

**KEWANEE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #229
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING-MAY 15, 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 6:04pm, Member Dev 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. The motion carried.

At 7:22 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 7:32pm. 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, J Anderson, D Hodge-Bates, C Douglas, T Atwell, R Kapacinskas, J Oetzel, S Oetzel, W Corral, M Maxon, S Dev, A Wyant, J Moon, V Miles, C Eads, K Jurgensen, Gretchen Arzola, A Hawkins, K Laue, J Bartelt, M Nelson, A Clementz, R Miller, K Johnson, C Weir, H Abernathy, B Hicks, E Allen, S Titlow, B Krohn, L Brown, R Smyth, A Kluever, B Castillo, N Enderle, P Evans, H Olalde, A Lutz, D Hansen, J Vickrey, L Anderson, L Yarger, K Buerk, A Miler, N Hodge, E Robinson, C Hamerlinck, R Price, A Ralston, B Kirsch, L Nolan, R Allen, R Carton, K Carton, T Baney, K Yelm, J Bennett, K Murphy, P Schneider, J Chapman, A Baptiste, A Binek, members of the KHS band and choir, 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

Greg Wertheim-Henry/Stark Special Education District Director

Greg Wertheim, Henry Stark Special Education Director, stated that he tries to visit each District each year. Mr. Wertheim gave the Board the historical numbers of special education students for the District. The District consistently has 18% of its students qualify for special education services. These numbers include speech services. The State average of students being served is 14%. Mr. Wertheim stated that when ESSER funds were dispersed, Henry/Stark received \$1,000,000. He allocated those funds to the Districts within the Co-op based on enrollment numbers. Dr. Sullens stated that the District was planning on using the approximately \$400,000 it receives to build the addition at Lyle School. Mr. Wertheim stated he felt the funds were being put to good use.

Kyle Joos and McKenzie Carton-State FFA District 1 Proficiency Winners

FFA Members, Kyle Joos and McKenzie Carton, were honored with Board Resolutions. Kyle Joos received High Honors for his Supervised Agriculture Experiences in Agriculture Mechanics/Maintenance and Repair Placement Proficiency Award. He was unanimously named the Section 3 Winner. This advanced him to compete at District 1 interviews, placing him in the Top 5 at State Awards day in Decatur. Mrs. Baney presented the Board Resolution to Kyle Joos and his advisors, Lexi Ruemker and Kindra Callahan.

McKenzie Carton received High Honors for her Supervised Agriculture Experiences in Food Service Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award. She was named the Section 3 winner, advancing her to District 1 interviews. This placed her in the Top

5 at State Awards day in Decatur. Mrs. Baney presented the Board Resolution to McKenzie Carton and her advisors, Lexi Ruemker and Kindra Callahan.

KHS Band and Choir-Runner Up in the IHSA Solo Ensemble Organizational Contest Class B

The KHS Band and Choir with their Directors, Alex Binek, Brittany Krohn, and Katie Yelm, were presented a Board Resolution by Mrs. Baney. They were honored for their 2nd Place finish overall in Class B in the IHSA Music Sweepstakes Series with 834 total points. The KHS Band and Choir earned a school record of 534 points and 164 Division 1 Medals at the Solo and Ensemble Contest at Monmouth-Roseville High School. The Organizational Music Contest that was held at Kewanee High School and KHS participants scored a state maximum of 300 points. The Board Resolution was presented for their outstanding achievement and success during the season.

Before Mrs. Baney presented the Board Resolution to the KHS Band and Choir, Senior members of the Band presented the School Board and Dr. Sullens with Honorary Class B Runner-up IHSA medals.

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 Christiansen seconded the motion made by Member DeBord 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

Jeff Johnson-Elected to the IASB Board of Directors for the Blackhawk Division. 21 Directors in the State of Illinois and 23 Districts in the Blackhawk Division

Dr. Sullens congratulated President Johnson for being elected to the IASB Board of Directors for the Blackhawk Division. There are 21 Directors in the State of Illinois and there are 23 School Districts within the Blackhawk Division. President Johnson thanked Dr. Sullens. He stated that he doesn't foresee any interference with serving on the Kewanee Board. Although it may change what sessions he is able to attend at the Annual Board Conference. Dr. Sullens stated that he looks forward to being able to host Blackhawk Division meetings at Kewanee High School.

Congratulations to our Retirees: Robert Dybdal, Kim Ellenberger, and Sarah Titlow

Dr. Sullens congratulated Bob Dybdal, Kim Ellenberger, Sarah Titlow, and Steve Hill on their retirement. Bob Dybdal worked at Central Junior High for 16 years, Kim Ellenberger worked 24 years as an elementary teacher, Sarah Titlow worked 33 years at Kewanee High School, and Steve Hill worked in various positions in the District for 37 years. Dr. Sullens wished them the best in their retirements.

Summer Food Program Sites: Central School, KHS, Neponset Grade School, Belle, Irving, Lyle, YMCA, and Fairview/Housing Authority

The District will once again be holding a Summer food program during the months of June and July.

Review of 2022/2023 Budget

Dr. Sullens stated that he will be presenting an amended budget at next month's meeting. The changes will represent the land purchases that have been made this year. It will also reflect the different revenues and expenditures that were not expected.

FOIA Requests

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

OSF St. Luke Medical Center Innovation Hub Ceremony

Dr. Sullens stated that there was a ceremony held for the opening of the OSF St. Luke Medical Center Innovation Hub. Dr. Sullens and Mrs. Baney were invited to attend. Member Christiansen stated that it was the second hub outside of the Peoria JUMP Innovation Center. She stated that OSF is looking forward to using that space as well as the innovation

opportunities to work with the local school districts. Member Christiansen stated that OSF is looking to bring STEAM educational opportunities to the schools also. Dr. Sullens stated that he is looking forward to the experiences that the students will be offered.

Mrs. Hodge-Bates-Neponset Principal

Neponset Track Update

Mrs. Hodge-Bates stated that the Neponset Track team finished their track season. She stated that two weeks ago they competed at the Wethersfield Sectional and many of the athletes placed in the top 5 for their event. Neponset had one State Qualifier, Adiel Arjon. Adiel Arjon qualified in the shot put at 35 feet and 8.5 inches. He placed 16th at the State Tournament.

Mr. Atwell-KHS Athletic Director

Sports Update

Mr. Atwell gave the Board an update on the KHS Spring sports. He stated the Girls Track Team had two State Qualifiers, Larissa Meyer and Makenna Peed. Larissa Meyer qualified in the High Jump and Makenna Peed qualified in the Wheelchair Division for Shotput, Discus, 100 meter, and 200 meter. They will compete May 19 and 20 at Eastern Illinois University. The Boys Track Team will compete at Geneseo on May 17. The IHSA Track Meet will be at EIU on May 26 and 27. The Softball Team will play in Regional Semifinal against Bureau Valley at Princeton on May 17th. The Baseball team played in the Regional Quarterfinal versus Erie-Prophetstown today and won 3-2. They will play Sherrard at Princeton tomorrow.

Mr. Atwell stated that two track athletes were named TRAC Conference Champions. Larissa Meyer was named in the High Jump and Dontaveon Thomas in Triple Jump and High Jump. Mr. Atwell also stated that the KHS Track Team won the Boys Title and the Combined Title at the Brockman Relays. The girls team placed second. Larissa Meyer and Will Taylor were named the Brockman Relays Queen and King.

Mrs. Baney-KHS Principal

KHS Prom

Mrs. Baney stated that Prom was held May 6th in Brockman Gymnasium. The theme was "Around the World." Mrs. Baney thanked the students, parents and staff that were involved. She also stated that Graduation would be held on Sunday at 1 pm in Brockman Gymnasium. Mrs. Baney mentioned that the Senior Class is going on their trip Thursday and graduation practice and Senior Assembly will be on Friday.

Mr. Anderson-Central Principal

Central Strawberry Festival and Art Fair

Mr. Anderson informed the Board that the Strawberry Festival and Art Fair were held. He stated that Mr. Nelson and Ms. Abernathy did a great job and there was a great crowd. Mr. Anderson also wanted to recognize Ms. Yelm for her work with the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students on presenting the musicals Go Fish and Swamp. The students did a wonderful job.

Mr. Anderson also wanted to recognize the counselors at Central during Mental Health Awareness month. He also recognized the teachers for everything they do during the year.

Mr. Anderson stated that the Central Track Teams had State Qualifiers. The Girls 8th Grade Track Team had Kieryn Abernathy qualify in Shotput and Dani Jo Currier qualified in Long Jump, the 100 meter, and the 200 meter. The 4X100 relay qualified with Kolbie Cernovich, Jendayia Crowe, Dani Jo Currier, and Kalei Rice. The Boys 7th Grade Track Team had Chris Crowe qualify in Long Jump, High Jump, and the 400 meter. The 4X100 relay qualified with Evan Cleaver, Chris Crowe, Ace LaFollette, and Lain Taylor.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Belle & Neponset Classroom Additions

Dr. Sullens stated that Belle has moved into the classroom space and it is a great addition to the building. Mrs. Hodge-Bates

stated that the bathroom floors were completed and that the rest of the flooring had been delivered.

KHS Ag Addition

Dr. Sullens stated that there are a few items to complete. There are two private showers in the addition and they are 99.99% completed. He also stated that the grass was growing well around the addition.

Belle Gym Addition (bleachers to be delivered 5/15)

Dr. Sullens stated that the bleacher delivery has been rescheduled until tomorrow, May 16th. Crews state that it should take five days to install the five rows of bleachers.

KHS Fieldhouse/Locker Rooms

Dr. Sullens stated that a ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony was held today with Dr. Rick Cernovich and Kim Cernovich. Dr. Sullens stated that their donation towards the fieldhouse is greatly appreciated.

Lyle Addition

Dr. Sullens informed the Board that crews are moving along smoothly. Dr. Sullens stated that it will be nice having the additional space for Speech, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy.

Consideration and Approval of New & Revised Policies

2:110; 2:250-E2; 3:40-E; 4:60; 4:60-AP1; 4:60-AP3; 4:60-AP4; 4:60-AP5; 5:30; 5:30-AP2; 5:30-AP3; 5:30-AP3, E; 5:90; 5:90-AP1; 5:90-AP2; 5:125; 5:150; 5:150-AP; 5:170; 5:260; 6:135; 6:135-AP; 6:230; 6:230-AP; 6:230-AP, E; 7:180-AP1, E1; 7:180-AP1, E2; 7:180-AP1, E3; 7:180-AP1, E4; 7:180-AP1, E6; 7:180-AP1, E7; 7:185-E; 7:190-AP6

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the new and revised policies. Member Dev 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval of Handbook Changes

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the handbook changes that were presented in the Board packet. 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 heard. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of Gorenz and Associates, Ltd. to conduct the District's FY2023 Audit

Dr. Sullens recommended approving Gorenz and Associates, Ltd. to conduct the District's FY2023 Audit. Member Steffen seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members 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 Irving Parking Lot/Playground (State Maintenance Grant)

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the low bid from Valley Construction for \$154,850. The District also received a bid from LAMCO that was for \$165,000. Dr. Sullens stated that the District had already received the matching funds from the State Maintenance Grant. Member DeMay seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Salisbury, Steffen, DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, and Johnson. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION PERSONNEL:

Resignations

Jordan Soja	Neponset 2 nd Grade Teacher-Effective End of 2022-2023 School Year
Bret Keimig	Central Jr. High PE Teachers-Effective End of 2022-2023 School Year
Marland Rachel	KHS History Teacher-Effective 7/1/2023
Rick LaFollette	Central Jr. High Assistant Football Coach-Effective Immediately
Josh Hicks	Central Jr. High Softball Coach-Effective Immediately
Tatum Drury	Neponset 8 th Grade Sponsor-Effective End of 2022-2023 School Year
Blair Bullock	KHS Assistant Girls Basketball Coach-Effective Immediately

Marland Rachel KHS Head Bowling Coach-Effective Immediately
Lisa Stisser KHS MTSS Coordinator-Effective End of 2022-2023 School Year
Paul Williams Bus Driver-Effective Immediately

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

Retirements

Karen Rogula Lyle School Parent Coordinator-Effective 12/31/2023

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the above listed retirement. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Steffen 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.

Hires

Vote #1

Summer School Hires

Maintenance/Custodial- Jack Coombes, Hannah Tiska, Andrea Lang, Sarah Milnes

Resource Officers- Jim Mock

Teachers

Belle- Katie Buerk, Kelli Jackson, Haley Paxton

Irving- Katie Gerard, Megan Gayer, Chad Palm

Central- Yesenia Guerrero, Emily Robinson, Kristen Adkison, Nikki Kubiak (split), Gretchen Arzola (split), Jennifer Edwards

Neponset- Alicia Conner, Jordan Soja, Mechelle Dyer

Aides

Belle- Maddie Damron, Gillian Jurgensen

Irving- Catie Griffin, Robin Allen

Irving-Student Assistant- Kyle McAdam

Central- Michelle Hand, April Knott, Elizabeth Allen (1 on 1 aide), LaNita Brown, Kayla Thomas

Central-Student Assistant- Kyra Shimmin, Rachel Freeburg

Neponset- Ann Crofton, Coessa Rusk

Counselors- Ashley Mikenas, Tiffany Platz

Bus Drivers- Carl Rohrig

Bus Aides- David Bystry

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above hires for Summer School positions. Member DeMay seconded a motion made by Member Dev 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.

Vote #2

Rick Pikowski KHS English Teacher-Effective 2023-2024 School Year

Chad Kirkhove KHS Physical Education Teacher-Effective 2023-2024 School Year

Jordan Francis KHS Math Teacher-Effective 2023-2024 School Year

Jacob Meyer KHS Agriculture Teacher (Ag Mechanics/Ag Welding)-Effective 2023-2024 School Year

Jaci Greenhagen-Ince Central F/T Certified Aide

Jose Bermudez	KHS Head Soccer Coach-Effective 2023-2024 School Year
Lexi Ruemker	KHS Girls Bowling Coach-Effective 2023-2024 School Year
Rick Pikowski	Central Jr. High Assistant Football Coach-Effective 2023-2024 School Year

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above hires. Member Salisbury seconded a motion made by Member Steffen 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.

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

Leaves

Alexandria Philhower	Maternity Leave-Approximately 9/10/2023 for 8-10 weeks
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Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above leave. Member DeMay 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.

Long Term Sub

None

Student Teachers

William Schehl	Central Jr. High and Kewanee High School with Alex Binek-Fall 2023
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Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the Student Teacher placement. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Steffen 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.

Transfers

None

Internships

Alex Binek	Principal Internship with Mrs. Baney-Fall 2023-Spring 2024
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Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the Internship. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen 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.

Volunteers

Colton Philhower	KHS Golf Coach
Sarah Milnes	KHS Girls Basketball Coach

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above listed volunteers. Member Dev seconded a motion made by Member Steffen 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.

Renewal/Non-Renewal of Stipend Positions

None

OTHER ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

None

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION

No comments from Visitors.

Member Christiansen stated that it was a joy tonight to see so many students and teachers honored. She wanted to acknowledge all of their hard work.

Dr. Sullens stated that as Makenna Peed qualified for State again that she has qualified in more events than any other athlete in KHS history. He stated that was a great accomplishment for her and her family.

Dr. Sullens stated that the Seniors this year started high school during the 2019-2020 school year. In March of their Freshman year COVID hit. During their Sophomore and Junior years, students masked and dealt with remote learning, hybrid learning, and finally in person learning five days a week. Therefore, their Senior year is their first year in high school full time without restrictions.

President Johnson stated that right before COVID, Mrs. Vickrey, Mrs. Kubiak, and a couple of other teachers approached the Board about having conversations to open up the channels of communication. He stated the Board was interested and was in the process of exploring how to proceed when COVID hit. President Johnson polled the Board and they stated they were interested in exploring the meetings. He stated he reached out to Mrs. Vickrey and they met informally. He stated that with negotiations currently being held they didn't want these meetings to cause any issues. But he believes that the meetings would give everyone an opportunity to open communication. During the informal meeting, he said that a statement was made and made an impact, "We all want the same thing." He stated that while they may have different perspectives everyone does want the same thing. President Johnson asked the Board to think about how we move forward and what we want the meetings to look like. President Johnson stated that before COVID he made a point to visit classrooms a couple of Thursdays per month. He stated that he really enjoyed it and urged other Board members to make an effort to visit classrooms when students are in session. He stated it was very rewarding to see what is happening within the classrooms.

Member Dev stated that as a parent of a student graduating she wanted to thank them for helping to raise him alongside of her. Both of her children were Valedictorians and she didn't think they would have been as successful without the help of the staff. She thanked the Board for all of the great communication she had received with both concerns and praise for her son.

President Johnson stated that the Board had received comments and thank you notes from teachers and staff in regards to Staff appreciation week.

Moment of Silence for Bud Johnson-Father-in-law of Pete Tanzillo (Bus Driver)

Moment of Silence for James Cable-Grandfather of Alyssa Kiermaier (Aide at Lyle)

Moment of Silence for Julian Quintero-Grandfather of Rocio Morales Quintero (Admin Office Secretary), Eusebia Quintero (Substitute Teacher), and Father-in-law of Yolanda Quintero (Aide at Belle)

ADJOURNMENT

Member DeMay seconded a motion made by Member Dev to adjourn the open 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 open meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

JEFF JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

JON DEBORD, SECRETARY