



REMSSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

"All Remsen students will Soar to Success!"

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Lou Allen, Stephanie Karis (6:12pm), Jeannie Scouten, Tara Kennerknecht, Patrick Nolan

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, John McKeown, Abigail Roberts, Jody Lamphere, Sanya Pelrah, Joe Bessmer, Dale Denning, Kelly Runniger, Gary Winghart, Rick Gallo, Carlleen Taylor, Joseph Crossley, Tayah Hummel, Jack Lombardi, Suzanne Winghart, Timmy Winghart, Hannah Winghart, Sarah Winghart, Joshua Winghart, Skylar Smith, Rachel Leska.

Mr. McKeown and Mr. Jenny presented a budget hearing from 6:00 pm to 6:32 pm.

Meeting called to Order by Mary Lou Allen, Board President at 6:34 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.

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District,

pursuant to Section 2509 of the Education Law and in compliance with Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of Timothy Jenny, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint Joseph Crossley of Marcy, NY who holds a valid NYS Certification permitting him to teach subjects in the physical education tenure area in the public schools of New York State, to the position of physical education teacher in said tenure area for a probationary period of four years, to commence on September 1, 2025 and to expire on June 30, 2029; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Joseph Crossley, during his first year of this appointment be paid at the annual salary of \$44,556 as outlined in the 2018-2026 agreement between the Remsen Teachers Association and the Board of Education at Step 2, Column A.”

Mr. Jenny stated Joe is with us tonight, thank you for coming and welcome to the team.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District, pursuant to Section 2509 of the Education Law and in compliance with Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of Timothy Jenny, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint Suzanne Winghart of Holland Patent, NY who holds a valid NYS supplemental certification permitting her to teach subjects in the School Library Media Specialist tenure area in the public schools of New York State, to the position of School Library Media Specialist in said tenure area for a probationary period of four years, to commence on September 1, 2025 and to expire on June 30, 2029; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Suzanne Winghart, during her first year of this appointment be paid at the annual salary of \$56,549 as outlined in the 2018-2026 agreement between the Remsen Teachers Association and the Board of Education at Step 6, Column A.”

Mr. Jenny stated Mrs. Winghart and her family are here also, thank you for coming.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District, pursuant to Section 2509 of the Education Law and in compliance with Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of Timothy Jenny, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint Tayah Hummel of Remsen, NY who holds a valid NYS Certification permitting her to teach in the grades 7-12 mathematics tenure area in the public schools of New York State, to the position of grades 7-12 mathematics teacher in said tenure area for a probationary period of four years, to commence on September 1, 2025 and to expire on June 30, 2029; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tayah Hummel, during her first year of this appointment be paid at the annual salary of \$44,476 as outlined in the 2018-2026 agreement between the Remsen Teachers Association and the Board of Education at Step 4, Column R.”

Mr. Jenny stated Ms. Hummel is also here, thank you for coming and welcome to the team.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the meetings held on April 8 and 29, 2025, approve the agenda dated May 13, 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 Joy Lamphere included the following items:

- The Chocolate Touch book ended with a finale which included riddles based on the book, a Reader's Theater script, and a pie in the face for several volunteers. The kids had a blast and it was great to hear the cheers and laughs through the entire gym/cafeteria.
- The Third Quarter Evening of Excellence was held April 15th. The gym/cafeteria was filled with proud family members. Over 80 awards were given out to very deserving students in Pre-K through sixth grade.
- State testing for grades 3-6 continued with math this week. 5th grade will complete the Science testing next week. All students seem to be really trying their best.
- The Fourth Graders and the teachers invited families to participate in some fraction fun on May 1st. Students taught their parents and grandparents how to play various games involving fractions.
- Our Team Workshop was held May 1st. We took a look at the first three of the six big pillars of literacy. The first three include phonological awareness, phonics, and vocabulary. We discussed what these are, ways to teach them, and then began taking a look at what we are currently doing to teach these three skills within the classroom. We will take a look at the last three which include, fluency, comprehension, and oral language at our next Team Workshop.
- The Boonville Elks Club graciously donated new bike helmets to all the kindergarten students on May 2nd. The students' families were invited in to listen to a story, decorate their new helmets, and then practice riding our balance bikes. Fun was had by all!
- Teacher Appreciation Week was May 5-9. Teachers were provided with snacks delivered on a cart from the Admin Team on Monday. The PTG provided each building with bagels and cream cheese on Wednesday to recognize the hard work of our teachers. The teachers were very appreciative.
- Our Arbor Day celebration occurred Friday May 9th. Two DEC officers and Smokey Bear came in and gave a presentation. Our student council members shared poems, a story and a passage about the meaning of Arbor Day. We will be getting 25 trees to plant and will be planting them along our nature trail at a later date.

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

- At our last Team Workshop, staff were given the opportunity to work collaboratively on their curriculum mapping and plans for the end-of-the-year. We also continued our Positivity Blast, where our goal is for every student to get a positive note home by the end of the year.
- We had our Soaring to Success on the NYS Exams Celebration, a Ram Ticket drawing, an Honor Roll celebration, and I will be announcing our Top Seniors, Salutatorian, and Valedictorian very soon. Additionally, I have invited students from each grade to

participate in the Principal's Cabinet. This is an opportunity for students to provide feedback and have input on how to make Remsen even better. I look forward to the great ideas that they will share.

- April 10 and 11, Sweethearts and Heroes facilitated circles. All students participated in these circles, which are a great way to build relationships and to practice empathy and compassion. I asked for the students' feedback after the circles, and the majority of students who completed the feedback forms said they would like to do circles again.
- April 17, all students attended an internet safety presentation. This is especially important information to help our students be informed when navigating the internet and various social media sites.
- April 28, we had the Soaring to Success on the NYS Exams Celebration. This is a chance to celebrate all of the students who leveled up and made progress on the 2024 7-8 ELA, Math, and Science exams. Students received awards and refreshments as congratulations for their achievement.
- May 3, we had the 2025 Jr./Sr. High School Grand March and Prom. The Grand March was held in the high school gym, and the prom was held at The Delta Lake Inn. Students looked amazing and had a good time. A special thank you to Mrs. Laurey and the prom committee for making this a memorable event
- The 12th grade Krispy Kreme Fundraiser was a success. The prom went well, where both students and staff had a positive experience. They are preparing for the graduation ceremony. The permission slips for the Senior Class trip went out to students, and they are working on ordering senior class sweatshirts.
- 10th grade is looking forward to their Water Safari field trip on Thursday, June 12th. They also had a successful Krispy Kreme fundraiser and have big plans for next year's fundraisers and field trips.
- One student will be completing the NYS-Approved Agriculture Pathway this year. We are excited to continue to have even more students complete the pathway in the future.
- Diversity Club completed another successful year of Elevating Student Voices, which is sponsored by OHM BOCES to help students come together to make positive change in their school community.
- FFA has a busy month ahead. Students attended the NYS FFA Convention on May 7 and 8 at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse. While Mrs. Ives was out on leave, students were very helpful and stayed after school to plant seeds. All of her classes helped with planting more seeds and transplanting when she returned. The plants are looking wonderful for the plant sale! They will have herbs, broccoli, zinnia, marigolds, zucchini, squash, pumpkins, watermelon, cucumbers, sunflowers, peppers, tomatoes, celosia, and various flower/herb pots.
- The International Club is considering future fundraisers and activities to wrap up the year and are starting to plan for next year.
- Journalism students are putting together the last newsletter for the school year. The goal is to have them available on June 5.
- Athletics are finished for the year. These students performed outstandingly and were always looking to beat their accomplishments from the previous competition. They look forward to next year.

- Seven mock trial students attended Law Day on May 2, which was held at the Oneida County Courthouse. Students observed a mock trial of a preliminary felony hearing. Following a Q&A session with local lawyers and judges, students attended a luncheon at the DoubleTree Hotel. A great time was had by all.
- Student Council are finishing up the year with Spirit Week, Olympic Day, and celebrating the Remsen Cup winner. The Student Council also plans to present Mrs. Keener & Mr. Jones with gifts to share the appreciation of the Remsen student body.

Athletic Directors Report given by Dale Denning included the following:

- We have a very busy sports championship season this spring. It has been chaotic with the weather and being asked to play games on Sundays and have double headers.
- Modified is playing games three times a week which is not great for young arms.
- Thank you to Mr. McKeown for his quick response getting us new pole vault equipment, and thank you to Joe B and Ben for getting it set up for tonight's track meet.
- Congrats to Ethan Karis who holds the school record for the 1600m, 3200m and as of tonight the 800m.
- Congratulations to Jaiden Maher who holds the high jump school record. And also as of tonight's track meet Ella Lafave holds the school record for the 100 hurdles.
- Congratulations Lorelai Walker signed her letter of intent to wrestle in college next year for Division II William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. Girls wrestling has become a popular sport in New York State and Lorelai has really opened coaches' eyes with wrestling.
- Congratulations Ean Piaschyk announced his intent to attend Siena College next year with the intentions of running cross country and track & field for the Saints at the Division I level.
- Fall Sports schedules are being finalized for the fall 2025 season for both boys and girls soccer as well as cross country. Modified sports has not been created yet.
- Fall sports sign ups have been going on in the high school PE from May 5-9 and Remsen plans to offer boys varsity and modified soccer, girls varsity and modified soccer, girls varsity gymnastic (team of 1), boys varsity and modified cross country, girls varsity and modified cross country.
- The planned combinations for Fall 2025 are varsity and modified football with Holland Patent, and girls modified swimming also with Holland Patent.

Facilities Report given by Joe Bessmer include the following:

- The elementary and high school have been working on preventative maintenance fire doors and fire windows to get ready for the fire inspection.
- Fire inspection was May 6th, and the fire inspector was very pleased with all of our buildings.
- The stage project is going well and should be done in the next week or so.
- The grounds have been working on the baseball and softball fields getting them back to working order.
- Spring cleanup is just about done, there are still some wet areas we cannot clean up yet but we are working on it.
- Joe stated he would also like to give credit to everyone who helped with the quick response with the storm clean up that happened in April.

Please see attached transportation report as Kurt Crossett was not at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jenny stated that we had a great report card for the bus inspections, high fives to Kurt and Trevor for getting all the buses ready.

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 April 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 30 and May 1, 2, 6, 7, 2025. Please be reminded that discussion of specific IEP should be referred to Executive Session.”

Unanimous Vote

First read of the following policy and plan updates and revisions:

Policies 5001, 5009, 7036, 8300, 8702, 7002

For information only: Superintendent's regulation 7002.1

Remsen CSD District-Wide School Safety Plan 2025-2026

Policy 7036 Remsen CSD Athletic Code of Conduct 2025-2026

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

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

Somos asi en sus marcas (mostly used, some like new) Checkpoint A

Somos asi Listos (mostly used, some like new) Checkpoint B

Somos asi Ya Checkpoint C (new or like new condition)

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Stephanie Karis.

“**WHEREAS**, Part 200 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education require that, upon receipt of a request for an impartial hearing involving a student with or suspected of having a disability, the Board “immediately” work to appoint an impartial hearing officer pursuant to the procedure set forth in the Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District as follows:

1. The Board hereby appoints Lynn Almeleh to act as the impartial hearing officer in the pending due process matter that was received by the District on May 1, 2025.

2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the attached standard work hours per day for NYSLRS reporting”.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Zachary Prosser effective May 8, 2025”.

Unanimous Vote

Information & Correspondence

Holland Patent sent the district a thank you note after the tragic bus accident, thanking the district and staff for all of the support.

Budget vote reminder, the Budget vote is next Tuesday May 20th in the elementary school cafeteria. Please remember to come and vote.

Soaring to Success- Board of Education Roundtable Remarks

Board of Education Five-Star Service Recognition - Joe Bessmer was the winner drawn for the month of April and received a \$35 Stewart's gift card. Thank you to all of our anonymous donors for their contribution for the gift card.

Round Table Remarks

Stephanie Karis - High Five to Joe B, it has been a brutal winter and not an easy spring so far with all the cleaning. But you come onto the school grounds after a storm and its like nothing ever happened. Thank you to Mrs. Taylor for bringing back the journalism club, I have heard nothing but good things about it.

Tara Kennerknecht - Also wanted to thank Joe B. for the hard work and all the clean ups. It's so great to see and hear about all the different things going on in the district.

Jeannie Scouten - Following what Tara said, it is great to see all the great things happening in the schools and hearing about it from the kids. Thank you Mr. Jenny for helping with the clean up from the April storm and speaking up to have us all move away from the windows during the meeting.

Patrick Nolan - The pie in the face was a big hit, he heard all about it from the kids and it was the highlight of their night.

Mary Lou Allen - Thank you Patrick for running again for the board, it is not always easy. Thank you to all the people that showed up to help clean up after the storm in April, Joe B. and Mr. Jenny were out there in the rain moving things to where they needed to go. It's great to see how no one hesitated to help out.

Mr. Jenny - Patrick thank you for running again. Joe deserved the five- star service award, he has a leadership that is thoughtful and thorough, we are very excited to have him part of the team. For teacher appreciation, it is hard to get everyone to get a chance to come to one place to get something. So Sanya came up with the idea of bringing it to the teachers, so we put all the snacks on a cart and brought them to everyone. The teachers all seemed to be excited and appreciative of this. A big thank you to everyone that came back to help clean up after the storm. The pole vault and one brown mat were the only things left displaced the next day. Thank you everyone for your hard work with the budget, especially Mr. McKeown. Please remember to come vote next tuesday. The school calendar is busy and is really going to rev up with the upcoming sports, awards, celebrations, concerts and graduations.

Motion to go into executive session at 7:17 pm by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patirck Nolan for:

Superintendent's Annual Evaluation and Selection of Margaret Davis Staff Awards. 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 Jeannie Scouten, second by Stephanie Karis at 7:56 pm.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Unanimous Vote