to be going great and for everyone to keep up the hard work.

Stephanie Karis- Stated she received a direct compliment on Dale and how well he was able to handle a student situation at an event back in February. Thank you to the grounds workers, maintenance and bus drivers for always taking care of the students and keeping up with all the busy schedules.

Mrs. Allen - Stated thank you all for coming and being so polite at each BOE meeting, she really appreciates all the teachers like Kelly Runninger, Carlleen Taylor and Rick Gallo that continually come. Shout out to Mr. McKeown for all his hard work with the taxes.

Mr. Jenny - Stated he would like to add to Mrs. Allen's thanks to Mr. McKeown, not only is he doing a great job with the taxes but he is also serving our country and that is what his upcoming leave request is for. Mr. Jenny also stated that he was not able to attend the elementary all- county as he was at the Utica University Science Fair but he heard excellent things about it. At the Utica University Science Fair the students grades 7-8 cleaned house and took 1st place at each junior level. Dan O'Bryan and John Glass did great helping all the students get ready for this. At the science fair the students also got to meet and talk with the college science professors. It was a great experience for our students. Mr. Jenny would like to give a high five to Gary Winghart for going above and beyond with all the pictures he takes and the amazing job he has done with the yearbook. Not only has he worked so hard at the yearbook but he has 40+ students in the lego and drone club's. Drone racing may add soccer in the future there is talk about Esports as well.

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.