



REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

"All Remsen students will Soar to Success!"

MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, John McKeown, Abigail Roberts, Sanya Pelrah, Joe Bessmer, Kurt Crossett, Dale Dening, Kelly Runninger, Rick Gallo, Carleen Taylor, Marissa Karis, Tyler Peters, Keith Peters

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

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 August 12, 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.”

Unanimous Vote

Elementary School Principal's Report given by Jody Lamphere included the following:

- September 3rd was Back to School Night, we handed out popcorn, the PTG handed out freeze pops, the students and families got to see their classrooms, teachers and classmates. There were some community tables set up in the gym with information on community groups.
- New Staff Orientation days were held on August 25 and 26th. Many important topics were discussed during these two days. We have a wonderful group of people that have joined our Remsen family.
- Pre-K and Kindergarten Orientation were held on August 27th. Students got the opportunity to see their classrooms, meet their teacher and learn about their classrooms. Both events were well attended.
- During the second day of Superintendent's Conference Day we met for a team workshop as a whole district. Principal Pelrah and I created a team building challenge incorporating important elements in our Student Service Guide. Teams presented their elements including the incorporation of a "mystery item". There was a lot to learn and many laughs had by all!
- Upcoming Events:
 - September 11th- PTG Meeting @ 6:00pm
 - September 16th - 6th Grade Conservation Day at Delta Lake
 - September 16th - 4th Grade Recruitment Night

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

- Wednesday September 3rd was a well attended Back to School Night. Students and families toured the school, visited classrooms, met teachers, went to lockers, and turned in important paperwork. We again offered early Chromebook pick-up and tables with club and sports information. Mrs. Laurey arranged for several community organizations, including the Oneida County Health Department, the Oneida Sheriff's Office, the Neighborhood Center, and Cornell Cooperative Extension to be part of the evening. Families enjoyed the hamburgers, hot dogs, and salads served throughout the evening.
- Our first Team Workshop was held on Wednesday, September 3rd. Principal Lamphere and I brought the elementary and high school instructional staff together again this year with a team building activity that reviewed important instructional strategies from our Highly Effective Instructional Practices district document. This was a positive and fun collaborative activity. Additionally, we discussed the curriculum mapping process, which we have been engaging in for the last few years and will continue this year.
- Mrs. Pelrah gave each senior a gift bag with goodies to help make their first day extra special. This year's theme was orange, they got things like Sunny D and Flaming hot cheetos.
- The PTG and I have purchased lunch time games and conversation starter cards for the students to use during lunch periods.
- The summer birthdays were given a sweet treat to celebrate them.
- Grade Level assemblies were held on September 5th to review the expectations for how to be successful in high school. This year, there was a particular focus on the new electronic device policy, and our students are doing a great job adjusting to this.
- At the end of Mrs. Taylor's 7th grade level up summer program, the students became official ambassadors to assist other new 7th graders in navigation around the building. It was great to see them assisting their peers the first few days of school.
- Sept 17th I will be taking the 7th grade class to Beaver Camp in Lowville to do the challenge course. This is a fun, memorable, team-building activity.
- Mrs. Pelrah introduced Marissa Karis as President of Student Council and Student BOE Member.

- Marissa introduced herself and stated the Student Council met and elected herself as president, Glen Lafave as Vice President, Glen Nelson as Treasurer and Trent Jenny as Secretary. They discussed doing the Blood drive again for this year.

Athletic Directors Report given by Dale Dening included the following:

- Modified sports began September 4th. We have 1 girl for Cross Country and no boys. 18 girls and 17 boys for modified soccer, we started with 5 students from West Canada and now only have 2.
- All varsity home soccer games will be played at either Adirondack Central School or Holland Patent Stadium Field or GWF elementary school in Floyd due to the new drainage system being installed on the varsity soccer field. We will have 1 senior Gavin Nelson to recognize on senior night.
- CPR/AED will be happening in the Library on September 29th at 6:30pm. All head and assistant coaches, as well as volunteer coaches will have the opportunity to receive recertification on CPR and AED to keep up to date with the latest changes.
- I am asking for the approval of the BOE to appoint Rob Staskoski as a volunteer assistant coach for the modified and varsity cross country program. He has coached before and knows the students well.

Facilities Report given by Joe Bessmer include the following:

- The high school and elementary maintenance team have been busy with summer cleaning and getting rooms ready for the new year.
- The elementary loading dock has been replaced and we are just waiting on handrails for it to be completed.
- The high school nurses office is still under construction. They have installed a new toilet, sink and eye wash station, new ceiling grid and tiles.
- The high school expansion joints and brick work is still ongoing.
- The high school parking lot and south driveway have been paved and painted, new guide rail and top soil has been installed.
- The perimeter drain has been installed and the sand master system has been finished for the track and soccer field. The top soil and field dressing will be done the week.
- The elementary cafeteria and gym floor has been completed and the elementary music room and stairs have all new carpet tiles.
- The bus garage has had a new water heater installed. Trane has been working on the heating system controls for the boiler system.
- The grounds team has the elementary nature trail back open.

Transportation Report given by Kurt Crossett included the following:

- The new lift was installed and is in service.
- The first day of school went well this year. There were some small issues to work out but everyone did great!
- The two new large buses will be delivered on September 23rd.

Motion by Stephanie Karis , second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the sports combine with West Canada Valley for the fall 2025 Boys’ Varsity Soccer season, with Remsen serving as the host school/team, with the understanding that West Canada Valley will provide transportation for their athletes to Remsen for practices and games.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis , second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education gives consent to the request that the school

district of record be changed from Adirondack to Remsen for property tax parcels 119.000-1-6 & 119.000-1-7 and from Remsen to Adirondack for property tax parcel 119.000-1-2, pending District Superintendent approval.”

Mr. Jenny explained the documents in each board member's packet. The single parcel belongs to a current Adirondack District resident that would like to change the property taxes to Adirondack and the two parcels currently in the Adirondack District belong to a Remsen District resident who would like to change property taxes to Remsen. There are a lot of steps for both of the property owners to follow and getting the Board approve from both Remsen and Adirondack are some of the beginning steps. Once approved by both Boards, the approvals go to Dr. Kilburn.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

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

Jeannie Scouten asked where we dispose and donate these books too?

Mrs. Lamphere stated the books from the last meeting from the elementary school, the library came and were able to take them all to the library. Before the library came, we made sure teachers had the opportunity to look through the books and take what they wanted. Mrs. Pelrah stated that the same will happen with these and the teachers have had the chance to look through and take what they wanted.

Unanimous Vote

Mr. Jenny gave the presentation on the STEPS Plan. Mr. Jenny stated that the plan changed from 3012D to 3012E, which gives the district more flexibility to change what is needed. Once this plan is approved by the board and submitted to SED it can take at least 4 weeks. APPR was the name but it is now changed to the STEPS which stands for Standards-Based Educator Evaluation and Professional Support Plan. The purpose statement on page 2 means exactly what it says. *“The Remsen Central School District STEPS Plan provides tangible examples of the various pathways all education can traverse on the professional journey. This STEPS Plan was created to inspire all Remsen educators to reflect, learn, and grow to ensure that all students **Soar to Success!**”* Mr. Jenny then went page by page into detail explaining the different groups, which staff are in which group (ex: group 1 is not tenured or teacher support plan people and Group 2 is tenured teachers and not on teacher support plan.) Mr. Jenny gave a big thanks and high fives to all the staff that worked so hard on creating this plan. There were 19 hardworking staff that put a lot of time and effort into this plan.

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education adopt the Remsen Central School District STEPS Plan (Standards-Based Educator Evaluation and Professional Support Plan) - Fall 2025 Edition, under Education Law 3012-e as a part of the Remsen Teachers’ Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, pending New York State Education Department approval.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Tammy Maciol for FMLA leave beginning August 25th through September 8th.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the substitute bus driver pay rate for Remsen retired bus driver Dennis Quackenbush of \$25.50 per hour for the school year of 2025-2026.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the request of Maria Ultsch for unpaid leave days on September 25, 26, 29 and 30, 2025.”

Mr. Jenny stated that at Maria’s interview she did inform us she had this vacation planned a long time ago. Maria has done a great job with the students.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Tyler Peters of Remsen, NY as a night cleaner effective September 10, 2025 at the pay rate of \$15.50 per hour, pending fingerprint clearance.”

Mr. Jenny stated that Tyler is present tonight, he is a recent graduate and thanked him for wanting to give back to the school.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Robert Staskoski of Barneveld, NY as the volunteer assistant cross country coach for the fall 2025 season.”

Unanimous Vote

Information & Correspondence

Mr. Jenny stated that there is a community building use request from the Good News Club for the Elementary Art Room. This will go every Wednesday from 2:15 pm - 4 pm. Mr. Jenny gave a reminder about the attached OHM-SBI Information and the 2025-2026 Calendar of Events.

Mr. Jenny gave the schedule for the 2025-2026 BOE Presentations as below:

October will be the Performing Arts

November will be Nutrition by BOCES Food Service Kate Dorr

December will be Mr. Harlander and Technology Class

January will be Elementary Literacy by Jody Lamphere and Jennifer Martin

February will be Human Development Class by Melissa Obernesser

Mr. Jenny gave each board member a globe and sharpie marker, this year's theme is “Leave your mark on the world”. Mr. Jenny stated not only is each and every board

member leaving their mark at school but also out in the community with their professions.

Soaring to Success- Board of Education Roundtable Remarks

Round Table Remarks

Mrs. Allen - What great progress has been made with all the construction, it's a lot of work but everything is coming together and getting done. Everyone has worked hard and it shows.

Jeannie Scouten- The parking lot looks great. The sunrise breakfast was really nice for the seniors. It was great to see the wraps back at the Back to School Night.

Mr. Jenny - Abbie did great with the taxes this year, having them out before Labor Day weekend. She has done a great job juggling the taxes and all her other job duties. The 7th grade ambassadors are such a great thing to be a part of, its awesome to see the kids help each other out when they all come back to school. Huge high fives to the LLC for all the work and energy for making something that will be so useful and great! A big thank you to everyone around the table for all your hard work and support. The Back to School night has become such a great thing to get back into the swing of things, for the kids to be able to see their lockers, classmates, teachers and principals. With the new electronic policy, kids are doing well and doing what they need to. We have amazing kids and are very proud of them. Joe B. has done an amazing job this past year, juggling so many jobs for both buildings, all the requests from staff and the capital projects. He has been here early on the weekends to check in on the jobs. Mr. Jenny stated as he stands outside for parent drop off he gets to hear all the comments and compliments at both buildings about how amazing this school is. Thank youtube everyone for making it happen. High fives to both principals for all they do!

Mrs. Allen - Stated thank you to Mr. Jenny, you are always here for the students and staff, even when you have lost your voice you're still here. John we will miss you while you're away on your military leave, be safe and we will see you back in January.

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 pm.

Unanimous Vote