

**KEWANEE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #229  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING-JANUARY 16, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL FOR REGULAR SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Kewanee Community Unit School District No. 229 was held in the Kewanee High School Petersen Auditorium with President Johnson calling the Meeting to order at 6:00pm. Roll call showed the following Members present: DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson. Superintendent Sullens was also present for the Closed Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION OF REGULAR SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING**

At 6:01 pm, Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to enter into Closed Session to consider (C)(1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District and (C) (2) to consider collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees (C) (5) the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body (C) (8) Security Procedures (C) (9) Student Disciplinary Cases (C) (11) Litigation, \* 5ILCS 120/2 Open Meetings *The School Code of Illinois/2022*. Voice roll vote showed all present Members voting aye. The motion carried.

At 7:08 pm Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member Dev to adjourn the Closed Session meeting. Voice roll call was heard with all present Members voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL FOR OPEN SESSION MEETING**

President Johnson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:32pm. This Open Session continued in the Petersen Auditorium at Kewanee High School. Roll call showed the following Board Members present: DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson. The audience included: R Baney, T Atwell, D Brants, K Callahan, H Ince, J Janey, A DeSchepper, A Janey, and J Russell from Kewanee Radio. Recording secretary H Hughes and Superintendent C Sullens were also in attendance.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Johnson asked the audience to stand, if able, and join the Board in saying the “Pledge of Allegiance” to the flag.

**INVITED GUESTS**

Mrs. Baney presented the KHS FFA members and advisors with a Board Resolution honoring them for their 3 Star Chapter Recognition from the National FFA Organization. FFA Members Abigail DeSchepper, Jaxon Janey, and Hannah Ince were in attendance along with advisor Kindra Callahan. Abigail DeSchepper explained to the Board that being named a 3 Star Chapter is a big deal. She stated that in order to receive the honor you have to be recognized as a Gold Star Chapter by the State FFA. She stated that only 10% of Chapters in each State are eligible to receive a ranking. Hannah Ince informed the Board that of the approximate 9000 Chapters in the United States that less than 400 Chapters receive the 3 Star Ranking. Both Hannah Ince and Abigail DeSchepper thanked the Board for their support of the KHS FFA Chapter.

President Johnson stated that when attending the Illinois School Board Conference, he went to the Ag Education Booth. He stated that the gentleman manning the booth noticed he was from Kewanee and said the whole State knows what is being done in Kewanee.

**MINUTES, FINANCIAL, TREASURER’S REPORT, AND BILLS AND PAYROLL CONSENT AGENDA**

President Johnson asked for a motion for a Consent Agenda and acceptance of Items V, VI & VII. Member DeBord seconded the motion made by Member Steffen to approve consent Items V, VI & VII. The roll showed Members DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE**

None

**REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION**

## **Superintendent**

### Winter Break Repairs/Upgrades

Dr. Sullens stated that the Maintenance crews having been working on many projects over winter break. He stated that they have done a fabulous job of snow removal over the last week.

### FOIA Requests

Dr. Sullens stated that the District had not received any FOIA requests this month.

### E-Learning Days

Dr. Sullens stated that ISBE allows Districts to use five E-Learning days. He stated that these days are counted as attendance days and do not have to be made up at the end of the year. He stated that these days allow summer school to begin prior to Memorial Day most years. He stated that Principals were checking in with staff during the E-Learning days.

### District Library Grant

Dr. Sullens stated that the District's library grant was approved in the amount of \$1539.90. He thanked Ruth Kapacinskas for submitting the grant.

## **Mrs. Baney-KHS Principal**

### KHS IL State Scholars

Mrs. Baney informed the Board that Jillian Bennison, Eleanor Burkhart, Laryn Conley, Victoria Dennison, Alexander Hager, Willow Marshall, Joshua Ogorzalek, Jackson Silvis, and Avery Yepsen were named Kewanee High School's 2023-2024 Illinois State Scholars.

### KHS Musical-Sponge Bob Square Pants the Musical

Mrs. Baney informed the Board that *Sponge Bob Square Pants the Musical* was presented twice to the public over the prior weekend. She stated that on Thursday the cast performed the show for students from Central and that on Wednesday there would be a performance for Belle, Irving, and Neponset students. Mrs. Baney stated that the cast and crew did a fantastic job with the musical. She thanked the Board for their support of the KHS Theater Program. She stated that the stage and background combined the use of technology and Mrs. Blake's artistic creativity. Mrs. Baney informed the Board that Chase Palm and Jacie Hinton did a three article piece on the musical for the Kewanee Voice through the student journalism program.

### KHS Winter Sports Update

Mr. Atwell informed the Board that post season begins for Winter Sports this week.

## **SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Consideration and Approval of IRS Mileage Rate for 2024 (2024- 0.67; 2023- 0.655)

Dr. Sullens recommending approving the IRS Mileage Rate for 2024. Member Salisbury seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, DeMay, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried.

#### Consideration and Approval of Closed Session Minutes and Approve Them as Remaining Closed (through December 31, 2023) and destruction of verbatim records prior to July 1, 2022.

Dr. Sullens recommended approving that Closed Session Minutes remain closed through December 31, 2023 and the destruction of verbatim records prior to July 1, 2022. Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member Salisbury to approve. The roll call vote showed Members DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, DeMay, Dev, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried.



approve. The roll call vote showed Members DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, DeMay, Dev, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

\*All hires are contingent upon hires obtaining appropriate certification and qualifications prior to beginning job.

**Leaves**

None

**Student Teachers**

None

**Transfers**

None

**Volunteers**

Bob Fornander                      KHS Musical

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above listed volunteer. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, DeMay, Dev, DeBord, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

**Renewal/Non-Renewal of Stipend Positions**

None

**OTHER ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION**

None

**COMMENTS FROM VISITORS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION**

None

Moment of Silence for John Jagers-Father of Jon Jagers (Central Resource Officer) and Former Board Member  
Moment of Silence for Sandra “Sandi” Verdick- Grandmother of Dayton Ince (KHS Boys Basketball Coach)  
Moment of Silence for Sandra Powell – Grandmother of Katelyn Yelm (Music/Choir Teacher)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Member Dev seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote from Members DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson was heard all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

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**JEFF JOHNSON, PRESIDENT**

**JON DEBORD, SECRETARY**