REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

"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, Deborah Geci, Abigail Roberts, Jody Lamphere, Sanya Pelrah, Benjamin Doty, Kurt Crossett, Dale Dening, Kelly Runninger, Carlleen Taylor, Michael Will, Jill Will

Meeting called to Order by Mary Lou Allen, Board President at 6:00 pm.
Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present.
Michael Rossi of West & Company CPA's PC gave a presentation on the district's audit for the year ended June 30, 2026. This information is not finalized as they we waiting on the ERS rates from New York State.

Mrs. Rayne Ives presented information for the upcoming National FFA Convention trip to Indiana which they would be departing October 18th and returning October 25th. Mrs. Ives and 2 other students will meet the Coach bus in Utica (location TBD). They will be traveling with approximately 3-4 other schools. They will have 3 days to travel out and will be making many agricultural stops on the way. Trent Jenny is a finalist and will be on stage Thursday the 22nd to give his presentation. There will be 10 chaperones making it easy to take turns supervising everyday and night.

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.
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> 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?

Public Participation - Mike Will presented information regarding a tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans.

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 11 and 18, 2026, approve the agenda dated September 8, 2026; and be it further resolved that the Board of Education approve warrants for payment; Revenue Status Report, Appropriation Status Report, and approve Budget Transfers."

4 yes 0 no

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

- Our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten families came in for our annual orientation on August 26th. We had many smiling faces in attendance. Students were able to see their classrooms and parents were able to listen to some important information.
- We finished our Summer Camps with some excitement. Students were treated to a drone experience at SUNY Poly. They also got to see a real hot air balloon which they all loved!
- Our Superintendent's Conference Days were held on September 1st and 2nd. This is always a great way to get faculty and staff back together. We spent each morning together as a whole district and then split for separate meetings in the afternoons. It is great to have everyone back in the building, sharing stories of summer, and getting ready for an exciting new school year!
- Welcome New Staff! Our new staff members this year are
    - Andrew Hadasz- PE
    - Ricci Sayers- Art
    - SofiaRose Gardinier- Long-Term School Counselor Sub
    - Christopher Olney- Grounds Worker
- The first day of school was a huge success in the elementary. Students seemed genuinely happy to be back. Teachers were prepared and excited. We are so lucky to have such supportive, flexible people on board.
- Mark your Calendar:
    - Sept 10- PTG Meeting
    - Sept 16 Elementary Band recruitment
    - Sept 26-27- Barn Fest
    - October 1 - 5 Weeks ends
    - October 3 - PTG Fall Fun Fest
    - October 8 - PTG Meetings

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

- Back-to-School Night, held on Wednesday, September 2, was once again well attended by our students and families. Throughout the evening, families had the opportunity to tour the school, visit classrooms, meet teachers, locate lockers, and submit important paperwork. We also offered early Chromebook pick-up, along with informational tables highlighting our clubs, athletics, and extracurricular opportunities. Ms.Dineen hosted information sessions for seventh grade, freshmen, and seniors.

- Mrs. Laurey coordinated the participation of several organizations, including the Beacon Center, Center for Family Life and Recovery, Helio Health, Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, and STAR UCP/CHBS, providing families with an opportunity to learn more about valuable local resources and services. Families also enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, and salad served throughout the evening. It was a wonderful opportunity to welcome everyone back and begin the new school year together!
- Our first Team Workshop of the year was held on Wednesday, September 2 in the high school library. Principal Lamphere and I brought the elementary and high school instructional staff together again this year with a team-building activity that reviewed important instructional strategies from our Highly Effective Instructional Practices district document and the curriculum mapping process. We always strive to make this interactive and promote collaboration amongst staff using a game format. This was a positive and fun collegial activity.
- Culture and Climate
    - Senior Locker Surprise - This was a new initiative that I began this year which allowed family and friends to surprise their seniors by decorating the inside of the locker with personalized pictures and other small gifts.
    - Senior Gift Bags - Every senior received a treat in their locker, as I continued my tradition of putting a gift bag of goodies with an orange theme(cheetos, orange gatorade and more) in each senior's locker.
    - 7th Grade Welcome Notes - I hand wrote a welcome note to each 7th grade student. These were mailed home so that they had an encouraging message about how excited I was to have them in the high school this year.
    - Summer Birthdays - During the year, I announce and celebrate our students with summer birthdays, I mailed birthday cards home with treat vouchers that they can turn in for a treat.
    - Grade-Level assemblies - Grade-level assemblies are scheduled for Sept 8. We will review the expectations for how to be successful in high school and remind them of all the supports available to help them Soar to Success.
- Looking Ahead
    - Sept 18th - I will be taking the 7th-grade class to Beaver Camp in Lowville to do the challenge course. This is a fun, memorable, team-building activity.
- I am excited for another great year with our students. I can't wait to see all of their progress and achievements!

Athletic Directors Report given by Dale Dening included the following:

- September 3rd - Modified Fall Sports Begin
- September 16th - CSC AD Meeting @ Waterville HS
- Fall Sports
    - Modified Soccer and Cross Country began practice on Thursday, September 3rd - first day of classes for our students
    - Some modified cross country athletes began the week of August 31st because of the meet schedule
    - Varsity home soccer games are back at the track complex.
    - The Boys Varsity took a moment of silence at tonight's game to recognize Rykah. Adirondack also gave Remsen the kick off to start the game in honor of Rykah.
    - The "Pink Out" games this year will coincide with the Senior Nights
    - The Boys Varsity Soccer team will have 2 fundraisers coming up.
- Varsity Roster Numbers
    - Boys' Varsity Soccer - 19
    - Girls' Varsity Soccer - 18
    - Boys' Varsity Cross Country - 6

    - Girls' Varsity Cross Country - 7
- Athletes Participating Outside of Remsen
    - Adam Woolheater - Varsity Football @ Holland Patent
    - Blair Smith - Modified Swim @ Holland Patent
- Remsen Sports Boosters
    - The snack shack will once again be sponsored by the Remsen Sports Boosters and will be serving refreshments and concessions during the home varsity soccer games.
    - Currently planning our annual "Pink Out" games which will be occurring in October- more information will be in my October report.

Facilities Report given by Ben Doty include the following:

- The high school and elementary teams finished summer cleaning and painting and are now back to normal day to day tasks.
- The grounds have been setting up the soccer fields and mowing, along with the day to day tasks.
- Construction Update
    - All windows and doors are complete at the elementary building.
    - The elementary driveway and parking lot are complete.
    - The tile work in the corridor is complete.
    - The high school gym floor work and brick work is ongoing.

Transportation Report was given by Kurt Crossett included the following:

- The first day of school went well/ We had a few small hiccups, but my drivers handled everything amazingly. We have the best crew around in the bus garage.
- Mr. Barney Sweeney has decided to return to Remsen as a sub driver until Dean retires and then Barney will start full time. He should be legal to drive by the end of the week.

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 August 25, 26, and September 1, 4, 2026. Please be reminded that discussion of specific IEP should be referred to Executive Session."

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the 2026-2027 tax rates per thousand (excluding library levy) as follows:

Town of Ohio	$21.942043
Town of Russia	$19.542132
Town of Steuben	$26.057168
Town of Boonville	$29.085964
Town of Forestport	$25.013929
Town of Remsen	$41.690709
Town of Trenton	$32.913065

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan.

”RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the FFA overnight field trip to Indiana beginning October 18th through October 25, 2026.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Patrick Nolan, second by Jeannie Scouten.

“RESOLVED, that the Superintendent and District Treasurer are authorized to transfer $250,000 in surplus General Fund balance into the ERS Retirement Reserve. This resolution shall take effect immediately.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Superintendent and District Treasurer are authorized to transfer $1,000,000 in surplus General Fund balance into the “2023 Capital Reserve Fund”, authorized by public referendum on May 16, 2023. This resolution shall take effect immediately.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve Joseph Griswold for FMLA leave beginning September 14th through September 25th, 2026.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Barney Sweeney of Remsen, NY as a substitute school bus driver retroactive to September 1, 2026 at the hourly rate of $24.25.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Barney Sweeney of Remsen, NY as a full time school bus driver effective January 4, 2027 at the hourly rate of $24.25.”

4 yes 0 no

Motion by Jeannie Scouten, second by Tara Kennerknecht.

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Melissa Woolheater of Remsen, NY as a substitute teacher's aide and monitor at the hourly rate of $16.00 effective September 9, 2026.”

4 yes 0 no

Information & Correspondence

Mr. Jenny gave the below information and correspondence:

The Good News Club submitted a building use request and will be using the elementary cafeteria on Wednesdays from 2:15pm to 4pm.

The 2026-2027 theme is Rise Above, Lift Others Up, Make Dreams Happen

For the 2026-2027 BOE Presentation schedule below:

October - Elementary and Bus Garage Tour of Capital Project Work

November - High School Tour of Capital Project Work

December - Senior Capstone Curriculum Overview

January - Service Learning Presentation

February - UFLI Literacy Program

Soaring to Success- Board of Education Roundtable Remarks

Round Table Remarks

Jeannie Scouten- The senior lockers are such a great idea for the kids, and the notes home to the 7th graders coming in are so nice. It hopefully calms their nervousness about coming up to the high school.

Mrs. Allen - Compliments to the staff and the teachers for being so patient with all the construction. High fives to Ben, you have gone the extra mile making sure the orientation and opening days all went well.

Mr. Jenny - The Capital Project is near in completion, the high school courtyard will be tackled before November. The Elementary classrooms are open for business, it's nice that the kids and teachers didn't have to move classrooms again. A big thank you to the custodians for making sure the rooms were ready so the construction staff could move from room to room quickly. We are full steam ahead, the students have had 2 days in school last week and 4 days this week. It's nice to see how happy the kids are to see each other.

Motion by Tara Kennerknecht, second by Patrick Nolan to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.