



REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025

"All Remsen students will Soar to Success!"

MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stephanie Karis

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, John McKeown, Abigail Roberts, Sanya Pelrah, Joe Bessmer, Kurt Crossett, Dale Denning, Kelly Runninger, Fay Harper, Robert Staskoski, Hilary Huising, Matthew Huising, Maria Ultsch

Meeting called to Order by Mary Lou Allen, Board President at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present.

Presentation given by Josh Robin from Cornice Technology with information given about electric buses.

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.

No Public Participation.

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the meeting held on July 8, 2025, approve the agenda dated August 12, 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

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Maria Ultsch, Registered Nurse, of Remsen, NY to the position of elementary school nurse. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Maria Ultsch, during her first year of this appointment be paid at the annual salary as outlined in the 2021 -2026 agreement between the Remsen Teachers’ Association and the Board of Education at 70% of Step 25, Column R effective September 1, 2025.”

Mr. Jenny stated that Maria is present tonight and has over 20 years experience in many diverse medical areas. Welcome to the team Maria!

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Hillary Huising of Remsen, NY as the Long - Term History Substitute Teacher effective September 1, 2025 at the daily rate of \$120.00 for the first 45 days.”

Mr. Jenny stated that Hilary is also present tonight, she helped a lot last year and did an amazing job. Thank you for helping again this year!

4 yes 0 no

Jody Lamphere was not present to give the report, but the report is attached.

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

- A warm welcome to our new staff! Tayah Hummel is joining the math department, Kayden Lamphere is joining the English department, Suzanne Winghart is our new Library Media Specialist and Hilary Huising is covering our History. I am looking forward to the talent, energy, and fresh perspectives that these individuals will bring to the high school team.
- Our custodial staff are working hard to get everything ready for the return of our staff and students in just a few weeks. It's inspiring to see our students pitching in and working alongside them. We're truly grateful to have such a dedicated and exceptional team supporting our school!
- Mrs. Dineen has been working diligently to finalize students schedules and they are now available on Schoooltool. Emails were sent out to parents today, and hard copies are also being mailed out.
- Teachers were offered additional paid curriculum writing/mapping hours this summer, those who were able to take advantage of this opportunity were very appreciative.
- The BOCES-managed summer school here at Remsen is coming to a conclusion on August 14th. Any student wishing to retake a Regents Exam in August will be able to do so on August 19 and 20th.

- I'm looking forward to welcoming students and families to our Back-to-school Night on September 3rd! It will be a great opportunity to connect, learn more about our extracurricular programs, and visit displays from community organizations in the main hallway. Additionally, Mrs. Dineen is hosting an information session for seniors at 5:00 and for freshmen at 6:15. We will have hamburgers, hot dogs, and salad for all families to enjoy.

Athletic Directors Report given by Dale Denning included the following:

- Varsity Fall Sports begin August 18th. We will have varsity boys and girls soccer and cross country teams.
- Congratulations to the boys 15K team for the first place finish in this year's Boilermaker Race. Congrats again to Ean Piaschyk, Ethan Karis, Gavin Nelson, Burke Gates and Adam Woolheater. There was an awards ceremony on July 30th at the Saranac Bier Garden to honor their accomplishment.
- There was a ParentSquare message sent out to the Remsen community with information regarding the fall season and for the athletic code of conduct.
- All varsity home soccer games will be played at either Adirondack Central School, Holland Patent Stadium Field or GWF elementary school in Floyd due to the new drainage system being installed on the varsity soccer field.
- The teams will get the opportunity to practice on the fields before playing games so they will become familiar with them.
- There will be a cross country invitational on September 20th at Letchworth State Park (High Banks Recreation Area). Fay Harper gave more information on the run and stay. Stating that there is a two night minimum where they would need to stay and it would be 3 cabins total they would need to rent. This would give the runners the opportunity to preview the course before running it, they would get to see other teams they are running against for this invitational and other invitationals. This would also be a chance to work on team bonding skills and give experience of going away for invitationals.

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the cross country team a 2 night stay for the Invitational at Letchworth State Park from September 18 to September 20, 2025.”

Tara Kennerknecht stated she feels this would be a great experience for the cross country team.

4 yes 0 no

Facilities Report given by Joe Bessmer include the following:

- The high school and elementary maintenance teams have been busy with summer cleaning and getting rooms ready for the new year.
- A lot going on with the Capital Projects.
- The elementary loading dock has been demoed and the work has begun to restore it.
- The High school nurses office has been demoed , there has been a new A/C unit installed and new bathroom fixtures replaced.
- The high school expansion joints and brick work has begun.
- The high school parking lot has been demoed, new structures have been installed along with new pipe, underdrain fabric and stone.
- The elementary cafeteria and gym floor has been moisture tested and they have begun taking up the old moisture mitigation in the areas that have failed. The new leveler is being placed this weekend.
- The elementary music room and stairs are being prepped for new carpet tiles to be installed.
- The bus garage concrete and lift have been removed, and the new lift has been put into place.

- The nature trail and cross country trail have been cleared and ready for use.

Mrs. Allen stated, “ Thank you Joe for all your work, it has been a very busy year. Your job is more than just cleaning and keeping the buildings clean and you have done an excellent job.”

Mr. Jenny stated Joe has done a great job with all the work going on around the school grounds. With the experience he has he knows how things should be done and it really shows.

Jeannie Scouten asked if the footprint for the parking lot is going to be larger or the same. Joe responded and stated that it looks a little larger right now because they replaced the drainage but it will be the same footprint as before.

Transportation Report given by Kurt Crossett included the following:

- We are very happy to welcome two new drivers. Sandie Salerno and Lonnie Lankford both come with over 10 years of experience of driving school bus.
- We will be fully staffed for the new school year!
- Kurt is currently taking a class to become 19A certified. He is hoping to complete this certification by the end of December. With having this certification, we will not have to outsource for this any longer.

Mrs. Allen thanked Kurt for getting this certification so we can keep it all in house!

Motion by Jeannie Scouten , second by Tara Kennerknecht.

Second read and adoption of policies:

Remsen CSD Code of Conduct 2025-2026 (Policy 1004)

Smart Device Policy 7208

Mr. Jenny stated these policies will be sent to families tonight. The information on the smart device policy will also be shared with students and families at the Back to School night. Parents' number one concern is the convenience of student to parent and parent to student communication. There is a dedicated phone in the office for students to use to contact their parents, we are going to do our best to update parents via parentsquare with changes for after school activities and sports events. This is going to take time with the changes but hopefully we can get students more engaged and present in class. The policy can be seen on the homepage and there will be a quick link with frequently asked questions and answers.

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the 2025-2026 tax levy in the amount of \$5,759,294.00.”

4 yes 0 no

2025-2026 Program Presentations to the Board of Education - Discussion and schedule

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declare the attached list of books as surplus and approve disposal or donation of the same.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Julia Hill of Utica, NY as a substitute teacher at the daily rate of \$110.00 effective September 1, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Berry Yette as an interim Business Administrator from October 7, 2025 until December 19, 2025 at the daily rate of \$100.00”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeanie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Laura Boyd effective July 21, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Sandra Salerno of Poland, NY as a full time Bus Driver at the hourly rate of \$26.00 effective August 28, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOVLED, that the Board of Education appoint Sandra Salerno of Poland, NY as a monitor at the hourly rate of \$15.50 effective September 1, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Autumn Fasolino effective August 24, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Remsen Central School District and the Remsen Teachers’ Association for the extra-curricular position of High School Drama Club Musical Assistant Director and associated stipend schedule for the 2025-2026 School year.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Anthony Dangler of Barneveld, NY as the High School Drama Club Musical Director for the 2025-2026 School year.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Kayden Lamphere of Poland, NY as the High School Drama Club Musical Assistant Director for the 2025-2026 School year at a starting stipend per the RTA MOA.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Lonnie Lankford of Remsen, NY as a Bus Driver at the hourly rate of \$26.00 effective August 25, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Hannah Coulthart of Remsen, NY as a substitute teacher at the daily rate of \$120.00.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Laura Boyd of Utica, NY as a part-time french teacher at 0.80 full-time equivalent (FTE) for the 2025-2026 school year per the attached memorandum of agreement.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education rescind Laura Boyd’s 2025-2026 appointment as International Club advisor and appoint Michelle Izzo of Remsen, NY as the International Club advisor for the 2025-2026 school year.”

4 yes 0 no

Information & Correspondence

Mr. Jenny gave the Board of Education a thank you card from Mrs. Wilson’s Kindergarten class. Mrs. Allen read aloud and passed card around to the other board members.

Mr. Jenny also gave a reminder for the Welcome Back to School Night on September 3rd.

Soaring to Success- Board of Education Roundtable Remarks

Round Table Remarks

Mrs. Allen - A big thank you to the PTG for providing all the wonderful supplies for the kids, this was an excellent use of the funds that were raised.

Mr. Jenny - A huge thank you to everyone who made the summer enrichment program a possibility. We had parents from other school districts asking if their kids could come to Remsen as their schools did not have these opportunities. These would not have been possible without all the teachers and drivers.

Motion to go into executive session at 7:27 pm by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patirck Nolan for:

Discuss 2025-2026 Superintendent's Evaluation and Goal Setting . 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.

4 yes 0 no

Motion out of executive session by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht at 8:00 pm.

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm.

4 yes 0 no