



REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

"All Remsen students will Soar to Success!"

MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Patrick Nolan, Jeannie Scouten

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, Barry Yette, Abigail Roberts, Jody Lamphere, Sanya Pelrah, Joe Bessmer, Kurt Crossett, Dale Dening, Kelly Runniger, Deb Geci, John Glass, Marissa Karis, Burke Gates, Kathleen Dorr, Jacob Perrin, Gavin Nelson.

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

Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present.

The Senior Trip presentation was given by Mr. John Glass and Burke Gates. They gave information and the planned itinerary for the trip set for May 15th to Ohio and returning at approximately 11 PM on Sunday May 17th. The trip will begin at Remsen High School at 5 AM for bag checks and depart the school at 6 AM., The cost of the trip per student at the highest will be \$460 and at the lowest \$260. This will depend on how much fundraising the students do to cover the cost of their trip.

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the overnight Senior Class trip to Cleveland, OH from May 15 -17, 2025.”

3 yes 0 no

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. Mrs. Roberts, do we have any members of the public signed in to speak this evening?

No Public Participation

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 14, 2025, approve the agenda dated November 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.”

3 yes 0 no

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

- Thursday, October 30th the Kindergarten Classes held a Bike Rodeo. The weather did not cooperate with us so it was held inside but the kids were able to decorate their helmets in the cafeteria and then were able to ride the balance bikes in the gym. The brand new helmets were donated by the Elks Club. Thank you to Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Crossley and Mr. Bessemer for helping to organize the event!
- Mrs. Piaschyk's 6th grade students had the opportunity to participate in the STEAM Club the last few weeks. A great time was had by all the students, and was a great opportunity for our students.
- Thank you to Mr. Pietruch for organizing an Instrumental Trio that came in on Monday, October 20th. The students in grades 3-6 were able to listen to a live trio of instruments, learn about them and ask questions. This was such a great opportunity for our students!
- We held our annual Halloween Costume Parade on Friday October 31st. Unfortunately, due to the weather we had to move inside but the students had a great time showing off their costumes. There were many miles throughout our school. We are hoping next year the weather is nice enough to have it back outside so family members can come and see all the great costumes!
- Some upcoming events being held are November 12th- Elementary Picture Day, and PTG Meeting, November 14th - Quarter 1 report cards go home and grades 2-5 will visit the train show at the Remsen Arts Center, November 19th- Quarter 1 Evening of Excellence and November 20-21 are Parent- Teacher Conferences.

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

- The November Team Workshop will again bring the high school and elementary staff together. This time, staff will have the opportunity to utilize OTIS for Educators. This is a wonderful resource for staff to access more information about a variety of topics, such as AI, differentiation and Google tools, just to name a few. The Instructional Committee met on November 4th to plan for a fun, team-building December Team Workshop.

- The Culture and Climate Committee met on October 28th, we planned the 5th Annual Thanksgiving Breakfast and Day of Gratitude at the high school. We are looking forward to showing our students that we appreciate and are thankful for them. We are also planning our Ram Ticket Drawings and appreciate the donations that staff have contributed.
- To celebrate Halloween, Ms. Pelrah handed out treats during lunch, and students had fun wearing their costumes during the day.
- The Veterans Day Concert was held November 6th, it was a wonderful way to celebrate our veterans and bring the community together. I am very proud of our students' performances and those students who volunteered to help with the evening.
- The Student Support Team, which consists of Ms. Dineen, Mrs. Harper, Mrs. Laurey, Ms. Polidori and Ms. Pelrah, meet each week to discuss the ways that we can best meet the needs of our students. They collaborate to find innovative ways to support students' academic, behavioral, social, and emotional needs. I appreciate the team's dedication to finding ways for each student to Soar to Success. These meetings really help us to support all the changes and needs of the students.

Marissa Karis stated that the Fall ball had a great turn out and the students had a good time. The Blood drive had a great outcome from students and staff. The student council is holding a food drive again this year. This year if 1000 items are donated, the student council will buy popcorn for everyone.

Athletic Directors Report given by Dale Denning included the following:

- Congratulations to the boys' varsity cross country team on their CSD Division III Championship at Sauquoit Valley on October 25th.
- The Boys' and Girls' Varsity Cross Country teams will be participating in the Section III Championships on November 8th at Mt. Markham Central School. Gavin Nelson placed 9th and Ethan Karis placed 20th.
- The Girls' Varsity Soccer ended up seeded 7th in the sectional tournament and eventually lost in the quarterfinal round to #2 seed Copenhagen.
- All Star Recognitions:
 - Boys' Varsity Soccer - Gardner Walker (first team) and Jackson Labella (Honorable Mention)
 - Boys' Varsity Cross Country - Burke Gates, Ethan Karis, Gavin Nelson (first team)
 - Girls' Varsity Soccer - Emily Shufelt, Jaiden Maher (first team), Ella Lafave, Tiara Fox, Riley Horn (honorable mention). Jaiden Maher and Emily Shufelt were also recognized for earning a spot on the Section III Class D All Star Team which encompasses all leagues in Section III
- Congratulations to coach Jim Wilder on earning his 370th career win as the head coach of the girls' varsity soccer program.
- JV and Varsity winter sports practices will begin on Monday, November 17th.
- We still have a coaching vacancy for the Modified Boys Basketball (7th grade).
- Our Winter Sports Offerings for 2025-2026 season are:
 - Modified Volleyball - Megan Spadaro
 - JV Volleyball - Sarah Helmer
 - Varsity Volleyball - Amy Piaschyk
 - Indoor Track (Varsity Only) - John Bunker
 - Girls' Modified Basketball - Erin Muzio
 - Boys' Modified Basketball (8th grade) - Jeff Morris
 - JV Boys' Basketball - Ben Doty
 - Varsity Boys' Basketball - Jim Wilder

○ Combination with Holland Patent for varsity girls wrestling (1 student)
Remsen will not be offering varsity cheerleading for the winter of 2025-2026 due to not enough interest.

Mr. Dening also stated he would like to give a big thanks to both Holland Patent and Adirondack for hosting us this fall soccer season.

Facilities Report given by Joe Bessmer include the following:

- The high school and elementary maintenance teams have been busy with the day to day cleaning. Both buildings are busy with after school programs, concerts and sports.
- The grounds keeper has been busy working on the fields getting the fall sports equipment put away. We have aerated both soccer fields, softball and baseball fields.
- The grounds keeper has also been working on getting equipment ready for the winter season.

Capital Project

- The elementary loading dock is complete.
- The elementary art room has been cleaned out and contractors have started work.
- Elementary room #11 has been cleaned out and they have started work on taking the windows out and working on the steel lenti's.
- Elementary rooms # 11 and 12, the floors have been demoed, Dick tile will be starting the mitigation system and flooring this week.
- The High school chimney has had the top 8 feet taken down. On Veteran's Day a new capstone and cover basket will be installed. New framing has been installed for the new rooftop unit for the music room.
- In 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:

- October 17th, buses 10, 12, 15 and 97 were all inspected and passed DOT inspection.
- The new bus #21 is not expected for delivery until after the new year.

Mrs. Allen stated she would like to thank Kurt and the drivers for having a bus shuttle for the Veteran's Day Concert. Thank you Joe for having the cones and posts out to try and get people to not park on the fresh dirt and seed.

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 October 10, 20, 23, 24, and November 4, 2025. Please be reminded that discussion of specific IEP should be referred to Executive Session.”

3 yes 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Budget Development Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year.”

3 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Oneida County's deletion of duplicate parcel 84.000-1-17.3 and the cancellation of the unpaid tax, due to a duplicate parcel being created in error.”

3 yes 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education retroactively approve the 2025-2026 School District Special Patrol Officer Agreement between Oneida County, through the Oneida County Sheriff’s Office, and the Remsen Central School District from September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026.”

3 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Alissa Lawson for three unpaid leave days from December 10, 2025 to December 12, 2025.”

3 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Ronald Campbell of Remsen, NY as a substitute cleaner at the hourly rate of \$15.50 effective November 13, 2025, pending fingerprint clearance.”

3 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Ariyah Pasho of Remsen, NY as a substitute teachers aide and monitor at the daily rate of \$15.50 retroactive to October 15, 2025.”

3 yes 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Mary Jane Humphrey of Hinckley, NY as a substitute teacher at the daily rate of \$110.00 and substitute lead teacher for the Young Rams Afterschool Program at the hourly rate of \$32.00 effective November 13, 2025.”

3 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Aviv Hadar of Remsen, NY as a substitute teacher at the daily rate of \$110.00 and substitute assistant for the Young Rams Afterschool Program at the hourly rate of \$16.00 effective November 13, 2025.”

3 yes 0 no

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Benjamin Doty of Forestport, NY as the Boys’ JV Basketball coach for the 2025-2026 season at the year one stipend.”

Mrs. Allen stated its nice that Ben is getting involved in the sports, and he will do great!

3 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Karen Oczkowski of Cold Brook, NY as a substitute teacher at the daily rate of \$150.00.”

3 yes 0 no

BOCES Food Service Presentation - Presentation was given by Jake Perrin, School Food Service Director and Kate Dorr, Director of Shared Food Services. Jake described how Remsen participates in the “full service” with OHM BOCES. This means that BOCES fully operates and manages Child Nutrition Programs. BOCES is the entity audited by the Child Nutrition Department, they complete the hiring, training, and supervision of all kitchen staff. They handle the menu planning, nutrition compliance, purchase, storage of food and supplies. They take care of the equipment maintenance, budgeting, accounts payable, submission of claims to NYSED and annual reauthorization of NSLP, SBP and SFSP. The Child Nutrition Programs consist of 73% for the National School Lunch Program, 47% for the school breakfast program, 24-50 students for the afterschool program and last summer there were a total of 1906 meals served for the summer food service program. The menus are customizable, and there is the farm to school program, which brings foods from local farms and producers. Haylee Dussault is the school dietitian, she visits schools to give presentations, play fun games and activities with students and she works with families to meet the students dietary needs. Jake also spoke about the financial overview and how this program has a positive impact on Remsen School, and discussed the continuous improvements that will be made.

Information & Correspondence

Genesis Group Celebration of Education- Congratulations to the following individuals that will be recognized on November 20th:

Outstanding Educator - Ms. Erika Kistowski (Elementary School Counselor)

Outstanding Educator - Mr. John Bunker (High School Social Studies/Spanish Teacher)

Mr. Jenny stated that we received a Thank you card from Jared Williams who was appointed as a volunteer volleyball coach. He has been doing this for many years and does an excellent job.

Soaring to Success- Board of Education Roundtable Remarks

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

Mrs. Allen stated she feels Joe is doing a great job with the students. The students really seem to be enjoying the new games and activities that he has brought.

Round Table Remarks

Tara Kennerknecht - Both the senior trip and food service presentations were great and very informative. Great job to the bus garage for the buses passing inspections. Tara stated it's great to see the continued coaching from Jim Wilder, he was her coach when she played in school. To the student council, great job on the blood drive, they did an awesome job with it and she was glad to hear of the good turnout they had.

Stephanie Karis - Stephanie stated she would like to second everything Tara said. It's great to see all that's happening in the schools.

Mr. Jenny - Mr. Jenny gave thanks to the Elks Club for donating the brand new helmets to the kindergarten class, which has been a tradition for years. Thank you to the Veterans and active service members for all they have done. If it wasn't for them we wouldn't be here. Mr. Jenny stated Happy Thanksgiving to all and hopes everyone enjoys it.

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