

KEWANEE COMM SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING-NOVEMBER 21, 2022

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: Stabler, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson. Superintendent Sullens was also present for the Closed Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF REGULAR SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

At 6:01pm, Member Stabler 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/2021*. Voice roll vote showed all present Members voting aye. The motion carried.

At 7:11 pm Member DeBord 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: Stabler, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson. The audience included: R Baney, D Hodge-Bates, T Atwell, L Flannery, R Carton, K Carton, K Callahan, M Carton, K Ellerbrock, K Yordy, C Leverette, and J Russell from the Kewanee Radio Station. 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

Kindra Callahan, Ag Teacher and FFA Advisor and KHS FFA members, McKenzie Carton, Kashen Ellerbrock, Kiersten Yordy, and Carter Leverette were invited guests for the meeting. Mrs. Callahan stated that they were there to reflect on the Kewanee High School FFA's recent award. In late October, the KHS FFA was received the 3 Star Chapter award at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Mrs. Callahan stated that the FFA Mission Statement is to positively impact the lives of students through Leadership, Personal Growth, and Career Success. The Standards in which they do this include, Strengthening Agriculture, Growing Leaders, and Building Community. The National Chapter Award requires the Local Chapter to submit an application. Within the application, the local chapter has to select 20-25 activities throughout the year in which the students have accomplished those three standards. Mrs. Callahan stated that they had recently received the rubric back and KHS had high marks in every category but one. That one category was Impact which had midrange scores. The reason was that more tangible results were needed. Mrs. Callahan stated that they now know what is needed for next year's application.

Kashen Ellerbrock, KHS Sophomore, stated that he felt the petting zoo held for younger students in the District was a success. During the event, there was a tractor parked outside the shop and FFA members used it as an opportunity to teach students how to safely interact with it. FFA members also taught younger students about the different species of animals that were at the petting zoo increasing their Agriculture knowledge. He thanked the Board for their continued support of the FFA program.

Kiersten Yordy, KHS Senior, spoke of the hog classroom project. The project taught students about work ethic. Students had morning and evening chores to complete to ensure pigs were comfortable in their overall environment. The project also gave students' knowledge about farm animals. She stated that the project also taught students about communication and team work. She stated that team work was needed when students helped birth the piglets. Students also work together to complete tail docking, ear notches, administering deworming medicine, and cutting needle teeth. She stated that she spent

the whole summer with the pigs and didn't know where she would be without them.

Carter Leverette, KHS Junior, feels that as an FFA member he is empowered to serve and help the community and welcome people. He stated that FFA provides the opportunity put leadership skills into action and serve the community.

McKenzie Carton, KHS Senior, spoke about the 3 Star Gold Award. KHS FFA has not received an award for the last 18 years. The last award was received in 2004 and that was a 2 Star Award. The last time KHS received a 3 Star Award was 1957. She stated that with two Ag teachers more classes are being offered. The students are very excited about the new Ag addition. She stated that more students are joining FFA each year. Ms. Carton stated that she and Abigail DeSchepper were chosen to walk across the stage to receive the award. She stated that walking across the stage was a little intimidating but cool. She thanked the Board for their support of the Agriculture program.

Mrs. Callahan added that there was a record number of students at the National Convention this year. There was 70,000 Blue Jackets at the Stadium in Indianapolis.

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 Steffen seconded the motion made by Member Christiansen to approve consent Items V, VI & VII. The roll showed Members Stabler, 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 2022 Tax Levy/EAV

Dr. Sullens updated the Board on the upcoming Tax Levy. Dr. Sullens stated that the Annual Tax Levy will be approved at next month's meeting. The tax levy will be approved with the projected EAV from both Henry and Bureau Counties. Dr. Sullens stated that the EAV will grow for both counties. He informed the Board that the only negative is that the wind turbines in our District aren't turning yet. It is looking to be March or April before they will start working. This will add even greater value to the area.

FY22/23 School Funding

Dr. Sullens stated that the District had received notice that the FY23 School Maintenance Grant was approved. Funds from this grant will be used to replace the asphalt playground on the West side of Irving School. The grant is a matching grant of up to \$50,000. The project is estimated to cost \$125,000 with the State matching \$50,000. Dr. Sullens updated the Board about the Early Childhood Construction grant application. The grant application was submitted. This grant would fund an addition to Lyle School. The project would provide additional space for speech, physical, and occupational therapy.

National Education Week – Ad with Kewanee School Foundation

Dr. Sullens stated that an ad was in the Star Courier recognizing National Education Week.

KHS Fall Play – *She Kills Monsters*

Dr. Sullens stated that KHS students presented the Fall Play, *She Kills Monsters*.

Central Fall Band Concert

Dr. Sullens stated that Central and KHS Band and Chorus had their Fall Concerts recently. All events were well attended and the students did a fantastic job.

TRAC Honors Music Festival

Dr. Sullens informed the Board that Kewanee High School hosted the TRAC Honors Music Festival. TJ Mack, Assistant Director of Bands at Illinois State University worked with the band students and Dr. Robert Sinclair worked with the choral

students. The kids did a fantastic job and the event was well attended.

Recognition of Board Members- IASB

Dr. Sullens recognized Jeff Johnson and Lori Christiansen as Illinois Association of School Board Distinguished Board Members.

Discussion of Illinois Association of School Board Conference and Foundation Presentation

Dr. Sullens gave an update about the Joint Conference that was held in Chicago last week. The conference was for School Boards, Superintendents, and for school business officials. The Kewanee Schools Foundation presented at the Conference. Member Johnson stated that he felt the presentation went well, although he would have liked to see a bigger crowd. He stated they had excellent questions and good participation from attendees. The presentation covered a time line of Kewanee Schools Foundation and highlighted the key events that has set our foundation apart. Member Johnson hoped that other Districts could pick up tips and find resources for them as well. Dr. Sullens stated that the Kewanee Schools Foundation started in the early 1990s. He stated that there are very few Foundations in the area. Member Johnson stated that Liz Breedlove and Mindi Goard were responsible for putting much of information together for presentation.

Mr. Atwell-KHS Athletic Director

KHS Winter Sports

Mr. Atwell informed the Board of Winter Sports and Activities numbers.

Current numbers are Boys Basketball Freshmen: 11 Sophomore: 22 Varsity: 17, Girls Basketball Freshman/Sophomore: 14 Varsity: 11, Girls Bowling 20, Boys Swimming 2, Wrestling 40, Speech 10, and Scholastic Bowl numbers were unavailable. Sideline Cheer has 14 out for JV squad and 12 for Varsity squad. Fourteen students are out for Competitive Cheer. There are 15 students on the Pom Squad and 11 on the Competitive Dance team. IHSA requires participants to be on the Pom Squad or Sideline Cheer Squads to participate on the Competitive teams.

TRAC Conference Honors

Mr. Atwell stated that KHS had multiple students named to the Three Rivers All Conference First Team. Mya Mirocha and Eleanor Burkhart for Girls Golf, Natalee Martin and Esmeralda Martinez for Girls Cross Country, and Emma Crofton for Volleyball. Garret Pettit was named All Conference for football and Cristian Cazares and James Roginski for Soccer.

KHS had many students named All Conference for Band and Choir. Band students named were Natalie Maxon, McKenzie Carton, Cooper Bates, Sheadon Oetzel, William Ly, Parker DeBord, Bethany Olalde, Victoria Dennison, Brooklyn Schiltz, Shaan Dev, and Marcos Pagan. Choir members were Ashley VanWassenhove, Bethany VanWassenhove, Abbie Bartell, Jersie Duytschaver, Alex Hager, Laryn Conley, Dade Aldred, Cameron Bates, and Isaac Lynes.

Mr. Atwell informed the Board that the TRAC Music Festival had 14 schools participating. Each school could send ten students for both band and choir. The choir students practiced in the Petersen Auditorium and the band students were in Brockman Gym. He stated that each group gave great performances.

TRAC Conference Membership Update

Mr. Atwell gave an update on the membership of the conference. He stated that changes are coming in the conference. St. Bede has petitioned to leave the conference and want to leave after this year. Technically, they are supposed to give a two-year notice. There is one school that has requested to join the conference. At the last conference meeting, they held a straw poll and the majority were against the addition.

Mrs. Hodge-Bates-Neponset Principal

School Report Cards

Mrs. Hodge-Bates gave the Board an overview of the 2022 School Report Cards. Belle, Irving, Central Junior High, Kewanee High, and Neponset Grade School all received Commendable ratings. Central Elementary School received a Targeted rating for one subgroup. Students took the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) in grades 3-8. Growth rates were given for each building. Mrs. Hodge-Bates also gave an overview of the 5 Essentials Survey for the District buildings.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

KHS Stadium Turf/Lighting-Field Event Striping

Dr. Sullens stated that the striping for the field events is completed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Belle & Neponset Classroom Additions

Dr. Sullens stated that the projects are waiting on materials to show up for the crews to continue.

KHS Ag Addition and Belle Gym Addition

Dr. Sullens stated that the iron workers have been hard at work on the Ag Addition. The hope is to have the metal roof complete this week. Crews plan to have a crane ready to install the HVAC to provide heat to the addition. If project stays on schedule the plan is to be in the addition right after Martin Luther King weekend.

Dr. Sullens stated that the roof on the Belle Gym addition is starting this week and hope to be done next week. These projects have caught a break with the weather.

Irving School Main Entrance

Dr. Sullens informed the Board that crews are waiting for the railings to be delivered. They are hoping to install them next week.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of New and Revised Policies

No action required.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION PERSONNEL:

Resignations

KHS Assistant Football Coach-Effective Immediately	Blake VonHolton
KHS Resource Teacher	Peter Savage
Part Time Cafeteria Worker	Jan Norton
Central Jr. High Track Coach	Alexis Webster

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

Retirements

None

Hires

Lyle Cafeteria Worker- full time	Sarah Hamilton
Cafeteria Worker- part time	Erika Hilburn
Cafeteria Substitute	Dawn Hull
Cafeteria Substitute	Jean Rohrig
Central 21 st Century Aide	Katie Mulcahy
KHS Winter Weights Coach	Brad Swanson
KHS Girls Wrestling Coach	Stephanie Martinez
KHS Assistant Baseball Coach (F/S Coach)	Matt Taylor
KHS Assistant Baseball Coach (F/S Assistant Coach)	Tad Stout
Central Jr. High Boys Basketball Coach	Brandon Ince
Neponset 4 th Grade Teacher for 2 nd Semester	Brittney Mitro
Belle 1 st Grade Teacher for 2 nd Semester	Hayley Paxton
KHS Resource Teacher-beginning 11/15/22	Matt Taylor
Spanish/ESL Teacher for 2 nd Semester-Building TBD	Evelin Martinez

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

Megan Gayer Irving 3rd Grade Teacher-Maternity Leave Approximately 3/25/2023 to 5/24/2023

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

Long Term Subs

Central Alternative Teacher for 2 nd Semester	Corey Tavares
Central Title I Elem Teacher (Tu-Fr & Districtwide Sub Monday) for 2 nd Semester	LaNita Brown
Central 6 th Grade Teacher for 2 nd Semester	Suzanne Burkhart
Central 6 th Grade Teacher for 2 nd Semester	Jennifer Chapman
Neponset P/T Music Teacher for 2 nd Semester	Elise Swinford
Maternity Leave Sub for Megan Gayer at Irving	Eusebia Quintero

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

Transfers

Kirk Ince	From F/T (p/t lawn mower/snow blower & p/t maintenance) to F/T Maintenance
Brady Zarvell	From F/T (p/t lawn mower/snow blower & p/t maintenance) to F/T Maintenance

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

Volunteers

Central Jr. High Boys Basketball Coach	Tony Ramos
KHS & Central Jr. High Wrestling Coach	Matt Taylor
KHS & Central Jr. High Wrestling Coach	Michael Hadsall
KHS Wrestling Coach	Trevor Simaytis
Neponset Girls Basketball Coach	Sarah Milnes
KHS Bowling Coach	Carl Rohrig

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

Student Teacher

Suzanne Burkhart Beginning January 2023 for 15 weeks (Supervisor Jason Anderson)

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above listed student teacher assignment. Member Johnson seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, Stabler, 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

Brandon Pickering Volunteer/Substitute Coach for Central Jr. High Girls Basketball
Heidi Abernathy Volunteer/Substitute Coach for Central Jr. High Girls Basketball

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

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

The open meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

JEFF JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

JON DEBORD, SECRETARY