



REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

“All Remsen students will Soar to Success!”

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Lou Allen, Stephanie Karis (6:05), Jeannie Scouten, Tara Kennerknecht, Patrick Nolan

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, John McKeown, Abigail Roberts, Jody Lamphere, Sanya Pelrah, Dale Dening, Kelly Runninger, Deb Geci, Carlleen Taylor, Rick Gallo, Al and Leanne Montegari

Mr. McKeown and Mr. Jenny facilitated a budget workshop from 6:00 pm to 6:20 pm

Meeting called to Order by Mary Lou Allen, Board President at 6:21 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. Mrs. Roberts, do we have any members of the public signed in to speak this evening?

No public participation this afternoon.

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 10, 2026, approve the agenda dated March 10, 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 Jody Lamphere included the following items:

- On February 23rd we held a kick-off assembly for our One School, One Book event. Students Pre-k through sixth will read Mr. Popper's Penguins throughout the month of March. They will be treated to a trip to The Strand to see the movie and enjoy some water and popcorn. The trip is being sponsored by the PTG.
- It is hard to believe but we celebrated the 100th day of school on February 25th. Students dressed as 100 years old or in 100 items. Many students and staff participated in this event. Fun was had by all!
- On March 26th we held our monthly Team Workshop. We worked through the first two components of the Science of Reading. These included phonemic awareness and phonics. We discussed the meaning of the components and were presented with activities that can be done to teach phonemic awareness and phonics in the classroom. Next month we will visit fluency and vocabulary.
- The PTG sponsored a Sweetheart Dance for grades pre-k through three. Students attended along with a parent. There was dancing, treats, crafts and a photo booth. We had a very large crowd of smiling faces. There were about 120 people in attendance.
- Our Read Aloud Day was rescheduled for March 5th in the High School. The first and second grades were transported down to the High School. They were partnered with the seventh and eighth graders. The pairs read to each other, created bookmarks, and enjoyed a snack. It was a wonderful event. Principal Pelrah and I hope to create more opportunities like this in the future and make this a tradition.
- Dr. Seuss' birthday was on March 2nd. In honor of his birthday I visited each grade level. The Sneetches was read aloud to the students in grades pre-k through three. They were given a pencil with a star pencil top eraser as a treat. The Lorax was read to students in fourth through sixth. They were given a "truffula seed" keychain.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - March 11th- New Teacher Meeting
 - March 12th- Soaring Student Celebration
 - March 12th - PTG Meeting
 - March 13th - Prek/K Registration Ends
 - March 18th - 3rd Grade Recorder Recital
 - March 19th - PTG Science Fair
 - March 20th - Superintendent's Day
 - March 25th - MIOSM Concert
 - March 31st- April 1st - Mr. Popper's Penguins Movie at The Strand

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

- The Culture and Climate Committee made sure to continue our tradition of creating Valentine's cards for every student to remind them that we care about them. Each department works together to create and distribute these. The committee will be meeting soon to continue planning festive and fun ways to build community throughout the school.

- The Remsen Science Fair was held on February 25th. All students did a great job with their projects this year. Their interests and passions shone through in each of their presentations. Special congratulations to the following students who qualified to advance to the Utica University Regional Science Fair on March 21, 2026: 7th grade- Ethan Behr Daniel Burdell, Alexandria Flint, Tucker Scouten, Blair Smith; 8th Grade- Blake Carnright, Waylon Rapson, Mikhael Samoshuk, Zachary Yousey; 10th Grade- Trent Jenny; 11th Grade- Evalyn Gates.
- On February 26th, we held the Honor Roll Celebration, where we recognized honor roll, high honor roll, most improved, and student of the quarter. It was wonderful to hand out so many awards, and I was very proud of our students' accomplishments.
- On February 27th, we held our second Ram Ticket drawing of the year. Lilly Bankert, Adeline Biro, Hayden Graves, Logan Leska, and Blair Smith each won a \$25 gift card to various stores. We appreciate all donations from staff and community members to help make these drawings possible.
- On March 5th, we celebrated World Read Aloud Day by inviting the first and second grade students down to the high school. They were partnered with seventh and eighth grade students to create a bookmark, enjoy a treat, and, of course, to read books. It was a fun and positive experience, which promoted literacy and a connection between our elementary and middle school students. I was very proud of every student who participated. I appreciated working with Mrs. Winghart and principal Lamphere to make this a success, and hope this will be a tradition we carry forward.
- **Clubs and Activities**
 - 12th Grade- The senior class is planning several remaining high school events and for ways to minimize or offset costs through a few final fundraisers. Seniors are finalizing plans for the senior trip and meeting as a committee to plan for prom. They are looking forward to the arrival of warmer spring weather and the various senior events that will bring.
 - 10th Grade- The sophomore Class is planning the Spring Fling dance, which will be on March 27. They recently had a very successful meeting as a whole group, and the students are excited. They will also have another bake sale during the next parent-teacher conferences in April.
 - Battle of the Books - They will be traveling to Herkimer Community College on March 18 for the regional Battle of the Books. The Battle will be held in one of Herkimer's auditorium spaces. Regional organizers toured the space and said it is beautiful, so it should be a nice treat for students to both be on the stage competing in the battle and watching other teams. The students are excited to compete and eager to see how this will transpire, as it is a brand new experience for club advisor, Mrs. Cooper, and all of the students involved.
 - FFA - Trent Jenny and Molly Southwick are both advancing to substates. Molly placed in the top 6 for extemporaneous speaking and Trent placed in the top 6 for Prepared Speaking and Creed Speaking. They are heading to Cato Meridian on Saturday, March 4th. Additionally, the club is starting to prepare for the annual plant sale. They have updated the grow racks using grant money. They are also doing a houseplant sale to make room for the seedlings and a bulb garden sale.
 - International Club - The club just finished another fundraiser, and it was very successful. Funds will be distributed to the students going on the Puerto Rico field trip and to their individual accounts if they are not going on the trip. There is a Puerto Rico student meeting planned for March 12, with a parent meeting the following week.
 - Ski/Snowboard Club - They had another awesome ski and snowboarding season. The last night of skiing is March 13th, which is later than ever this year. Mr. Gallo would like to thank everyone involved in making this club a success.

Marissa Karis gave the below Student Council report:

- At the winter pep rally, the students had a blast competing for Remsen Cup points while shooting baskets, working as a whole class to move ping-pong balls across the gym, and participating in a competitive adaptation of head, shoulders, knees, and toes.
- The Student Council is also planning another Olympic Day for the end of the year.

Athletic Directors Report given by Dale Dening included the following:

- Important Dates
 - March 5- Student- Athlete Leadership Conference @ Clark Sports Center in Cooperstown
 - March 9 - Varsity Spring Sports Begin
 - March 11 - CSC AD Meeting @ Waterville JR/SR HS
 - March 12 - Section III AD In-Service
 - March 25- Section III Classification Committee Meeting @ East Syracuse
- Winter Sports
 - Boys/Girls' Modified Basketball
 - Completed their seasons last week
 - Thank you to our modified coaches for guiding these athletes throughout the last couple of months
 - Varsity Volleyball
 - Seeded 2nd in Class D Sectional Tournament. We won the quarterfinal game against Faith Heritage and then lost to the eventual Class D Champion in the semi-finals to Tully.
 - **Exceptional Senior All-Stars** - Congratulations to Brygit Pruitt, Jewelit Pruitt and Sienna Aiken for being selected to represent Remsen in the senior all-star game @ HCCC on February 25th. Angelina Delguidace and Jaden Maher were also selected but was away on vacation at the time.
 - All-Stars-First Team (Volleyball)
 - Jaiden Maher- League MVP
 - Brygit Pruitt
 - Jeweliet Pruitt
 - Arynn Day
 - Honorable Mention All-Stars - Tiara Fox and Ashley Roberts
- The following athletes competed @ OCC in the Section III NYS Qualifiers:
 - Ethan Karis (600 m), Gavin Nelson (Pole Vault)
 - Burke Gates, Preston Corn, Ethan Karis, Gavin Nelson (4 x 800 meter relay)
- NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team Awards
 - Two of our varsity winter sports teams this year qualified for this award - **Varsity Volleyball** and **Girls' Varsity Indoor Track** (75% of the roster with a 90 or better average for the 2nd quarter)
 - Varsity Volleyball
 - Ashley Roberts
 - Brooklyn Helmer
 - Taylor Murphy

- Madelyn Prosser
 - Sienna Aiken
 - Jeweliet Pruitt
 - Brygit Pruitt
 - Aynn Day
 - Varsity Basketball
 - Emily Shufelt
 - Gardner Walker
 - Bryce Graves
 - Boys Indoor Track
 - Ethan Karis
 - Jackson LaBella
 - Owen Piaschyk
 - Gavin Nelson
 - Burke Gates
 - Girls Indoor Track
 - Evalyn Gates
 - Lexxis Mosher
 - Morgan Horn
 - Marissa Karis
- Spring Sports
 - Varsity spring sports practices began on Monday, March 9th.
- Sport Offerings for Spring 2026
 - Boys' Varsity Track 25 (1 dual sport athlete)
 - Girls' Varsity Track 22
 - Modified Track & Field 18 (7girls, 11 boys) (4 dual sport athletes)
 - Varsity Softball 12
 - Varsity Baseball 2 (Mr. Crossley is going to come to the high school to try and recruit)
 - Modified Softball 14 (1 dual sport athlete)
 - Modified Baseball 9 (4 dual sport athletes)
 - Varsity Golf 10 (1 dual sport athlete)
- **Student-Athlete Leadership Conference**
 - Marissa Karis, Jackson LaBella, Ella LaFave, Gardner Walker (11th Grade Student-Athletes)
 - On Thursday, March 5th, I was accompanied but four 11th grade student athelers as well as 1 Remsen Coach (girls coach) to the Clark Sports Center in Cooperstown, NY for a day of seminars on student-athlete leadership & sportsmanship - "Motivate From Within"
- **Remsen Sports Boosters**
 - A huge THANK YOU to the Remsen Sports Boostes for their organization and ordering of the t-shirts for the basketball game that was dedicated to Rykah Lyons on February 10th. All proceeds from the t-shirt sales were donated to the Lyons Family.

Please see attached Facilities and Transportation Reports.

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second byPatrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from meetings held on February 27 and March 3, 2026. Please be reminded that discussion of specific IEP should be referred to Executive Session.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Remsen Central School District Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Remsen Central School District desires to enter into a 4 year contract with the Madison-Oneida BOCES in order for the Regional Information Center to furnish certain services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950(4)(jj), those services being: CoSer 602-7710 Administrative Computer Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District agrees to enter into a contract with the Madison-Oneida BOCES for the provision of said services to the District not to exceed \$94,624.00 plus related borrowing fees, plus Regional Information Center support during the term of this contract, finalized by the Superintendent, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education, for a period of 4 years(s); 2026-27, 2027-28, 2028-29, 2029-30

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Tax Cap for 2027.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Patrick Nolan.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. The following notice shall be added to the notice of annual meeting and election:

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the following proposition will be submitted for voter approval at such time:

PROPOSITION #1

Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Remsen Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake the acquisition of school buses, including, without limitation, two (2) school buses at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$353,000, less trade-in value, if any, such cost, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments, with such tax to be offset by state aid available therefor; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district as may be necessary not to exceed \$353,000 shall be issued, or the School District may enter

into an installment purchase contract if the Board of Education determines that it is in the best interest of the School District to finance the purchase in that method.

2. At such meeting taxes to be levied by installments will be proposed for authorized indebtedness providing for payment of the acquisition of school buses at an estimated aggregate maximum cost of not to exceed \$353,000. Such taxes shall be levied upon all the taxable property of the District, shall be levied in annual installments and shall be of such amounts and levied in such years as may be determined by the Board of Education.

3. The District Clerk or the Clerk’s designee is hereby directed to add the above to the notice of the annual meeting of the School District.

4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Duly put to a vote as follows:

AYES
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NAYS
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Unanimous Vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the meeting schedule for 2026-2027 as follows: July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8, January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, May 18 (Budget Vote), June 8; and be it further resolved that all board meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m.”

Mr. Jenny gave a reminder that the BOCES Budget vote is in April and will need to be added to this calendar. They send out the exact date closer to the end of this school year.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

WHEREAS, The Cooperative Purchasing Service is a plan of a number of public school districts in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES area in New York, and to bid jointly equipment, supplies and contract items, and

WHEREAS, The Central School named below is desirous of participating with other districts in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES in the joint bidding of the items mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, and

WHEREAS, The Central School named below wished to appoint the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulation bids and award bids on their behalf; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below hereby appoints the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES to represent it in all matters relating above, and designated the Evening Sun Newspaper as the legal publication for all Cooperative Purchasing bid notifications, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below authorizes the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above-mentioned commodities, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the Central School listed below agrees to (1) assume its equitable share of the costs of the Cooperative Bidding; (2) abide by majority decisions of the participating member; (3) that it will award contracts based on information provided from the bid; (4) abide by the Award of the BOCES Board; (5) and that after the award of the bid it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

WHEREAS, The Cooperative Purchasing Service is a plan of a number of public school districts in the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services Area in New York (known as the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation [CiTi]), to bid jointly for water testing and sampling services, and

WHEREAS, Remsen Central School (hereinafter the “Participant”) is desirous of participating with Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Service/ CiTi and other Boards of Cooperative Educational Services and public school district in the joint bidding of the services mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, and

WHEREAS, The participant wishes to appoint the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi to represent it in all matters relating above, and designates the Oswego county Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi designated newspaper(s) as the legal publication(s) for all Cooperative Purchasing bid notifications, and,

BE IT RESOLVED, The participant hereby appoints Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned services, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The participant agrees to (1) assume its equitable share of the costs of the Cooperative Bidding; (2) abide by majority decisions of the participating district; (3) abide by the Award of the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi; (4) and that after the award of the bid it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the resignation from Joseph Bessmer effective March 6, 2026.”

Mr. Jenny stated we appreciate all Joe has done for our school and we wish him the best!

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education grant the request of Amy Piaschyk, for full unpaid leave day on May 29, 2026.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Karen Oczkowski of Cold Brook, NY as a substitute clerical worker at an hourly rate of \$16.00 retroactive to February 13, 2026.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Erin Muzio as the Varsity Softball Coach for the 2026 season.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Benjamin Doty of Forestport, NY as the Volunteer Varsity Softball Coach for the 2026 season.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the request of Christine Farber for unpaid FMLA leave days, please see attached letter.”

Unanimous Vote

Information & Correspondence

Mr. Jenny gave a reminder about the SBI Showcase being held March 26, 2026 and the deadline to register is Friday March 13th. This year's showcase is at the Herkimer BOCES. It is a really great way to see what programs are offered and for the students to showcase what they are doing in class. Please let Abbie know if you would like to be signed up.

Soaring to Success- Board of Education Roundtable Remarks

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

Mrs. Allen stated Beth really does an amazing job with all the students. She does a great job handling tough situations.

Round Table Remarks

Mr. Jenny - The Musical was great, the kids did a phenomenal job! It was so great to see that there is a spot for everyone, whether it be on stage, doing lights or curtains, creating the props, doing makeup or costumes or helping anywhere else, there is something for everyone to be a part of. There were over 40 students that participated. Thank you to Mr. Dangler, Mr. Lamphere, Mrs. Sherry Taylor for doing the musical, Mrs. Tara O'Byran for the choreography and Mr. Harlander and his students for set design and construction. Everyone did a wonderful job and it takes a lot of courage to get out in front of everyone and perform.

Dale Dening, high five for all the games and events you helped organize in memory of Rykah!

The Volleyball team did an amazing job and worked so hard to get as far as they did!

Tully was a Class C school last year but got bumped to a Class D this year.

High Fives to the principals and support staff for coming together to support all of the students and leading the way during such a difficult time with Rykah's passing.

PTG is doing an amazing job with all they are doing. The kids are loving it all! Thank you for the Pre-K through 3 dance, snowfest, and sponsoring the elementary students to go to The Strand to see Mr. Poppers Penguins.

The 7th and 8th Grade Science Fair was great. Teachers and senior science students got to be the judges. The students have to talk the judges from hypothesis all the way to the conclusion. This is such a great opportunity for the students. Remsen is going to Utica College for the Regional Science Fair, they have done a great job in the past years and i'm sure we will continue to do great things this year

Mr. Dangler took students to watch the US Navy Band at the Rome Capital. It was an amazing performance! The precision of everyone in the band was just extraordinary.

Mrs. Allen - On Saturday I was able to come and see the musical, it was great to see the community come and support all the students and their hard work. The parking lot was full and the confidence of the students was really great!

Lets give a big appreciation to Mr. Jenny, Mr. McKeown and Ms. Geci for their hard work they have put into the budget, and always trying to make sure that the community isn't hit hard. We all see our own electric bills going up so we know the schools are also going up. Please everyone write to the State to talk about how the electric buses are just not a feasible thing to happen for the school and community.

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht to go into executive session at 6:58 p.m. for:

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

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht to end executive session at 7:31 p.m

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Jeannie Scouten to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m