



REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

"All Remsen students will Soar to Success!"

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Lou Allen, Stephanie Karis (6:44 pm), Jeannie Scouten, Tara Kennerknecht

MEMBERS ABSENT: Patrick Nolan

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Jenny, Deborah Geci, Abigail Roberts, Jody Lamphere, Sanya Pelrah, Benjamin Doty, Kurt Crossett, Dale Denning, Kelly Runniger, Carlleen Taylor, Nicole Polcaro, Kelly Countryman, Michele Izzo, Chloe Matt, Cynthia Poczatek, Marissa Morris, Jaedyn Wilcox, Wyhatt Rapson, Alannah Lawlor, Elisa Morris.

Mr. Jenny and Ms. Geci facilitated a budget workshop from 6:00 pm to 6:32 pm.

Meeting called to Order by Mary Lou Allen, Board President at 6:33 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present.

Mrs. Izzo and students Chloe Matt, Cynthia Poczatek, Marissa Morris, Jaedyn Wilcox, Wyhatt Rapson, Alannah Lawlor presented details from their trip to Puerto Rico. Jaedyn began with day 1 of their trip and talked about their flight delays they had. She stated even though they had a very long delay, JetBlue was very good to them by providing snacks and water. Mrs. Izzo also stated that each student's parent should be receiving a \$100 travel voucher from JetBlue. The student's had the opportunity to go ziplining, snorkeling, went to the Virgin Islands, went to the grocery store and interacted with the staff in Spanish. Adventured at San Juan, went to a food truck park and had the chance to speak with other students and teachers, visited Yunque National Park and saw lizards, giant snails and centipedes. On the last day before heading back home the group visited Old San Juan and had the best ice cream. The International Club then thanked the Board of Education for allowing them to have this amazing experience!

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 Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the meeting held on April 28, 2026, approve the agenda dated May 12, 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:

- The Rotary supplied our third grade students with dictionaries again this year. The students were excited to receive a copy. They talked a little bit about what Rotary is and does for our community on Friday, April 17, 2026.
- Our Quarter Three Evening of Excellence took place on Wednesday, April 22nd. Several students were honored with awards. Students who received High Honor Roll also received a medal. We had a full gym/cafeteria to celebrate our students.
- Students in grades 4-6 attended a dance sponsored by the PTG on Friday, April 24th. They provided a photo booth, music, popcorn, and water for students to enjoy. Fun was had by all!
- Our Pre-K through sixth grade students celebrated Arbor Day on Tuesday April 28th. Mr. Welc and Woodsy the Owl were able to visit during the assembly. The student council members read information about Arbor Day, shared a book and participated in a Reader's Theater about trees.
- The fourth graders invited their parents in on the afternoon of Friday May 1st. They visited various math stations and played games together.
- We celebrated our teachers through the week of May 4th. The administrative team had a snack cart which we used to visit each classroom. The PTG brought goodies for the teachers in both buildings all week. We appreciate all that our teachers do throughout the school year!
- Upcoming Events
 - Team Workshop- May 14th
 - PTG Meeting - May 14th
 - NED Assembly - May 18th
 - Budget Vote - May 19th
 - Trout Release - June 2nd

- Rams on the Move Finale - June 2nd

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

- As part of our last Team Workshop, the Student Support Team (SST) presented ways that everyone can help support and encourage students to regularly attend school. The SST also explained that we design tailored intervention plans for students requiring extra support.
- **Culture and Climate**
 - On April 13, we had the Soaring to Success on the NYS Exams Celebration. This is a chance to celebrate all of the students who leveled up and made progress on the 2025 7-8 ELA, Math and Science exams. Students received awards and refreshments as congratulations for their achievement.
 - On April 21, our 11th grade students had a job shadow day where they were able to spend the day on-site at various businesses throughout the community. This is a great opportunity for students that helps them determine pathways they may want to pursue after high school.
 - On April 22, Officer Morgan from the Oneida County Sheriff's Office spoke with our prom attendees about staying safe, making responsible decisions, and preparing for prom, as well as how to handle future life experiences.
 - On April 25, it was wonderful to see so many of our students and staff participating in the Remsen Clean-Up. Coming together to improve our community is an important value to model for future generations.
 - On April 27, Ms. Dineen hosted the Scholarship Workshop to provide each senior with support in applying for various scholarships.
 - On April 29, seniors participated in a service-learning project by volunteering for the Utica Rescue Mission. When they returned to school, they were treated to pizza lunch. Thank you to Mrs. Nehme for working with the students to organize this opportunity. They are planning another service-learning project focused on improving the Remsen Campus soon.
 - On April 30, we held our marking period 3 honor roll celebrations. It is wonderful to acknowledge the progress and growth of our students.
 - On May 2, we had the 2026 Jr./Sr. High School Grand March and Prom. The Grand March was held in the high school gym, and the prom was held at Twin Ponds. Students looked incredible and truly enjoyed the evening. A special thank you to class advisors Mr. Glass and Mr. O'Bryan, and the prom committee for their hard work in making this a memorable event.
- **Clubs and Activities**
 - 12th Grade- The students did a wonderful job planning the prom. They are looking forward to their upcoming senior trip, which takes place May 15-17, 2026, and they were able to lower the cost due to their diligent fundraising efforts.
 - 11th Grade - The Class of 2027 voted on the senior trip, with the top voted for Boston, Massachusetts. They are looking forward to continuing to plan for next year's trip and prom.
 - 10th Grade - The Sophomore class had another successful bake sale; they sold \$352 worth of baked goods (all baked by our students and families). They have planned a trip to Green Lakes at the end of May for a hike, picnic and beach day.
 - Battle of the Books - The members met to discuss Louder than Hunger, by John Schu. They are looking forward to the author's visit for this book at Holland Patent Middle School on May 21. The advisor, Mrs. Cooper, will be meeting with regional Battle of the Books members to begin planning for next year's reading list and competition.

- CTE - Mrs. Ives is happy to report that there are 10 students completing the CTE Pathways in Agriculture and Human Development this year.
- Diversity Club - The students had their Elevating Student Voices summit at Hart's Hill Inn with keynote speaker, Dr Diane Wynne, Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the New York State Education Department. Emily Spatto gave the opening remarks. Students received advice from community leaders from Indium, The neighborhood Center, and Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, as well as student representatives from P-Tech, Whitesboro, and VVS.
- FFA - The NYS FFA Convention is May 14 in Buffalo. Three students are participating in the Agriscience Fair, and two additional students will be representing Remsen FFA. On May 16, they will be returning to Buffalo for Molly Southwick to receive her Empire FFA Degree. She is the first Empire Degree for the program, and we are very proud of her. Additionally, they will do the annual Plant Sale on May 19 at the district budget vote.
- International Club - During Spring Break, Mrs. Izzo and Mrs. Countryman brought a small group of students to Puerto Rico. They had an amazing trip, learning about and immersing themselves in this culture.
- Journalism - Students have started planning the last issue of the school year. They anticipate it to be available for distribution by June 10.
- Student Council - They are looking forward to the fun end-of-year events, which include Spirit Week, Olympic Day, and of course celebrating the Remsen Cup Winner.

Athletic Directors Report given by Dale Denning included the following:

- **Important Dates**

- May 12- Varsity Track & Field - Senior Recognition
- May 13- CSC AD Meeting @ Waterville MS/HS
- May 18 - Section III Championships (Boys Golf - Drumlin's East. Girls Golf-Green Lakes CC)
- May 19 - CSC Div III/IV Championships @ Westmoreland (Varsity T&F)
- May 26 - CSC Medalist Tournament (Varsity Golf) - Seven Oaks Golf Club
- May 29 - Section III Class D Track & Field Championships @ West Canada Valley HS

- **Spring Sports**

- **Senior Nights**

- Varsity Track & Field - Senior Recognition will be on Tuesday, May 12th when we host Hamilton, Poland and Town of Webb Schools. Prior to the start of the meet we will honor our senior athletes and thank them for their contributions to the track program over the last few years. Congratulations to the following:

- Morgan Horn
- Jaiden Maher
- Regan Meeker
- Brygit Pruitt
- Ella Staskoski
- Johnathan Dickenson
- Burke Gates
- Ashton Grower
- Ethan Karis
- Nathan Leska
- Gavin Nelson
- Kole Poczatek

- Varsity Golf Senior Recognition was held on April 24th. Congratulations to Ellie Secor and Makayla Wilcox.
 - The following members of the varsity golf team have qualified for the sectional tournament:
 - Morgan Gates, Josh Meeker, Madelyn Doty and Ellie Secor
- Varsity Track & Field New School Records
 - Connor Nelson - Pole Vault (12' 6")
- Fall Sports
 - The schedules are complete for girls and boys varsity soccer. Cross County is currently being developed.
 - Modified schedules will be created within the next 2 months
 - Sign-ups for fall sports will be taking place in the high school PE classes during the week of May 11th-15th.
 - Fall Sports being offered are:
 - Boys Varsity and Modified Soccer
 - Girls Varsity and Modified Soccer
 - Boys Varsity and Modified Cross Country
 - Girls Varsity and Modified Cross Country
 - Planned Combinations for Fall 2026 include:
 - Varsity Football. 2 students (Holland Patent-host)
 - Girls Modified Swimming, 1 student (Holland Patent- host)
- Starting in the Fall of 2026, Section III and each of its member schools will no longer be using Aktivite (formerly Schedule Galaxy) for their scheduling purposes. All schools will be switching to Arbiter Sports. Over the last few months, AD's from around Section III have been getting familiar with the platform and using it in a trial period throughout the spring.
- Remsen received the NYSPHSAA Award for Exemplary Display of Sportsmanship, Ethics & Integrity for 2025-2026. This means that there was not one student athlete or coach that was carded or ejected from any sports game this past sports year.

Facilities Report given by Ben Doty include the following:

- **Building Maintenance/Custodial Team:**
 - The High School and Elementary teams have been busy with day to day tasks as well as multiple event setups, and preparing for more room moves.
 - We are actively looking for some sub cleaners due to having a team member on leave.
 - We have also started the process to look for students for summer help.
- **Grounds:**
 - Grounds have been busy trying to keep up with the mowing and field prep for sporting events.
 - We are actively looking for a replacement to fill the grounds worker position. Rob Smith has stepped up to help a few days a week until we can fill the vacancy.
- **Construction Update:**
 - The windows have been installed in rooms 17, 18 and 21 in the Elementary School.
 - House lights for the stage have been finished and training on how to use it has taken place.
 - New pads have been installed in the High School Gym.
 - Mechanical contractors have started running duct work for the band room air handler AC unit, so it can be up and running for the warm weather.

Mrs. Allen gave a big thank you to Ben, you are doing a great job handling all the different jobs, and you're even here on the weekends working hard!

Transportation Report was given by Kurt Crossett included the following:

- Provided the Budget Vote passes the bus proposition, we have a delivery date estimated for mid-July to receive new buses. We will be selling three buses and replacing them with only two. This will bring us back down to 13 vehicles again. We are getting values on the old buses to either sell out right or use as trade-ins.
- We have had two break downs over the past month, one Trevor was able to fix and drive back to school but the second had to be towed back to school. We have adjusted our maintenance schedules to eliminate the possibility of these problems happening again.
- In the calendar year of 2025 Remsen buses safely traveled over 190,000 miles! We have a great crew of drivers, monitors and a mechanic!

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, Second Read and Adoption of Revisions and Updates to the Following Policies:

0011, 0012, 0014, 0015, 0017, 0021, 6010
Delete 6600 (to be replaced by 0015 and 6010)
Delete 7203 (to be replaced by 0015)
Delete 7204 (to be replaced by 0015)

Unanimous Vote

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 April 24, 28, May 1, 5, and 6, 2026. Please be reminded that discussion of specific IEP should be referred to Executive Session.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the request of Richard Gallo for Medical Leave of Absence (FMLA) retroactive May 7, 2026 until June 26, 2026.”

Mr. Jenny stated Mr. Gallo and his family are all in our thoughts. Mr. Gallo really appreciates all the snacks and meals and support that everyone has provided during this time.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Deborah Haynes of Utica, NY as the Long-Term High School Science substitute retroactive to May 11, 2026 at the daily rate of \$200.89.”

Mr. Jenny stated we are very lucky to have Mrs. Haynes substitute for Mr. Gallo. High School Science is her subject and she does an excellent job!

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the request of John McKeown for paid Medical Leave of Absence (FMLA) retroactive May 5, 2026 until May 26, 2026.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Nicole Polcaro of Woodgate, NY as the Senior Account Clerk effective June 1, 2026 at the annual salary of \$48,600.”

Mr. Jenny stated Nicole is with us this evening. Welcome to the team!

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the request of Erika Manley for Medical Leave of Absence (FMLA) beginning September 1, 2026 through and including December 1, 2026.”

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Stephanie Karis.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the request of Erika Manley for unpaid leave beginning December 2, 2026 through June 25, 2027.”

Mr. Jenny stated we are going to miss Erika while she is out but we understand. Erika did ask to still be class advisor and if she could bring in Easton at least once a month so the students can still see them both!

Unanimous Vote

Information & Correspondence

Mr. Jenny gave reminders for the Annual Budget Vote and BOE Member Election on May 19, 2026 from 1:00PM until 8:00 PM in the Elementary Cafeteria. Also reminder of the Top Senior Sundaes and Speeches with the BOE on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 in the high school cafeteria at 6:00 PM with the 7:00 PM BOE meeting in the HS Library to follow.

Soaring to Success- Board of Education Roundtable Remarks

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

Round Table Remarks

Stephanie Karis- The Rams on the Move is such a great program, it would be nice if we could find more programs like this to help kids transition into High School sports. High fives to Ms. Dineen, the scholarship workshop that she held was such a huge help to the students, it would be great if there could also be one held in the fall too. Mr. Dineen has been so helpful and responsive to parents and not only the seniors but also the juniors, she is doing an amazing job! Mr. Bunker also deserves a huge high five for the track meet that the timing went down. Mr. Bunker stepped up and gave directions and organized the other coaches so they could do hand timing and keep the track meet moving. After prom there was a Remsen bus driver that bought the students milkshakes from Stewarts, the kids thought this was great and he deserved some recognition for that so thank you to Kurt Crossett!

Jeannie Scouten- The grounds around the school campus look amazing, and especially after the rough winter we had!

Mr. Jenny - High Fives to Mrs. Obernesser, she does a lot with her students and does an amazing job! Just recently she had her students up in the elementary reading books to the Pre-K class and also completing crafts. High fives also to Kurt, everyday he is in the elementary each student that goes by is sure to get a high five from him. All the teachers in the high school and elementary deserve big high fives. The high school teachers for both May and June are very busy months with all the challenges of preparing for exams, taking the exams and everything in between going on. They do a great job keeping a balance for the students. In the elementary school they are very busy also with exams, field trips, preparing 6th graders to enter into the high school and much more! And the principals do an amazing job organizing everything for May and June.

Mrs Allen - We had the opportunity to have three great student teachers this spring. Our teachers did such a great job working with them, we are so lucky to have the teachers we have and hopefully the student teachers in the future will come back to our school! All three of the student teachers have already returned covering as substitutes and have done a great job with the kids.

Motion by Stephanie Karis, second by Tara Kennerknecht to enter into executive session at 7:21 p.m.

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 Tara Kennerknecht, second by Stephanie Karis at 8:11pm.

Unanimous Vote

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Stephanie Karis to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm.

Unanimous Vote