

**KEWANEE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #229
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING-DECEMBER 18, 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, Steffen, and Johnson. Superintendent Sullens was also present for the Closed Session. Member Salisbury was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF REGULAR SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

At 6:01 pm, Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member DeMay 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. Member Salisbury was absent.

At 7:18 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. Member Salisbury was absent.

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, Steffen, and Johnson. Member Salisbury was absent. The audience included: R Baney, J Anderson, C Douglas, M Taylor, M Clark, K Clark, B Clark, C Eads, J Vickrey, R Kapacinskas, A McDowell, J Bartelt, and J Russell from Kewanee Radio. Recording secretary C Briggs 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.

SINE DIE

Tax Levy Hearing

President Johnson called for a motion to go into Sine Die for the 2023 Tax Levy Hearing at 7:31pm. Member Christiansen made a motion to approve. Member DeBord seconded the motion. The voice vote showed all present Members voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried. Member Salisbury was absent.

Presentation by Dr. Sullens

Sullens reported that the total EAV in Bureau County is going to rise from \$23,809,131 up to an approximate \$25,634,142 which is an increase of 7.67% or \$1,825,011. Henry County is also showing an increase. For Henry County the increase is 10.44%. The previous tax year was \$70,194,650 but will increase to an approximate \$77,519,650 for a gain of \$7,325,000 in total assessment for Henry County. Sullens explained that we do our levy in December not knowing really how much property value we have. Dr. Sullens stated that these are the best estimates we have available. In order to cover ourselves and make sure that we don’t leave “money on the table” and make sure that we get our full \$1.84 in the Education Fund, \$0.50 in the Building Fund, \$0.20 in the Transportation Fund, \$.05 in Working Cash, \$.04 in Special Ed., \$.05 in the Lease and \$.05 in the Life Safety Fund the District will ask for a little extra. Therefore, the tax rate we are requesting would be 4.49749.

Dr. Sullens recommended the Board of Education to approve the tax levy based upon an EAV of \$110,000,000. Within this tax levy hearing there is also three resolutions to pay Bond Resolution (Transfer of County Sales Tax money of \$93,400 to pay General Obligation School Bonds (Alternative Source) series 2018, Bond Resolution (Transfer of County Sales Tax Money for \$1900.00 to Pay General Obligation School Bonds (Alternative Source) series 2021A, and Bond Resolution (Transfer of County Sales Tax money for \$490,825 to Pay General

Obligation School Bonds (Alternative Revenue Source) Series 2021B. These Bonds will be paid by funds from the Countywide Sales Tax. Dr. Sullens stated that in addition to paying the bond payments, the sales tax money has helped pay for many projects including KHS Ag Project and KHS Stadium Turf Project.

Comments/Discussions by Visitors and Board Members - None

Consideration and Approval of:

1. Bond Resolution (Transfer of County Sales Tax Money for \$93,400.00 to Pay General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2018)
2. Bond Resolution (Transfer of County Sales Tax Money for \$1,900.00 to Pay General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2021A)
3. Bond Resolution (Transfer of County Sales Tax Money for \$490,825.00 to Pay General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2021B)
4. 2023 Tax Levy

President Johnson called for a motion for a consent agenda to approve the Bond Resolutions and the 2023 Tax Levy. Member Dev seconded a motion made by Member DeBord to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Steffen, DeMay, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried. Member Salisbury was absent.

At 7:41 pm President Johnson called for a motion to adjourn Sine Die and re-enter the regular meeting. Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. A voice vote was heard with all present Members voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried. Member Salisbury was absent.

SINE DIE

INVITED GUESTS

Brady Clark was honored with a Board Resolution for being named IHSA 4A Football First Team All-State. The Resolution was presented by Mrs. Baney to Brady Clark and Coach Matt Taylor.

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 VI, VII & VIII. Member DeMay seconded the motion made by Member Steffen to approve consent Items VI, VII & VIII. The roll showed Members DeBord, Christiansen, Steffen, DeMay, Dev, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried. Member Salisbury was absent.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

Ruth Kapacinskas, KEA President, stated that she wanted to make sure that the Board was aware that when deciding pay raises for individuals not covered by the Collective Bargaining Agreement that the same amount does not need to be applied. She stated that it is at the Board's discretion to choose a different percentage or flat amount. She stated that historically it has been the same percentage as the Bargaining Unit applied to Administrators. She stated that is part of the reason that the average District Administrator's salary is \$4000 above the average administrator salary for the State. She stated that 5% applied to a \$90,000 salary is a different take home dollar amount than 5% applied to a \$50,000 salary.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent

State of IL FY 2024 Budget/ISBE FY 2025 Budget

Dr. Sullens stated that State Legislators will start to plan for the FY24 budget when they return to Springfield in January. He stated that he hopes that legislators continue to contribute additional funding to the Evidence Based Funding formula. He stated that we benefit from this model as a District.

Winter Break Cleaning & Maintenance Projects

Dr. Sullens stated the maintenance department has a lot planned for the break. He stated that crews are working to prepare for the replacement of water lines at Irving.

Good Fellows Baskets

Dr. Sullens stated that it is estimated that 900 Good Fellows Food Baskets will be delivered this year. He stated that it is great to see our kids involved in this service project.

Winter Programs and Concerts

Dr. Sullens stated that the winter programs and concerts this year were phenomenal. He stated that the Central Choir Concert was the next night. He informed the Board that staff did a great job of putting the events on.

FOIA Requests

Dr. Sullens stated that all FOIA requests received were processed. He stated that the requests received are the requests we receive almost monthly.

County Sales Tax for Tax Year 2023 Projects Included: Bond Payments, KHS Ag Project, KHS Stadium Turf Project

Dr. Sullens stated that the countywide sales tax this year was used to pay the bond payments and the debt certificate. He stated that the amount received each year has grown over the years and is a tremendous asset to the District.

Collective Bargaining Agreement/Dental Insurance

Dr. Sullens stated that within the Collective Bargaining Agreement that was approved last month there was a discrepancy with the dental insurance coverage listed and the current plan. He stated that he was working on a bridge plan to be able to meet all requirements in the CBA.

Mr. Atwell-KHS Athletic Director

KHS Winter Sports Update

Mr. Atwell gave the Board dates and locations for the winter sport Regionals and Sectionals.

Mr. Anderson-Central Principal

Kewanee Public Library-State Reading Guidelines

Mr. Anderson stated that in May 2023 the Illinois General Assembly passed initiatives for ISBE to design a plan to improve literacy in the classroom. He stated that there were three goals listed for the plan, for the students to receive high quality evidence based literacy instruction, for educators to be prepared and continuously teach literacy, and for leaders in building to help and maintain the plan. He stated that over the summer ISBE had a focus group to come up with the plan. In October, a second reading was held at Kewanee Public Library and area administrators and teachers were invited. Mr. Anderson stated that staff from the ROE, two area school districts, along with himself and Dr. Sullens attended. He stated that in January 2024 the plan will be released with the suggestions that were given. He stated that the literacy plan focuses what schools should be doing with their literacy programs.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Lyle Addition

Dr. Sullens stated that we are officially moved into the addition at Lyle. Member Christiansen stated she had received feedback from the therapists using the space and they appreciate it.

Belle Solar Farm Update-Finalization of the Contract

Dr. Sullens stated that legal counsel had finalized the Belle solar farm project contract. He stated that the highlights of the contract were a development term fee of \$30 per acre, a one-time donation of \$35,000 to the District, rent of \$2000 per acre with a 2% escalator clause for each year, and a \$10,000 per year scholarship during the life of the project with an annual increase of 2%. Dr. Sullens stated that District legal counsel has reviewed the contract. Dr. Sullens recommended approving the contract for the Belle solar farm. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Christiansen, Steffen, DeMay, Dev, DeBord, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried. Member Salisbury was absent.

Consideration and Approval of New & Revised Policies: 2:20; 2:120; 2:150-AP; 2:200; 2:220; 2:220-E2; 2:220-E6; 4:10; 4:30; 4:60; 4:60-AP1; 4:130; 4:130-E; 4:160; 4:160-AP; 4:170; 4:170-AP1; 5:30; 5:50; 5:90-AP1; 5:120-AP2; 5:150-AP; 5:190; 5:200; 5:210; 5:220; 5:250; 5:285-AP; 5:330; 6:15; 6:30; 6:50; 6:60; 6:60-AP1; 6:230; 7:60; 7:70; 7:160; 7:190; 7:190-AP9; 7:270; 7:270-AP2; 7:285; 7:285-AP; 7:290; 7:290-AP; 7:345; 7:345-AP; 8:30

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the new and revised policies as presented. Member Dev seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen to approve. The roll call vote showed Steffen, DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried. Member Salisbury was absent.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval of Bank Account Changes

Dr. Sullens recommending approving the bank account changes as presented in the Board packet. Member Steffen seconded a motion made by Member DeBord to approve. The roll call vote showed DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Steffen, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried. Member Salisbury was absent.

Consideration and Approval of Bus Bids

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the bid from Central States Bus Sales, Inc. for five buses. He stated the cost would be \$463,750 for the five gasoline buses with five trade-ins. He stated that in the past we have done a five-year lease. He informed the Board this time we plan on soliciting lease rates from the three local banking institutions. He stated that this will occur closer to the delivery date of the buses. Member DeMay seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Steffen, DeMay, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried. Member Salisbury was absent.

Consideration and Approval of Central School 10 Year Life Safety Report

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the 10 Year Health Life Safety Report for Central School as presented. He stated that the maintenance department will start working on a plan for the items on the reports. Member Dev seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members DeBord, Christiansen, Steffen, DeMay, Dev, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried. Member Salisbury was absent.

Consideration and Approval of Pay Raises for Employees Not Covered by the Collective Bargaining Agreement

Dr. Sullens recommended approving raises for employees not covered by the Collective Bargaining Agreement. He recommended approving a five percent raise for Certified staff members and \$1.50 per hour raise for non-certified staff members. Member Johnson seconded a motion made by Member DeBord to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Christiansen, Steffen, DeMay, Dev, DeBord, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried. Member Salisbury was absent.

Consideration and Approval of Superintendent Contract (Mrs. Baney)

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the Superintendent Contract as presented in the Board packet. Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Steffen, DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried. Member Salisbury was absent.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION PERSONNEL:

Resignations

Brittney Krohn	KHS Drum Line Advisor
Maya Padilla	Belle Aide-Effective 12/31/2023
Amber Barker	21 st Century After School Program

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

Retirements

None

Hires

Ana Gerard	Belle Kindergarten Teacher-2 nd Semester 2023-2024-pending certification approval
Brittney Krohn	KHS Assistant Band Director
Emma Reidner	KHS Head Tennis Coach
Kristen Adkison	KHS Assistant Tennis Coach
Jennifer Edwards	Central 5 th /6 th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
Hall Keene	Central 5 th /6 th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
Gloria Guerrero	Central Bilingual Aide
Cassandra Young	Central 2 nd Shift F/T Custodian
Leisa Damron	Cafeteria Sub
Jan Norton	Cafeteria Sub
Ana Gerard	21 st Century Teacher at Belle

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

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

Leaves

None

Long Term Subs

Suzanne Burkhart	Central 6 th Grade Teacher for 2 nd Semester of the 2023-2024 School Year
------------------	---

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

Transfers

Yadira Gonzalez Chaparro	From Central F/T 2 nd Shift Custodian to Central F/T 1 st Shift Custodian
Sherry Eggleston	From KHS P/T One on One Aide to KHS F/T One on One Aide

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

Volunteers

Cindy Rehmer-Ruemker	Floral Design at KHS
Clem Ruemker	Floral Design at KHS
Greg Anderson	KHS Dance Team

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

Student Teachers

None

OTHER ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

Cody Robertson	Field Experience (Observation) in Mr. Henegar's Classroom at Central Junior High
----------------	--

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above listed item. Member Steffen seconded a motion made by Member DeBord to approve. The roll call vote showed Members DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Steffen, and Johnson all voting aye. There

were no nay votes. The motion carried. Member Salisbury was absent.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Member Johnson stated that the Board looks forward to working with Mrs. Baney in the future as the Superintendent.

Moment of Silence for Robert “Bob” Hardy-Father of Robin Hampton (Bus Aide) and Father-in-law of Larry Hampton (Bus Driver)

Moment of Silence for Linda Bolls-Director of the Salvation Army and Sister of Don Billiet (former Board Member)

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

JEFF JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

JON DEBORD, SECRETARY