



REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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, Jody Lamphere, Sanya Pelrah, Joe Bessmer, Dale Denning, Kurt Crossett, Michael Rossi, Glen Lafave, Kelly Runninger, Anthony Dangler, Carlleen Taylor, Justin Pietruch, Jessica Jones, Rebecca White, Rayne Ives.

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

Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present.

Presentation given by Michael Rossi of West & Company CPAs PC. Michael explained the audit for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Presentation was given by Rayne Ives explaining and asking for approval for this years FFA trip to Camp Oswegotchie. Rayne stated they would leave Friday November 7th and return Saturday November 8th. They are combining with Adirondack FFA, Adirondack will be providing the transportation. On Friday they will get to tour Old McDonald's Farm and Millers Meat Market then at the end of the day return to Camp Oswegotchie. On Saturday they will participate in leadership workshops and work on some team building skills. There is going to be 2-3 advisors, students will all have their own spaces in the cabin to stay, there will be about 10 students from Remsen going. There is not great cellphone service but there is a phone at the cabin and this will all be shared with the parents in advance.

Presentation was given by Justin Pietruch and Anthony Dangler explaining what is happening in the music departments and their upcoming goals. Justin and Anthony both began with explaining the grade levels and what they focus on for their lessons. They both talked about the different Chorus and band groups they have and the participation amounts have gone up. Justin then presented that in 2 years for the elementary students they would like to expand in-school performance opportunities and build onto the school-owned instrument inventory to give our

students have more opportunities to be able to play. Anthony stated that for the high school he would like to have more small ensemble opportunities (such as jazz band, percussion ensemble, chamber winds and voice) and possible trip opportunities to Hershey Park. And within 5 years they would like to create a ukulele unit for upper elementary grades, and for the high school to explore optional guitar lessons to feed the jazz band program.

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- None

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 9, 2025, approve the agenda dated October 14, 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

Jody Lamphere was not present, the elementary principal's report is attached.

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

- The October Workshop held October 16th was combined with the elementary staff. Together they learned more about the many resources available through BOCES library services. Thank you to Mrs. Winghart for coordinating this session.
- Mrs. Pelrah stated she has been visiting classes and it is wonderful to see great things happening. She appreciates all the staff's dedication as they work to meet all of our students' needs, and it is so rewarding to see our students make progress.
- The 7th Grade Beaver Camp field trip was a great team-building experience. Students worked together during various activities and challenges.
- On September 24th, Mrs. Laurey and Ms. Dineen held a Chalk the Walk event to raise awareness about mental health and suicide prevention. The Neighborhood Center also has a table outside of the cafeteria during lunches with resources to support this.

- The first Principal's Cabinet was held September 19th. We discussed and students took roles leading our first initiatives, which include implementing monthly Remsen spirit days. Our first Remarkable Ram Spirit Day was held on September 26th, it was wonderful seeing so many showing their Remsen pride. The students also worked with Mrs. Carpenter, Student Council advisor, to make the Spirit week days consistent at both the elementary and high school. I can't wait to hear about more of their great ideas this year!
- Ms. Dineen and Ms. Roberts scheduled some great opportunities for our students. The ASVA, a test that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military and careers, was offered during school hours on October 3rd. Students could attend a college night at SUNY Poly, with school transportation provided, on October 7th. The PSAT was offered at school on October 9th.
- The Senior class has had a busy month, on the first Friday back to school, seniors came to school early for the Senior Sunrise, where they cooked breakfast and watched the sun come up. They had a very successful weekend at Barnfest, where they sold cajun, Old Bay, salt/pepper, and Mexican Street Corn as well as salt potatoes. They raised over \$2000. On October 2nd seniors attended a field trip to Black Bear mountain. They hiked up the mountain on a beautiful day, had lunch at the summit, and appreciated the foliage. Looking ahead, seniors will be having their class elections soon and begin planning their Senior Trip and Prom. Ms. Pelrah arranged for the seniors to enjoy the Corn Maze again this year.
- The Junior class had another successful barnfest, selling meatballs-on-a-stick and raising a little over \$1,800. In a class vote, they opted to keep the same officers from last year. The Class of '27 will begin their 2nd fundraiser, selling Little Caesars Pizza kits in November. They are also busy brainstorming senior trips and themes for this year's snowball.
- The Sophomore Class is off to a great start! They held their first meeting in early September, with almost every student in attendance. During the meeting, elections were held, and they planned for Barnfest. The Barnfest fundraiser was a huge success; they sold out of over 500 lollipops and all the water by 1:00 pm on Sunday, raising \$1,300. They will definitely be making more lollipops next year! They are organizing a bake sale during parent-teacher conferences in November. Students will be baking treats and volunteering their time to sell on Thursday November 20th and Friday November 21st. Ms. Kistowski and Mrs. Hollenbeck are so excited to be working with the class of 2028!
- The Battle of the Books has met twice this year. They have eight members so far and many have grabbed their second or third book off the list. This year, OHM BOCES provided every district with two brand new copies of each book from the high school reading list. Mrs. Cooper attends the regional advisors' meetings to stay apprised of all that is happening with the club, including how they can prepare for the battle in March. The students in the club are so excited to read. Mrs. Cooper hopes the excitement will eventually spread to even more high schoolers in the future.
- Mrs. Ives is currently reviewing the Agriculture pathway courses and considering ways to improve it.
- The Diversity Club is again participating in Elevating Student Voices (ESV) hosted through OHM BOCES. They had their first meeting and selected ten members to attend ESV. The first ESV meeting will take place October 16th for students who have volunteered to be facilitators.

- Remsen FFA attended the Chapter Officer Leadership Training conference at Cornell University! They also did set up and tear down of the Barfest tables and barrels as usual. This year they got to make a photo booth in one of the booth spaces. They will be starting the annual fruit sale soon FFA will be presenting at the Board meeting in October about a trip planned with the Adirondack FFA for industry tours, leadership training, and an overnight stay. They have a really strong officer team this year and have a lot of momentum for the chapter. So far, 22 different students have participated in FFA activities this year.
- The International Club has chosen their officers and there has been a lot of interest in the Puerto Rico trip. So far nine students have signed up to go. They just finished their first fundraiser and are working on additional ones. They are encouraging everyone to keep an eye out for the Christmas decoration fundraiser. International Dr. Pepper Day is October 24th and they will be selling cans of Dr. Pepper in the cafeteria during lunch periods on October 23-24.
- The Journalism Club has a meeting scheduled for after Columbus Day; individual club members are already working on pieces that they would like to publish in the newspaper.
- The National Honor Society members are participating in Oneida County's Annual Intergenerational Fall Clean Up on October 18th.
- Ski Club paperwork will be sent out during the middle of October. This winter is looking to be a good one for winter sports, so Mr. Gallo asks that we keep our fingers crossed and hope for snow.
- Development for the 2026 Remsonian is underway. Pre-sales have already begun with a number of yearbooks sold already. They are planning to add several pages to this year's yearbook to better highlight the senior class, athletics and clubs/activities.

Athletic Directors Report given by Dale Dening included the following:

- Sectionals for soccer being the week of October 20th. Cross Country, CSC XC Championships will be held on Saturday, October 25th at the Sauquoit Town Park.
- We had a total of 76 students (4 students are dual sport athletes) for the fall sports participation, this is 5 students more than last year.
- Mr. Dening stated he is requesting for BOE approval of Jared Williams as a volunteer assistant coach for the modified, JV and Varsity volleyball program.
- Senior Nights were held September 30th for Varsity Gymnastics recognizing Ella Staskoski, October 1st for Varsity Cross Country recognizing Ellie Secor, Burke Gates, Ethan Karis and Gavin Nelson. And October 16th for girls Varsity Soccer recognizing Morgan Horn, Jaiden Maher, Regan Meeker, Emily Shufelt and Makayla Wilcox.
- Winter Sports sign ups took place in all the PE classes during the week of October 6th-9th.
- Modified Volleyball practice begins Monday, October 27th.
- For Winter Sports we are offering:
 - Modified Volleyball
 - JV Volleyball
 - Varsity Volleyball
 - Indoor Track (Varsity Only)
 - Girls' Modified Basketball
 - Boys' Modified Basketball
 - JV Boys' Basketball
 - Varsity Boys' Basketball
 - Varsity Cheerleading (pending numbers)
- We will combine with Holland Patent for girls wrestling, we currently have 1 senior participating.

- 13 coaches completed their recertification for CPR/AED, which took place in our HS Media Center on Monday, September 29th.
- The Remsen Sports Booster will be sponsoring their annual “Pink Out” games for each team throughout the month of October to support breast cancer awareness. Each year our fall sports teams have their own pink out games where they wear pink jerseys (shirts), which are provided through the efforts of the sports boosters.

Facilities Report given by Joe Bessmer include the following:

- The High School and Elementary maintenance teams are busy with the day to day cleaning.
- The grounds team has been busy with the athletic fields. We did install a new shot put area with the help of community members. Special thank you to Ben Doty who has donated the mums around both buildings.
- Updates on the Capital Project
 - The elementary loading dock is just waiting on handrails and it will be complete.
 - The elementary art room has been cleaned out and contractors have started work.
 - The high school nurses office is back together with new lights and ceiling tiles.
 - High school expansion joints and brick work is still ongoing.
 - The high school chimney work has begun, we will be removing the top 8 feet of bricks to get to the solid part of the chimney and install a new capstone and cover basket.
 - The north driveway to the elementary school has been on going with full reconstruction. They will start paving on October 13th.
 - The track and field has been top dressed and seeded.
 - For the bus garage, Trane has been working on the heating system and controls for the boiler system.

Transportation Report was given by Kurt Crossett included the following:

- We have received the new buses 19 and 20, and they are in service.
- We are still waiting on a delivery date for the new 20 passenger bus that's been on order.
- The new lift is working amazingly and Trevor is loving it.
- This coming Friday there are 4 buses to be inspected.

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

Second read and adoption of policy:

Policy #2308

Mr. Jenny stated high fives to everyone for being ahead of this policy as we have had a student member for many years.

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from meetings held on September 18, 23, 30, 2025 and October 2, 6, and 8, 2025. Please be reminded that discussion of specific IEP should be referred to Executive Session.”

4yes 0 no

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Jeannie Scouten.

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

- 2 administrative assistant office desks
- Girls Modified Soccer Uniforms (Under Armour - 20 black shorts, 20 white jerseys, 20 black jerseys)
- Modified Volleyball Uniforms (BSN/Victory - 25 black uniforms)
- Varsity Boys Soccer Uniforms (Under Armour - 20 black jerseys, 20 black shorts, 20 white jerseys and 20 white shorts)
- JV/ Varsity Volleyball Uniforms (Alleson - 31 black/orange jerseys)

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the enclosed Memorandum of Agreement between the Remsen Central School District, the CSEA, Inc. LOCAL 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO Remsen CSD Unit #7769, and Joseph Griswald for the 2025-2026 school year.

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the FFA overnight field trip to Camp Oswegotchie in Croghan, NY from November 7, 2025 to November 8, 2025.”

Mrs. Allen stated she hopes all the kids have a great time on the trip.

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the sports combine with Holland Patent Central School District for Girls’ Varsity Wrestling for the 2025-2026 season.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the audit for the year ended June 30, 2025, as prepared and submitted by the West & Company CPAs PC.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Corrective Action Plan associated with the audit for the year ended June 30, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Sarah Helmer of Remsen, NY as the Long-Term History Substitute retroactive to September 5, 2025 at the daily rate of \$150.00 for the first 45 days.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Paige Crego of Boonville, NY as a substitute teacher at the daily rate of \$120.00 effective October 15, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Meghan Dineen for one unpaid leave day on October 10, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Kelly Countryman for one unpaid leave day on October 10, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Theresa Klosek of Remsen, NY as a substitute teacher at the daily rate of \$120.00 effective October 15, 2025, pending fingerprint clearance.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Jessica Jones of Remsen, NY as a substitute teacher at the daily rate of \$120.00 effective October 15, 2025, pending fingerprint clearance.”

Mr. Jenny stated Jessica is here tonight, thank you for coming tonight.

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Rebecca White of Remsen, NY as a substitute teacher at the daily rate of \$120.00 effective October 15, 2025.”

Mr. Jenny stated Rebecca is also here tonight and thank you for coming.

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Elizabeth Bellinger of Remsen, NY as the official scorekeeper for all modified, JV and Varsity home Volleyball games for the 2025-2026 season at \$65.00 per event.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Jared Williams of Remsen, NY as the volunteer assistant coach for the Varsity Volleyball team for the 2025-2026 season.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Hillary Gibbons of Holland Patent, NY as a substitute teacher at the daily rate of \$150.00 effective October 15, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Ariyah Pasho of Remsen, NY as a substitute teacher at the daily rate of \$110.00 effective October 15, 2025.”

4 yes 0 no

Information & Correspondence

Mr. Jenny stated that the Community Youth Basketball teams requested use of the elementary gym for their upcoming season and it is great to see so many kids participating. Mr. Jenny presented a thank you card from the Cross Country team from the away meet and overnight trip they attended at Letchworth Park in September. Mr. Jenny also presented a folder full of cards from the students and staff in the elementary and high school for Board of Education Appreciation Week. Mr. Jenny also gave big thanks to the board members for all they do for the school.

Soaring to Success- Board of Education Roundtable Remarks

Board of Education Five-Star Service Recognition - Abbie Roberts was the winner drawn for the month of March and received a \$35 Stewart's gift card.

Round Table Remarks

Mrs. Allen - Gave Ben Doty a big thank you for buying and donating the mums for the school, they look beautiful. Joe B. and Kurt thank you for all your hard work and re-arranging with all that has been happening with the capital projects.

Tara Kennerknecht- The Performing Arts presentation was lovely, it's nice to have a better understanding of all they do and plan to do. Tara also asked if there was fundraising they could do to help with the cost of the equipment they would like to get. Mr. Jenny stated yes they can do fundraising, we also shared that we have used a Rural Schools grant for several years for building student instrument inventory.

Jeannie Scouten- Stated that the mums look great and the completed driveway is also so nice and looks great. She asked if they are done, Joe stated that they are done for now but will pick back up in the spring/summer to finish the driveway up to the elementary school and the front circle of the elementary. Jeannie also gave a big thank you for all the support her son Tucker received with having to be in a wheelchair.

Mr. Jenny - Thank you to the Board Members for all your hard work. Thank you to Deb and John for doing a great job with the audit. Also thank you to Barry for covering John's position while he is out on military leave, it's great to have someone with extensive knowledge and experience. On our Superintendents Conference Day we had 7 interested individuals that shared inspirational stories tying into our theme of “Leave your mark on

the world". It was a fantastic and moving way to open the day. We are hoping this can become a tradition and happen every year. Glen Lafave mentioned the blood drive that is happening November 3rd, please think about donating if you can, there is a big shortage. Big thanks to the anonymous local contractor who donated their time, equipment and labor to completing the new shot put field. Also high fives to Joe B. and Ben for their time and work they put into the field.

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.