

**KEWANEE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #229
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING-NOVEMBER 20, 2023**

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 6:02 pm, Member DeMay seconded a motion made by Member Dev 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 7:13 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 7:30pm. 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, D Hodge Bates, S Burkhart, P Costenson, J Chapman, E Robinson, A Clementz, E Allen, R Allen, K Murphy, A McDowell, A Johnson, L Carmichael, L Stisser, A Weston, P Schneider, R Kapacinskaskas, M Nelson, J Bartelt, J Vickrey, K Jurgensen, S Kernan from Kewanee Radio, and M Berry from the Kewanee Voice. 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

None

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 Dev 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

Tentative 2023 Tax Levy/EAV

Dr. Sullens stated that the tentative EAV numbers for Henry and Bureau counties have been released. He stated that for Henry County this is the Quad Review Year. He stated that every parcel of land within Henry County is reviewed. The county also reviews the current values and sales history of the past three years. He informed the Board that the EAV for Henry County is estimated to increase 10.44% and Bureau County is estimated to increase 7.67%. This is estimated to raise the EAV \$9.1 million. He stated that the wind turbines west of town are not included in this amount but hopefully they will be turning and added soon.

FY23/24 School Funding

Dr. Sullens stated that the State of Illinois is paying their bills on time. The only payments that are lagging are with the Driver's Education funding.

National Education Week-Ad with Kewanee Schools Foundation

Dr. Sullens stated that an ad was in the Kewanee Voice recognizing the District's staff and students for National Education Week. The ad was in partnership with the Kewanee Schools Foundation.

Discussion of Illinois Association of School Boards Conference

Dr. Sullens stated that the Illinois Association of School Boards was held the prior weekend. He stated that there was over 9,000 people in attendance. He stated that the conference was back to pre-pandemic levels and that there were many sessions on a variety of topics. President Johnson added that the KHS Ag Science Addition was featured in the Educational Environment Exhibit at the conference. He stated that it was an architect voted exhibit. He stated that while the project didn't win any awards it was an honor to be chosen for the exhibit. President Johnson stated that he noticed the exhibit getting a lot of attention and there were many questions about it and the District was well represented.

FOIA Requests

Dr. Sullens stated that all FOIA requests received were processed.

Mrs. Baney-KHS Principal

KHS Fall Play-Bethel Park Falls

Mrs. Baney stated that Kewanee High School hosted the Fall Play, *Bethel Park Falls*, on October 28th and 29th. She stated it was the first time Mr. Campbell directed a fall play and he did a wonderful job. Nineteen students were in the cast. The play was presented to Central School, Neponset Middle School, and two public performances.

KHS TRAC Honors Music Festival

Mrs. Baney stated that KHS once again hosted the TRAC Honors Music Festival on October 30th. She stated that the Band and Choir Directors along with the Music Boosters did a great job hosting the Music Festival. She stated that KHS had fourteen choir students and twelve band students selected to participate.

Central Fall Band & Choir Concerts

Mrs. Baney stated that the Elementary, Junior High, High School Choirs, and Junior High Band performed their fall concert on October 26th.

Central Jr. High Band Prairieland Conference Honor Band

Mrs. Baney stated that Central Junior High Band had twelve students selected to participate in the Prairieland Conference Honor Band on October 24th at Rockridge.

Central Jr. High & KHS ILMEA All-District Band, Choir, and Jazz Band

Mrs. Baney informed the Board that KHS had six band students and eight choir students selected for the ILMEA District Band and Choir Concert. Central Junior High had two band students selected. The District 2 concert was held November 4th at Augustana College. She stated that the students had to audition and the top students are selected to attend. She stated that while the students were there they were evaluated to be All State Qualifiers. The All State Qualifiers will be released in December. Mrs. Baney stated that William Ly was first chair saxophonist and Brennyn Ford was the only one playing piano. She stated that two students were selected for the ILMEA Jazz Band and that concert was held November 11th at Galesburg High School.

Mrs. Baney informed the Board that cheerleaders Marlee Bates and Katy Carton were selected to perform in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Parade. She also gave the Board the dates of the band, choir, and elementary winter concerts. She informed the Board that the KHS Choral Collective went to the Quad Cities and recorded Christmas music. The recording will be presented on KWQC TV-6 throughout the month of December.

KHS Fall Sports-State Competitions

Mrs. Baney informed the Board that the Soccer team lost in the Regional Finals to Mendota. The Volleyball team lost in the Regional Semi-Final to Chillicothe IVC. She stated that the Football team lost to Peoria Notre Dame in the first round of the playoffs. She informed the Board that Brady Clark was named First Team All-State. She stated that Alex Duarte was named as Honorable Mention All-State.

KHS Winter Sports

Mrs. Baney gave the Board an update on the KHS Winter Sports offerings for the year.

TRAC Conference Honors

Mrs. Baney updated the Board on the students who were named TRAC All Conference. Students included Hope Peed for Golf, Natalee Martin and Nolie Charlet for Cross Country, James Roginski, Jack Coombes, and Cristian Cazares for Soccer, and Emma Ellenberger for Volleyball. The KHS Football team had Tre Amos, Brady Clark, Alex Duarte, Blake Johnston, and Corbyn Powers named All Conference. Mrs. Baney informed the Board that the Sophomore Volleyball team were TRAC Conference Champions.

Mrs. Hodge-Bates, Neponset Principal

School Report Cards

Mrs. Hodge-Bates gave the Board an update on the newly released annual School Report Cards. She stated that all of the report cards for the District and individual schools are listed on illinoisreportcard.com.

Mrs. Hodge-Bates mentioned that her daughter Marlee Bates and Katy Carton were performing in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade and that it would be live streamed on ABC on Hulu. She also wanted to mention that Central held a really nice career fair for the students. She stated that Neponset 4th-8th graders attended and were introduced to a lot of different career paths.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

KHS Fieldhouse/Locker Rooms/KHS Stadium

Dr. Sullens stated that the ROE is scheduled to do a final inspection next week. He stated that after the inspection we will be to fully occupy the building.

Lyle Addition

Dr. Sullens stated that the ROE is scheduled to do a final inspection next week. He stated that after the inspection we will be to fully occupy the area.

Belle Solar Farm Update

Dr. Sullens stated that we are still working through the process of finalizing paperwork. He stated that he is looking forward to getting the contract completed and signed.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of New and Revised Policies

No action required.

Consideration and Approval to Rescind the Chromebooks Bid from Government Goods for Not Meeting Specifications of the Bid Notice

Dr. Sullens stated that after the October Board Meeting it was noticed that the bid from Government Goods didn't meet the specifications from the bid notice. He stated in order to follow the information that was in the bid notice it is necessary to rescind the prior award of the Chromebook bid. He stated that the vendors were notified as soon as we noticed the issue. Dr. Sullens recommended rescinding the Chromebook bid previously awarded to Government Goods. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Salisbury 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 Chromebooks Bid from Virtucom

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the bid from Virtucom at \$259,360 for 800 units. Each unit with Google license was bid at \$324.20. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Dev 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.

Consideration and Approval of Bid for New KHS Kitchen Serving Line Equipment

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the bid for a new KHS kitchen serving line from Johnson Foodservice Equipment Sales and Service in the amount of \$49,619.85. He stated the serving line would be installed in part of the old Home Economics sewing room that was added to the cafeteria area. Member Dev 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 heard. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of Bid for Belle Boiler Replacement

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the bid to replace the Belle Boiler from Ruyle Mechanical Services, Inc. for \$203,750. Dr. Sullens stated that three companies attended the pre-bid conference but Ruyle was the only one who submitted a bid. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Salisbury, Steffen, DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of Resolution providing for the issue of \$1,365,000 Taxable General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2023, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds and authorizing the sale of said bonds to Peoples National Bank of Kewanee

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the resolution to issue \$1,365,000 Taxable General Obligation School Bonds Series 2023. Dr. Sullens stated that these bonds are replacing the bonds that were paid off last year. Member Salisbury seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Steffen, DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of Advertising for Paid Positions for 5th & 6th Grade Basketball Coaches (2 Boys Coaches & 2 Girls Coaches)

Dr. Sullens recommended advertising for paid positions of 5th and 6th grade basketball coaches. There would be two boys coaches and two girls coaches hired. Member Salisbury stated that he believes this will be a benefit to the kids and get them involved in sports again. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Salisbury to approve. The roll call vote showed Members DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of Contract Between the Kewanee Education Association and The Kewanee Board of Education (Pending KEA Vote on Sunday)

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the contract between the Kewanee Education Association and the Kewanee Board of Education. Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, DeMay, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of Hiring the Superintendent for Kewanee School District for the 2024-2025 School Year

President Johnson made a motion to hire Rebecca Baney as Superintendent for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Christiansen seconded the motion. 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.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION PERSONNEL:

Resignations

Daryl Bollman	Central 3 rd Shift Custodian-Effective 10/27/2023
Alex Binek	KHS MTSS Coordinator-Effective Immediately
Donna Havelka	KHS Head Tennis Coach-Effective Immediately

Jenny Grebner KHS Assistant Tennis Coach-Effective Immediately
Emma Reidner KHS Assistant Golf Coach-Effective Immediately

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above resignations. Member Dev 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.

Retirements

Stephanie Johnson KHS Family & Consumer Science Teacher-Effective End of 2024-2025 School Year

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

Hires

Jonathan Henegar KHS Assistant Baseball Coach
Brian Taylor F/T District Maintenance
Naisha Colombani Gonzalez F/T Irving Translator
Kathleen Picklesimer P/T Cafeteria Worker at KHS
Kaitlyn Mercer F/T Cafeteria Worker at Lyle
Katie Buss F/T Central 1st Shift Custodian (9 Month)
Katherine Streicher KHS Kewanite Co-Advisor (Split position with current advisor)
Suzanne Burkhart KHS Set Design
Alyson Wetzell 21st Century Teacher at Belle
Emali Porter 21st Century Aide at Neponset

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above hires. Member Johnson seconded a motion made by Member DeBord to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Steffen, DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, 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

Long Term Subs

LaNita Brown Central Title I Teacher for 2nd Semester
Jennifer Chapman Central 6th Grade Teacher for 2nd Semester
Elise Swinford Neponset P/T Music Teacher for 2nd Semester
Kayla Jewell Belle 1st Grade Teacher for 2nd Semester

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

Transfers

Loemi Meza From Central F/T Aide to Central P/T Aide and P/T Secretary at Central
Sarah Hamilton From F/T Cafeteria Worker at Lyle to F/T Parent Coordinator at Lyle

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

Volunteers

Marland Rachel	KHS Bowling Coach
Kayla Jewell	KHS Bowling Coach
Hector Cantu	KHS & Central Jr. High Wrestling Coach
Michael Weir	KHS & Central Jr. High Wrestling Coach
Stephanie Martinez	KHS Wrestling Coach
Cal Breedlove	KHS Wrestling Coach

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above listed volunteers. Member DeBord 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. The motion carried.

Student Teachers

Meghan Keel	2 nd grade at Irving-2 nd Semester
-------------	--

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above Student Teacher. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen 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

Pam Schneider, 6th grade teacher at Central, asked for Dr. Sullens to repeat who was hired as the Central first shift custodian. Dr. Sullens stated that Katie Buss was hired for that position. Ms. Schneider also asked about field trips. She stated that the 4th and 5th grade classes had field trips approved but the 6th grade did not. She stated that she was told it was due to a lack of bus drivers. She stated that the 6th grade staff would like to plan for a field trip but are told they wouldn't know until a week ahead of time if there would be drivers. Dr. Sullens stated that she should check with Mr. Anderson as to why the field trip was cancelled. He stated that with the number of drivers, the number of routes, and that the District no longer transports students in town only that is straining the system. He stated that Randy Cernovich is trying to get everyone from point A to point B. He stated that some drivers have other obligations that limit extra trips. Dr. Sullens stated that when requests come through it is discussed if a trip is possible or not. Ms. Schneider stated that she was looking for guidelines to follow to get a field trip approved. President Johnson stated that they are trying to recruit more bus drivers.

Mrs. Baney thanked the Board of Education for their support of her personally, for their support of Kewanee High School, and the students of the District during the twenty-three years she has worked in the District. She stated that she was looking forward to working with them in a different role in the future.

Amy Dev thanked everyone who worked on the recent contract. She stated that it was not easy but it got done. She stated that there was a stigma out there that teachers and staff can't talk with Board Members and the Superintendent or vice versa. She stated that needs to change moving forward. She stated that in the classes she took at the convention that she learned that listening and communication were key in negotiations. She stated she also learned that discussion points and notes for next time can be written five minutes after the contract is signed. Member Dev stated that both Board Members and staff can do this. She recommended really reading the contract and not to be afraid of asking questions. She stated that everyone has trust and respect rebuilding to do and that she wasn't interested in the blame game. She stated that she was just interested in moving forward. She stated that the school culture needs changing. Member Dev stated that she is willing to listen to what staff has to say and have the tough conversations but that has to go both ways. She stated she hoped that everyone is also willing to listen and have the tough conversations. She stated she hoped that everyone can move forward for the betterment of our children.

Lori Christiansen thanked everyone involved in the negotiation process. She stated that when the process started in April no one expected that it would take this much time. She stated negotiations involved a lot of hours of hard work and time away from our families. She stated she was grateful that we learned from each other and finally were able to bring it to a conclusion. Member Christiansen stated that it was important to realize there is a lot of hard work ahead of us. She stated that we all want a lot of things to happen and with time and dedication she suspects we can get on the same page. She stated that with a new superintendent coming on board we need to give her the chance to do her work and support her in all the ways we can. She stated that we need to work together as a Board, faculty, staff, administration, and a community. She stated that everyone needs to work on mending fences, watching our words, and being careful of what we say on social media. She stated that everyone is there for the same purpose. She stated by doing worthwhile work and making it a passion we will make a difference in the lives of our children and their families.

Moment of Silence for James L. Golby-Kewanee School District 229 Superintendent Emeritus

ADJOURNMENT

Member DeMay seconded a motion made by Member Dev 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 8:19 pm.

JEFF JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

JON DEBORD, SECRETARY