

KEWANEE COMM SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MARCH 21, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL FOR SPECIAL 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, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson. Superintendent Sullens was also present for the Closed Session. Member Dev was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

At 6:00pm Member Stabler 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/2021*. Voice roll vote showed all present Members voting aye. The motion carried. Member Dev was absent.

At 7:20pm Member Steffen seconded a motion made by Member Stabler to adjourn the Closed Session meeting. Voicercall was heard with all present Members voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried. Member Dev was absent.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL FOR OPEN SESSION MEETING

President Johnson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:31pm. This Open Session continued in the Petersen Auditorium at Kewanee High School. Roll call showed the following Board Members present: Stabler, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson. Member Dev was absent. The audience included staff members: R Baney, T Brown, J Anderson, J Bryan, T Atwell, and J Russell from the Kewanee Radio Station. Recording secretary H Hughes and Superintendent C Sullens were in attendance as well.

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

Mya Mirocha, Kadin Rednour, and Max Kelly, State Qualifiers, were rescheduled for the April Board Meeting.

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

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

None

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent

State of Illinois FY23 Education Budget-EBF (Evidence Based Funding)

Dr. Sullens stated the State is still working on the FY23 Budget. Legislators have decided this year to discuss the budget earlier than normal. It is hoped the budget will be finalized in April. Dr. Sullens stated that he planned to contact Representative Swanson in regards to the State Budget and encourage his support of the EBF funding model. Dr. Sullens stated that he hopes the Legislature will support the Budget that the Governor has proposed.

KHS Group Interp and Contest Play

Dr. Sullens stated that the KHS Group Interp and Contest Play performed at Sectionals in Chatham, Illinois over the weekend. Contest Play placed third. Group Interp placed first and qualified to move on to the Finals. The finals will be held in Oak Lawn. KHS Group Interp has qualified for State the last 16 years. The exception was when the finals were cancelled due to COVID. Dr. Sullens stated that this was the first year that the State Finals will be held in Oak Lawn. They have previously been held at the University of Illinois Springfield and the Peoria Civic Center. Dr. Sullens also announced that multiple students have been named All-Sectional.

Miscellaneous

Dr. Sullens informed the Board that Kewanee was well represented at the IHSA State Tournaments this year. Brimfield High School won the girls basketball State Championship and was coached by Kewanee native Maribeth Egert Dura. She was a graduate with the KHS Class of 1979. Andy Saey was the coach for Rockridge this year. The team placed fourth at the tournament. He is a former KHS coach and a graduate of KHS. Former coach Eric Long was an Assistant Coach for his son's team that won the 1A championship.

Dr. Sullens wanted address the public comments made at the February Board meeting about bullying at Kewanee High School. The subject of bullying was brought up by a parent at the last meeting. Dr. Sullens stated that there are policies and procedures in place on bullying and that they are being followed. These include Board Policies and policies that are in the student handbook at KHS. Dr. Sullens stated that he had looked into the situation and that it will continue to be monitored. Staff at the high school work with parents in contacting the police if necessary for issues that arise outside of school.

Mr. Bryan – KHS Principal

KHS Testing Schedule

Mr. Bryan informed the Board that Kewanee High School will be administering testing again this year. The PSAT 8-9 will be given to the ninth graders, the PSAT 10 will be given to the tenth graders, and the SAT will be given to the eleventh graders on April 13th. The seniors will out in the community visiting and exploring various career options. Willie Burford with Kiwanis is helping to set it up. The Illinois Science Assessment will be given on April 27th to the eleventh graders.

Mr. Atwell-KHS Athletic Director

Spring Sport Update

Mr. Atwell informed the Board that Niko Powe had been selected to the Illinois Basketball Association Class 2A All-State Team. He was also named a first team athlete for the TRAC. Kadin Rednour qualified for the IHSA State Wrestling tournament at 152 pounds. Mr. Atwell also mentioned that that Mya Mirocha qualified for the IHSA Bowling Tournament in Rockford. She was just one or two pins shy of competing on Saturday. Mr. Atwell informed the Board of the spring sports numbers. This spring, Kewanee High School has 25 out for Girls Track, 21 for Boys Track, 18 are out for Softball, and Baseball has 13 Varsity and 18 fresh/soph. The total of 95 out for spring sports is up one from last year.

Mr. Anderson- Central Principal

Bree (Summers) Kirsch- Channel 8 News Teacher of the Year

Mr. Anderson informed the Board that Mrs. Kirsch was surprised by Jim Mertens from Channel 8 News. She was honored as a Teacher of the Year. She was nominated by one of her students. Only five teachers are honored from the Channel 8 viewing area. Dr. Sullens added his congratulations.

Mr. Anderson also mentioned that Central had two 8th grade wrestlers qualify for State this year. Douglas Swearingen and Kingston Peterson qualified. Douglas Swearingen finished 6th at the State Tournament.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

KHS Welding/Cafeteria and Fine Arts Storage Project

Dr. Sullens reported the Fine Arts Storage Area is complete. After the Foundation concert on Wednesday band equipment will be moved in. The graduation stage will also be moved into the space. The cafeteria is completed and after Spring Break will be at full occupancy levels. The welding addition has finally received the last of the materials needed. During Spring Break crews will complete the project and Kathy Marshall from the ROE will come in to finalize the project. After break the space will be available to the students.

Various Gym/Cafeteria HVAC Projects

Dr. Sullens stated that crews are continuing to make progress but are waiting for materials for some of the projects. Sullens Gym at Central and Irving are close to be completed and should be done in April. The other buildings will be up and running after Spring Break.

Turf Field Update

Dr. Sullens stated that the Turf Committee has been meeting every Thursday going over all aspects of the project. The committee is excited for the project to begin. Byrne and Jones is committed to having the project complete by August 15th.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval of Kewanee Personnel for 2022-2023 School Year.

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the 2022-2023 Probation and Tenure list provided. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Salisbury to approve The roll call vote showed Members DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, Stabler, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. Member Dev was absent. The motion carried.

All staff was voted on with Vote #1. Therefore, vote #2 and vote #3 were not required.

Consideration and Approval of Resolution for Musco Sports Lighting, LLC and Sourcewell Cooperative to install new lights at the Kewanee High School football stadium and relocation of current lights.

Dr. Sullens stated that unfortunately he didn't have a finalized quotation print-out for this project. This is due to Musco Lighting having their computer system crash. The turf committee believes that this lighting project will enhance the upcoming turf project. Musco Lighting installed the current stadium lighting in 2009. These lights replaced the lighting that had been installed in the 1950s. The recommendation for this project is to retrofit the current lighting with LED. This change will increase the "foot candle" of the lighting. The quoted cost for this upgrade is \$182,500. The second part of the plan is to relocate the existing lights to the surrounding practice fields. These include the soccer field to the north of the high school, the practice field along 3rd Street north of the track, and Central field across the street. There would be four poles located along 3rd Street and Maple and a series of lights near the bleachers at Central field. The relocation of the lighting is quoted to cost \$215,000. Dr. Sullens stated that the cost is due to buying poles and having to connect to the transformer near the scoreboard. Connecting to the transformer by the scoreboard will require the use of a large amount of wiring. But the only other option is to install a transformer on the north side of the field near 3rd Street and overall that cost is even greater. Dr. Sullens explained that the cost of wiring is very expensive at this time. The LED lighting has a twenty-five-year maintenance agreement. Dr. Sullens stated that he understands that there is sticker shock with the amount but it is a one-time expense. Therefore, Dr. Sullens recommended approving the retrofit of lighting as well as the relocation of the existing lighting. President Johnson called for a motion to approve. Member Salisbury made the motion to approve. Member DeBord seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed Members Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, Stabler, DeBord, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Member Dev was absent. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of KHS IHSA Membership Renewal for 2022-2023 School Year

Dr. Sullens stated there is no fee for the renewal of the IHSA membership for the 2022-2023 school year.

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the KHS IHSA membership renewal for the 2022-2023 school year. President Johnson called for a motion to approve. Member Christiansen seconded the motion made by Member Steffen to approve the renewal. The roll call vote showed Members Salisbury, Steffen, Stabler, DeBord, Christiansen, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Member Dev was absent. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of Revised ESSER III Plan

Dr. Sullens informed the Board that when the prior ESSER III plan was presented the projects were listed in order of priority. The prior plan included architect fees for the projects, air cleaners for existing HVAC units, KHS cafeteria, Belle gym, Neponset pre-k classroom and STEM classroom, Belle classrooms and additional classrooms at KHS. At this time the KHS classrooms project is being put on hold until additional funds become available. This is due to the increased costs of other projects. He stated that the District wants to ensure we can fully fund the Belle gym and Ag addition projects.

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the revised ESSER III Plan. President Johnson called for a motion to approve. Member Salisbury seconded the motion made by Member DeBord to approve the updated plan. The roll call vote showed Members Steffen, Stabler, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Member Dev was absent. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of Bids for KHS Ag Addition and New Belle Gym

Dr. Sullens stated that the Board packet included bids for all areas of the Ag Addition and Belle Gym projects. There was a good turnout for the bid openings. Dr. Sullens stated that they were a little disappointed that there weren't more bids from the steel companies. Chris Roginski and the architect had been on the phone with steel companies. All of the bids came in more than what was expected. But right now the material costs are outrageous and it isn't looking to get better. Dr. Sullens said that with these projects we are looking to use ESSER III funds to invest in the future generations. Bids for the Ag Addition at KHS came in at \$2,491,807. The final total that will include the cost of a construction manager and the architect fees will be \$2,965,250.30. The Ag Addition project was bid with four alternate options. These options included expanding the office by five feet or by ten feet or expanding the classroom by five feet or ten feet. Dr. Sullens recommends approving the project with the expansion of the classroom by ten feet. This will increase the cost of the project \$63,543. Dr. Sullens stated that he sees this extension of square footage to be used for as FFA space. With the addition of a half time Ag teacher for next year along with Mrs. Callahan. Dr. Sullens stated that he sees the Ag program continuing to grow. The cost per square foot of this addition will be \$180. The addition will include a shop area, restrooms, a classroom, office space, and an ag science classroom.

The Belle gym project came in thirty percent higher than what was expected. The bids came in with a total of \$2,223,444 and with the addition of architect fees a total of \$2,600,000. The gym project will give Belle students additional PE space, an area for indoor recess, and space for the after school program. The area will also be available for high school sports. Dr. Sullens stated that the total for both projects would be \$5,675,000. These funds will come from the bonds sold previously of \$2,500,000 and ESSER III funds of \$2,700,000.

Dr. Sullens stated that it leaves \$475,000 left to fund and he is confident that it will work within the budget. Dr. Sullens recommended approving the bids for the two projects at a total of \$5,675,000. President Johnson called for a motion to approve. Member Stabler seconded the motion made by Member Steffen to approve the updated plan. The roll call vote showed Members Stabler, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Member Dev was absent. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of 2022-2023 School Calendar

Dr. Sullens state that the Calendar Committee had discussed the 2022-2023 School Calendar and an option was decided on. The selected calendar is similar to the current year calendar. November 8th is a legal holiday in Illinois for Election day so school won't be in attendance on that day. Veterans Day will be an attendance day with programs held at the schools. Once again Wednesday before Thanksgiving will be a non-attendance day. Winter break will start on Wednesday before

Christmas with students and staff returning on Wednesday after New Year's Day. Spring Break will be the last week of March. Students and staff will also be off on Good Friday. The Monday after Easter will be an emergency day if necessary, but with the remote learning days it is unlikely to be needed.

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the calendar as presented. President Johnson called for a motion to approve. Member Steffen made a motion and Member Christiansen seconded it. The roll call vote showed Members DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, Stabler, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Member Dev was absent. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of Bus Bids

Dr. Sullens stated that bids for buses were opened today and there was only one bidder. The other company that normally bids decided not to this year. Midwest Transit Equipment didn't feel they would be able to deliver buses on time due to production issues. Central States Bus Sales has won the bids the last few years. Dr. Sullens stated that the cost of a new bus has increased 18-19%. The trade in values are up as well. Central States Bus Sales is optimistic they will have them delivered before the start of school in August.

The bid is for two 41 passenger buses and for one 71 passenger bus. These buses will have air conditioning. The bid for the three buses is \$279,380. The District will be trading in a 30 passenger bus.

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the bid from Central States Bus Sales. President Johnson called for a motion to approve. Member Salisbury seconded the motion made by Member Christiansen to approve the bus bid. The roll call vote showed Members Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, Stabler, DeBord, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Member Dev was absent. The motion carried.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

PERSONNEL:

Resignations

Central ISS Supervisor
KHS Swim Coach

Jaquelyn Schmidgall
Julie Fristad

End of School Year 2021-2022

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

Retirements

None

Hires

KHS Softball Assistant Coach
Belle 1st Grade Teacher for 2022-23 School Year
Cafeteria Substitute
Cafeteria Substitute
Central 21st Century Teacher

Donna Havelka
Brooke Hicks
Kara Gartin
Autumn Sieler
Jill Peart

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

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

Leaves

None

Long Term Subs

None

Transfers

David Souba From Regular Bus Driver (3 hours per day) to Regular Bus Driver (3 hours per day)/Neponset 12-month Custodian (5 hours per day)

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

Volunteers

Michael Ufkin KHS Tennis Coach for 2022-2023 School Year

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

Renewal/Non-Renewal of Stipend Positions

None

OTHER ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION**Hires**

Heidi Nerud Central Computer Teacher for 2022-2023 School Year

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

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

None

COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Sullens stated that he wanted to thank the Board for approving the projects at tonight's meeting. He understands that there were some large numbers there. Unfortunately, the material costs don't look to be going down anytime soon. We still have two projects that we are looking at bidding out this year. Dr. Sullens stated that he hoped to bring bids for the Neponset classroom addition and the Belle classroom project to the Board at April's meeting. He mentioned these were smaller scale projects and the costs should be lower. Dr. Sullens stated that he was proud of how the District's facilities are benefiting the students and how staff is using them.

Member Christiansen mentioned that she would like to see the District open up the facilities for public viewing. She stated that many people are unaware of all the District has to offer. Dr. Sullens agreed that is something the District needs to work on. Member Christiansen said that when people were attending a Foundation event they were surprised at the facilities that were available.

Dr. Sullens informed the Board that the KHS Class of 1972 is looking at doing a fundraising event in cooperation with the Foundation. An announcement will be made at a later date.

Dr. Sullens also thanked Member DeBord for the use of the LOTT for the KHS baseball and softball programs.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The open meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

JEFF JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

JON DEBORD, SECRETARY