

**KEWANEE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #229
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING-MARCH 18, 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, Steffen, and Johnson. Member Salisbury was absent. 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. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

At 7:24 pm Member DeMay 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. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL FOR OPEN SESSION MEETING

President Johnson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 pm. 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, T Atwell, T Brown, J Bates, J Doan, A Minx, A McDowell, T Baney, J Bartelt, D Brants, D Hodge-Bates, G Wertheim, M Berry from the Kewanee Voice, 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

Greg Wertheim, Director of the Henry Stark Special Education District addressed the Board. Mr. Wertheim gave the Board demographic information for the District students receiving special education services. He stated that the District generally has about 17-19% of the students receiving some level of services. He stated that next year the District is projected to have 18.1% of students receiving services. Mr. Wertheim stated that he had also given the Board information on the number of students receiving services statewide and in the Co-op.

Dr. Sullens stated that Ms. Safiran was unable to attend the meeting and would be presenting to the Board at the April meeting. He stated that at that time she would be presenting information about an exchange program in Costa Rica.

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, Steffen and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

None

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent

State of Illinois FY25 Education Budget

Dr. Sullens stated that legislators have started working on the State budget for next year. He stated that legislators are

deciding what programs are receiving funding and the amount of funding.

Federal FY25 Budget-Request 3.9% Increase

Dr. Sullens stated that legislators are requesting a 3.9% budget increase in the in the Federal government budget.

Legislative Education Bills

Dr. Sullens stated that there is over one hundred education bills are in the early stages of being debated by legislators.

FOIA Requests

Dr. Sullens stated that the District fulfilled all FOIA requests this month.

Central Jr. High Golf Program

Dr. Sullens stated that an update on the survey for the Central Jr. High Golf program will be presented and a vote will take place at the April Board Meeting.

Summer Maintenance

Dr. Sullens stated that the maintenance staff is getting ready for the summer maintenance projects. He stated that staff is currently maintaining the District boilers as we are still in heating season.

Mrs. Baney-KHS Principal

KHS Testing Schedule

Mrs. Baney informed the Board that the SAT and PSAT will be given to ninth and tenth graders on April 17th. She stated that this year testing will be all digital and that the program has been preloaded onto Chromebooks for students.

KHS Group Interp and Contest Play

Mrs. Baney informed the Board that it was a successful weekend for Group Interp and Contest Play. She stated that both groups traveled to Belleville West High School for the Sectional. She stated that there are six Sectionals in the State. The top two in Contest Play advance to State and the top three advance in Group Interp. Mrs. Baney stated that in Contest Play Trivian Massens was named to the All Sectional Cast. She stated that unfortunately KHS Contest Play didn't advance to State. Mrs. Baney stated that Group Interp won the Sectional Championship and that eight students were named to All Sectional Cast. She stated that they included Cooper Bates, Laryn Conley, Victoria Dennison, Isaac Lynes, Tessa Mitchell, Claire Olalde, Marcos Torres, and Bethany VanWassenhove. Mrs. Baney informed the Board that Group Interp will compete at State on Friday in Sterling.

Dr. Sullens stated that there was an open performance for both Contest Play and Group Interp. He stated that the District is very proud of both programs.

Mr. Atwell-KHS Athletic Director

Spring Sports Update

Mr. Atwell updated the Board on the Spring Sports Season. He stated that Brady Clark was named Illinois Media Class 2A All-State Boys Basketball-Honorable Mention and Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Class 2A-3rd Team All State. Mr. Atwell informed the Board that Brady Clark and Blaise Lewis were named to the TRAC Boys Basketball 1st team All-Conference. He stated that Mya Dearing was named to the TRAC Girls Basketball 1st team All-Conference and Alex Duarte was named to the TRAC Wrestling 1st team All-Conference. Mr. Atwell informed the Board that this spring Girls Track has 26 students and Boys Track has 25 students. He stated that Softball has 16 girls out and Baseball has 12 each on Varsity and Fresh/Soph.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval of Kewanee Personnel for 2024-2025 School Year

Vote #1: Consideration and Approval of Kewanee 2024-2025 Probation and Tenure List

Dr. Sullens recommending approving the 2024-2025 Probation and Tenure List as presented in the Board packet. Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Steffen, DeMay, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

Vote #2: Consideration and Approval of Resolution Authorizing Notice of Non-Renewal and Dismissal of Probationary Teacher

No vote needed.

Vote #3: Other-Additional individual names as requested by Board Members

No vote needed.

Consideration and Approval of KHS IHSA Membership Renewal for 2024-2025 School Year

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the KHS IHSA Membership Renewal. Member DeMay 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 heard. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of 2024-2025 District Calendar

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the 2024-2025 District Calendar as presented. Dr. Sullens stated that it had gone through the calendar committee process. Member Dev seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Christiansen, Steffen, DeMay, DeBord, Dev, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of KHS Handbook Changes

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

Consideration and Approval of Application for Funding Grant for Middle School Agricultural Education Program

Dr. Sullens recommended approving District staff to begin the application process for a Middle School Agricultural Education Program. He stated that part of the process involves looking at the Junior High Schedules and how to add a vocational program. He stated that the program would be at both Central and Neponset. Member DeMay seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Steffen, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of KHS Early Graduates for 2024

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

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION PERSONNEL:

Resignations

Elise Swinford	P/T Neponset Music Teacher-Effective 5/23/24
Alexis Ruemker	KHS Ag Teacher-Effective 6/30/24
Alexis Ruemker	KHS Bowling Coach-Effective Immediately
Chelsea Hamerlinck	Central Jr. High Cheer Coach-Effective 1/26/24
Matt Clark	KHS Head Boys Basketball Coach-Effective Immediately

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

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

Retirements

Carl Rohrig Bus Driver-Effective 5/24/24

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

Hires

Brett VanDeWostine	KHS Math Teacher for the 2024-2025 School Year
Trenton Terry	KHS Science Teacher for the 2024-2025 School Year
Annie Johnson	Agriculture Teacher for the 2024-2025 School Year
Karen Raschke	Central Jr. High 8 th Grade Social Studies Teacher for the 2024-2025 School Year
Scott Endress	Central ESL Teacher for the 2024-2025 School Year
Abbie Hamilton	Full Time District Substitute Teacher-Effective 4/20/24
Bob Dybdal	Bus Driver

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, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

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

Student Teacher

None

Long Term Sub

None

Transfers

Bree Kirsch	From Central 5 th Grade Teacher to Central Title I Math Teacher Grades 4-6
Daymon McDowell	From Central Jr. High 8 th Grade Math Teacher to Central Jr. High Title I Teacher
Gretchen Arzola	From Central Jr. High 8 th Grade Language Arts to Instructional Coach
Jake Saey	From KHS Site Coordinator/Substitute Teacher to District Payroll/Personnel

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

Volunteers

Nikki Kubiak Central Jr. High Track Coach

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above listed volunteer. 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. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

Renewal/Non-Renewal of Stipend Positions

None

OTHER ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

Consideration and Approval of Denial of Access to School Property for 12 months

Dr. Sullens recommended to approving the ban of Parent A-2024 from all School District property for one calendar year for

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reasons enumerated in Closed Session. Member Steffen seconded a motion made by Member Dev to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Christiansen, Steffen, DeMay, Dev, DeBord, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of Sending a Letter to Parent

Dr. Sullens recommended to approving the sending a letter to Parent B-2024 outlining expectations as enumerated in Closed Session. 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. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jason Bates, parent, stated that he wanted to thank the Baneyns for attending the Competitive Theater Sectional and for their support. He stated he also wanted to thank the Board for allowing the students to go and that he understood that there was an expense for that. Mr. Bates stated that KHS not only won the Sectional they won it against Joliet West, Glenbard South, Glenview, and Lockport which are enormous schools.

President Johnson stated that his wife wanted him to recognize the Kewanee High School Key Club for the honors they received at the Key Club Convention. He stated that he hopes to invite them to next month's meeting.

Dr. Sullens stated that Brady Clark was competing in an All-Star game at Augustana College tonight.

Moment of Silence for Wayne Becker-Father-in-law of Joan Becker (Central Nurse) and Former Kewanee Schools Foundation Board Member

Moment of Silence for Marty Chapman-Cousin of Joan Becker (Central Nurse)

Moment of Silence for Phil Good-Father-in-law of Bob Dybdal (Bus Driver)

Moment of Silence for Caroline Lusher-Sister-in-law of Karen Colwell (KHS Cafeteria)

Moment of Silence for Ellie Hanning-Retired Belle Alexander School Aide

Moment of Silence for Dr. Harry Arvanis-UTHS Board Member, Wrestling Coach, and Black Hawk Division Vice Chairman

Moment of Silence for Ronald Tuisl-Former Interim Superintendent of Kewanee Schools

Moment of Silence for the five people that died in the Rushville bus accident

ADJOURNMENT

Member Dev seconded a motion made by Member DeBord 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. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

JEFF JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

JON DEBORD, SECRETARY