



# REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

## REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

*"All Remsen students will Soar to Success!"*

### MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, John McKeown, Abigail Roberts, Jody Lamphere, Sanya Pelrah, Joe Bessmer, Kurt Crossett, Kelly Runninger, Deborah Geci, Rayne Ives, Richard Gallo, Marissa Karis

Mr. McKeown and Mr. Jenny facilitated a budget workshop from 6:00 pm to 6:21 pm.

Meeting called to Order by Mary Lou Allen, Board President at 6:22 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present.

Mrs. Jody Lamphere presented on the elementary literacy programs currently happening and explained what they are looking to update for the students. Mrs. Lamphere went into detail on multiple programs they have researched and the thought process that was put in to find the best and the most consistent program they can find. There is a training coming up on March 20th at OHM BOCES that herself, the reading interventionist, elementary teachers and SPED teacher will all be attending.

Mrs. Rayne Ives presented for the FFA about two overnight trips they have coming up. The first trip is scheduled for February 2nd - 3rd to the NYFFA State Leaders Experience at the Albany Capital. For this trip each school is allowed two students to attend. Remsen will be bringing Molly Southwick and Riley Horn. On day one the students get the opportunity to listen to different Legislators speak about the process of policies, diving into issues and how effective advocacy starts with you. After the Legislators speak everyone gets to break for dinner and listen to one more speaker before ending the day. On day two the students go back to the Capital and get the opportunity to speak with many different Legislators. For the second trip 18-20 students will have the opportunity to attend Camp Oswegatchie on March 20-21st. There will be another teacher as a chaperone and they will be staying in the same bunk house as last time, which houses up to 23 people giving everyone their own sleep space. The students expressed that they wanted to do a winter trip, they will be doing outdoor survival which entails building a shelter

and a fire and learning other winter survival skills. They will also be doing a nighttime winter guided walk to see any night time animals. The next morning they will attend some leadership team building activities and then head home.

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the NYFFA State Leaders Overnight trip to Albany Capital Center for February 2-3, 2026.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the FFA Camp Oswegatchie overnight trip for March 20- 21, 2026 .”

Unanimous Vote

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?

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the meeting held on December 10, 2026, approve the agenda dated January 13, 2026; 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:

- After having a snow day on the originally scheduled day, the Santa Trolley was able to visit us on December 17th. Santa and all his helpers danced and sang with our students. They had their own snow making machine and handed out candy canes to the students. There were many smiles on all the students' faces and many holiday memories made!
- Our Pre-K - 6th grade Holiday Concert was a huge success. Students sang songs and invited the audience to sing Christmas Carols. We also had two sixth grade speakers and Santa was even able to visit.

- The fourth graders visited Sitrin to spread holiday cheer! They delivered homemade Holiday cards and sang carols to the residents. They spread holiday cheer throughout the home. Mrs. Lamphere stated she had the opportunity to join the students this time and it was so great seeing how happy the residents were to see and listen to all the students.
- We celebrated the holidays with a spirit week. Students and staff dressed in flannels, red and white or green, ugly sweaters, and cozy pajamas or fleece. We had many participants each day throughout spirit week and fun was had by all.
- Students in third grade invited parents to see a Reader's Theater called Santa is Sick. Many families were able to come and enjoy the show. The students did a wonderful job with their parts and handed out candy canes to complete the show.
- Our amazing teachers will host three student teachers from Oneonta during the spring semester. The student teachers will be placed in first, second, third, fourth, and fifth grade for several weeks. We are so lucky to have such outstanding teachers that are willing to share their expertise with future educators.
- Upcoming Events
  - January 15th- Team Workshop
  - January 19th- Student Teachers Begin
  - January 26-30 - Spirit Week
  - January 30 - Q2 Report Cards go home
  - February 4th - Q2 Evening of Excellence
  - February 6th - Elementary Drama Club Presentation

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

- Teachers are diligently preparing our students for mid-year projects and assessments including the upcoming January Regents.
- **Culture and Climate**
- Before winter break, we had our holiday spirit week. This year, the holiday spirit week was the same for elementary school and high school, providing consistency across the district. Students also voted for their favorite holiday-decorated teacher's door. The Friday before break was extra festive, with music playing in between classes. Ms. Pelrah visited morning classes with treats, and Mr. Jenny and Ms. Pelrah handed out hot chocolate during lunch while Santa was visiting. The PTG provided cookies for students to decorate with icing and sprinkles, as well as the opportunity for them to make an ornament. I appreciate all contributions to help our students enter winter break in a festive and positive way.
- Mrs. Laury arranged for a presenter from the Beacon Center to share an important and impactful presentation about addiction on January 7th.
- The annual winter dance, the Snow Ball, was held on January 10th in the HS Gym. This year they included some fun new additions with a limbo contest and dance-off.
- 10th Grade- the sophomore class will be selling candy grams for Valentine's Day and is in the planning stages for the Spring Fling dance.
- Drama Club - They have begun rehearsals for "SpongeBob the Musical"
- FFA- They are preparing for upcoming leadership development events and Mrs. Ives is excited to have many students participating this year. Also, pending approval, they will be attending the NY FFA State Leaders Experience, where two students will get first-hand experience at the Capitol to learn about policy and meet with legislative leaders.
- International Club- The Texas Road House fundraiser was quite successful. A special thank you to Mrs. Karis for the idea. Field trips to a French night hockey game, the Cohoes Music Hall to see a Selena tribute band, and dinner are this month. The trip to Puerto Rico is on the horizon, and the students are getting very excited. Two more fundraisers are planned for the year to help offset the costs of student field trips.

- Athletics - This month, they compete in Oneida. So far, they have brought home two ribbons, a 2nd place and a 3rd place. They are hoping for another ribbon this month.
- Music Department - They presented the annual holiday concerts in December. The High School Concert showcased community members, culminating in a sing-along. On January 14th, select students in grades 7-9 will be auditioning for the Junior High All-County.
- Ski Club- They are excited to get on the slopes starting January 9 and look forward to a great season.
- Marissa Karis gave the Student Council report - They collected over 500 items for the food drive at the end of last month. The Student Council also made and distributed a little “Holiday Cheer.” which was a candygram, for all students and staff in the High school before winter break. The council is coordinating the next spirit week with the elementary school, planning a pep rally for Friday January 30th and preparing for the building-wide snowflake scavenger hunt for Remsen Cup points.

Dale Dening was not in attendance, please see attached athletic directors report.

Mr. Jenny stated that Ethan Karis is signing with Manhattan College for Division I Track and Cross Country.

Facilities Report given by Joe Bessmer include the following:

- The high school and elementary maintenance team has been busy with the day to day cleaning, after school programs, concerts and sporting events.
- The grounds team has been busy working on equipment and moving all the snow.
- **Capital Project**
  - **Elementary**
    - Room # 1 (Nurse/Mrs. Harpers) room has been completed with new windows and door
    - Room #2 (Pre-K) room, the new windows and door have been installed and the floor is complete.
    - The partition door between the music room and the cafe has been demoed
    - They have installed new exhaust fans for the bathrooms
    - The Faculty room has been completed with new windows
  - **High School**
    - The new unit for the media center has been set on the roof and in the boiler room
    - The new gym, cafeteria, and classroom doors have been installed.
    - The railings have been painted
  - **Bus garage**
    - Trane is working on the heating and controls for the boiler system

Transportation Report was given by Kurt Crossett included the following:

- All 19A responsibilities are now completely in house.
- We had a surprise SED file audit on December 15, 2025. We found some small items to fix but the inspector said we are doing a good job. We have not yet received our official report back from SED.
- The new “lunch wagon” is in service as of January 5, 2026. We converted our bus 10 into the new “lunch wagon” because of the condition of the old one. This new bus is road legal and will be used for transporting the skis for the ski club to Woods Valley as well as other odd jobs around the school. We are currently using a loaner bus to replace bus 10 until the new bus on order is delivered, we are not being charged for the loaner. Attached are some pictures of the updated “lunch wagon”. Our old bus # 90 is being donated to the Remsen Fire Department and to be used for training purposes.

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from meetings held on December 9, 10, 18, 2025 and January 8, 2026. Please be reminded that discussion of specific IEP should be referred to Executive Session.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

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

- 22 Music stands
- Bus 90 (old lunch wagon)

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve to void check number 37651 issued on November 11, 2024, after several written notices encouraging the parents’ guardians to cash the check and no response received back.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Ashley Lawrence of Foresport, NY as a substitute teacher at the daily rate of \$110.00 effective January 14, 2025.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Karlee Nims of Hartford, NY as a substitute teacher at the daily rate of \$110.00 effective January 14, 2025.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Nicole Nehme as the mock trial advisor for the 2025-2026 school year.”

Unanimous Vote

## Information & Correspondence

### Soaring to Success- Board of Education Roundtable Remarks

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

### Round Table Remarks

Mrs. Allen - Stated she would like to give extra appreciation to Joe B. for all the time he puts in with moving classrooms and keeping everything in order around both the schools. Mrs. Allen would also like to recognize Ben as it has been a tough December and January

with all the winter weather. He has done a great job keeping everything well cleared and not icy. Kurt Crossett thank you for getting certified so we are able to keep the 19-A in house and for all the other different things completed around the bus garage.

Jeannie Scouten- Asked if the addiction presentation was for all grade levels. Ms. Pelrah confirmed it was all grade levels, they just went at different times to work around the schedules best they could and the speaker for the presentation was speaking from first hand experience. Jeannie stated she thinks that was a great thing for the kids to hear and learn about.

Mr. Jenny - Stated that it was such a cool thing to see the “lunch wagon” pull out of Woods Valley last week. It really speaks volumes for our school spirit here at Remsen. Mr. Jenny wished everyone a happy, healthy New Year!

Motion to go into Executive Session at 7:15 pm by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht for:

*Superintendent's informal mid-year evaluation.*

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 Patrick Nolan at 7:24 pm.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Unanimous Vote