

**KEWANEE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #229**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING-JUNE 20, 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. Member Salisbury was absent. Superintendent Sullens was also present for the Closed Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION OF REGULAR SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING**

At 6:01pm, Member Dev seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen 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 7:23 pm Member Dev seconded a motion made by Member Steffen 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 7:31pm. 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, D Hodge-Bates, T Brown, T Atwell, R Kapacinskis, J Hogeboom, C Weir, T Baney, J Bennett, K Gerard, J Plum, A Reiter, K Murphy, D Murphy, K Jewell, K Johnson, K Laue, A Ralston, H Cox, B Krohn, J Comish, J Bartelt, M Nelson, N Enderle, J Chapman, G Arzola, A Hawkins, L Yarger, A Miler, A Mikenas, R Comer, T Campbell, J Whitcher, A Binek, C Eads, R Carton, K Carton, C Palm, A Johnson, A Clementz, D McDowell, A Kluever, M Gayer, B Castillo, J Vickrey, N Kubiak, L Brown, S Burkhart, M Taylor, E Robinson, B Kirsch, H Olalde, A McDowell, P Schneider, W Corral, H Abernathy, L Murphy, K Duytschaver, L Meyer, M Costenson-Segura, N Hodge, L Stisser, A Weston, K Jurgensen, H Safiran, M Palm, J Little H Barnes, J Edwards, L Martinez, 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.

**SINE DIE- AMENDED BUDGET HEARING**

President Johnson called for a motion at 7:32 pm for Sine Die to enter into the 2022-2023 Amended Budget Hearing. Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member DeBord to enter into the Budget Hearing. A voice vote was heard with all present Members voting aye. No nay votes were heard. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

**ROLL CALL BY SECRETARY**

The roll call showed Members DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Steffen, and Johnson present. Member Salisbury was absent.

**PRESENTATION OF THE 2022-2023 AMENDED BUDGET BY THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Superintendent Sullens presented the proposed 2022-2023 Amended Budget to the Board of Education. The original budget set in September is a road map to follow. Throughout the year the revenues and expenditures can come in higher or lower than planned. The Amended Budget allows us to reflect those changes and helps to get the next year’s budget prepared. The projected revenues are \$21,008,985 in the Ed Fund, \$3,717,235 in the Building Fund, and \$1,492,455 in the Transportation Fund. Total projected expenditures are \$20,399,895 in the Education Fund, \$3,828,515 in the Building Fund, and \$1,544,560 in the Transportation Fund. The Capital Projects Fund is also seeing a loss due to funds being received in one fiscal year and spent in another. The Tort fund is showing a loss of \$107,190 for the year. This is due to the increase in property insurance

premiums. The premiums have increased with the additions on existing buildings, as well as, additional properties. Dr. Sullens stated that overall the District had a good fiscal year and have been able to complete a lot.

## **PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS**

None

## **ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2022-2023 AMENDED BUDGET**

President Johnson called for a motion to accept the 2022-2023 Amended Budget as presented. Member Dev 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.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

President Johnson called for a motion to adjourn Sine Die at 7:36 pm. Member DeMay made a motion to approve. Member Christiansen seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present Members voting aye. No nay votes were heard. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

## **SINE DIE**

## **INVITED GUESTS**

### **Larissa Meyer-State Track**

Mrs. Baney, Principal at KHS, presented a Board Resolution to Larissa Meyer. The Board Resolution honored Miss Meyer for her accomplishments during the 2022-2023 Track Season. Also recognized were her coaches, Chad Palm, Jeff King, Jake Saey, Amanda Johnson, Ben Hunter, and Jennifer Edwards.

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

## **COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE**

Karyn Carton, parent of a current student and former student herself, stated that she believes that teachers are the ones that make a difference. She stated that while the additions throughout the District were needed, they are just rooms without the teachers in them. Mrs. Carton stated that teacher burnout is real and that COVID has had an impact on all of us. She stated that she hopes the Board considers the new required base salary, inflation increase, and the demand on teachers and staff, when negotiating the new contract. She stated that "Simply the Best 229" has been the District slogan the last year and she hopes the contract will fulfill that slogan.

## **REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION**

### **Superintendent**

#### **Budget Overview F/23 & F24-Evidence Based Funding (\$350 million to the Formula)**

Dr. Sullens stated that \$350 million was added to the Evidence Based Funding model, with \$300 million to the formula and \$50 million to the Property Tax Relief for some Districts in the State. The State has added funding five out of six years. Dr. Sullens stated the Kewanee District has benefited from the Evidence Based Funding model.

#### **Summer Cleaning/Maintenance**

Dr. Sullens stated that staff has been hard at work completing projects. The carpet was removed and replaced in the Petersen Auditorium and Foyer. The summer custodial workers have been working on cleaning up the property purchased across from the Agriculture addition.

#### **FOIA Requests**

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

## **Mr. Atwell-KHS Athletic Director**

### **Sports Update**

Mr. Atwell gave the Board an update on KHS sports. He stated the Girls Track Team had two State Qualifiers, Larissa Meyer and Makenna Peed. Larissa Meyer qualified for State in the High Jump for the third year in a row. Makenna Peed qualified in the Athletes with Disabilities Division for Shotput, Discus, 100 meter, and 200 meter. Makenna placed second in the 100M and 200M races. She placed third in Discus and Shot Put. Makenna ends her track career with twelve State medals.

The Softball Team lost the Regional Championship game to Rockridge 1-0. Rockridge went on to win the Class 2A Title. The Baseball team lost in the Regional Semifinal game to Sherrard 13-3.

Athletes were named TRAC All Conference, they included Colson Welgat, baseball and Marissa Stevens and McKensey Stontz, softball. The KHS Girls Track team's Makenna Peed was named All Conference for the 100M, 200M, Shot, and discus and Larissa Meyer in the High Jump. The KHS Boys Track team's Dontaveon Thomas was named All Conference in High Jump and Triple Jump. Mr. Atwell stated that weight room attendance has been great this summer.

## **Mrs. Baney-KHS Principal**

### **KHS Graduation**

Mrs. Baney stated that Graduation was held May 21<sup>st</sup> in Brockman Gymnasium. There were 128 graduates this year. This year there were six Valedictorians, Madison Copeland, Shaan Dev, Mayra Diaz, Natalie Maxon, Lena Miller, and Marcos Pagan and two Salutatorians, Mya Mirocha and Marissa Stevens. Five other students completed the top 10% of the Class of 2023, Harper Gillespie, Emelin Guillen, Jaxson Hicks, Mary Miller, and Sheadon Oetzel. Mrs. Baney stated that there were three Service Cord winners, Natalie Maxon, Mya Mirocha, and Bethany Olalde. Mrs. Baney stated that over \$128,000 in scholarships was awarded at graduation this year.

### **Cultural Field Trip to Chicago**

Mrs. Baney informed the Board that 115 Spanish students attended a cultural tour of Chicago. Mrs. Miler, Ms. Safiran, and Ms. Martinez planned the trip and attended with additional chaperones. Students had the opportunity to tour the National Museum of Mexican Art, took a walking tour of murals in the city, a talk with a community activist, and lunch where the students were expected to order in Spanish. Mrs. Baney stated that the trip is made possible by the Kids for Culture fund through the Kewanee Schools Foundation. She also thanked John and Carol Blake for sponsoring the fund and allowing the kids to have this experience.

Mrs. Baney informed the Board that Mrs. Callahan had completed 72 hours of professional development training to become CASE certified. CASE (Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education) requires an instructor to be certified to teach the material. Mrs. Baney also stated that Mrs. Callahan and Ms. Ruemker were currently at the Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers (IAVAT) Conference. During this convention, Mrs. Callahan was being recognized as an Outstanding Early Career Teacher.

## **SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Belle & Neponset Classroom Additions**

Dr. Sullens stated that both Belle and Neponset are completed and the ROE inspection has been completed. He stated that they will be ready to go at the beginning of the school year.

### **KHS Ag Addition**

Dr. Sullens stated that the two private showers that weren't complete at last month's meeting have been completed. Mrs. Callahan and Ms. Ruemker are working on getting everything situated the way they want it. Dr. Sullens stated that staff is trying to get grass to grow outside the addition.

### **Belle Gym Addition**

Dr. Sullens stated that there are a few remaining items on the punch list but the gym is ready to go.

### KHS Fieldhouse/Locker Rooms

Dr. Sullens stated that the project is continuing nicely. Crews are hoping to get the interior wall poured in the next week or so. Plumbers are on site working on getting the plumbing ready for the showers.

### Lyle Addition

Dr. Sullens informed the Board that the project is moving along smoothly. This project is being funded with ESSER funds from Henry/Stark Special Education. Dr. Sullens stated that it will be nice having the additional space for Speech, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Consideration and Approval of Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2023/2024 School Year

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the Board of Education Meeting Dates as presented in the Board packet. Member DeMay seconded a motion made by Member Steffen 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 Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2023/2024 School Year

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2023-2024 school year. This program will allow all students to receive a breakfast and lunch each day at no cost to their family. Families would still be responsible for ala carte items and snack milk. Member Steffen 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. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

### Consideration and Approval of Rates for Lunch, Breakfast, & Other Food Items for 2023/2024 School Year

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the rates presented in the Board packet. The rates would increase breakfast and lunch prices by 10 cents. This would only affect second meals. The first breakfast and lunch would be free to families with the CEP. Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member DeBord to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Steffen, DeMay, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, and Johnson. There were no nay votes heard. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

### Consideration and Approval of Bids for Paper Products/Milk Products/Bread Products & Waste Disposal Pricing

Dr. Sullens recommended awarding Prairie Farms with the milk bid, Pan-O-Gold with the bread bid, and Wilson Paper with the paper product bid. Dr. Sullens recommended rejecting the waste disposal bid from LRS. The bid from LRS didn't meet the specifications of the bid. Waste Management submitted a bid but it was received after the bid opening. Member Steffen seconded a motion made by Member Dev 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 Bids for KHS Laptops for Computer Programming Class

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the bid from Virtucom for \$56,480 for the 32 units for the KHS Computer Programming Class. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen 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.

### Consideration and Approval of ROE (TRS Qualified Employees) to continue with the Kewanee 229 Payroll & Health Insurance from 9/1/23 to 8/31/24

Dr. Sullens recommended approving ROE (TRS Qualified Employees) to continue with the Kewanee 229 payroll and health insurance from 9/1/23 to 8/31/2024. Member Steffen 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. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

### Consideration and Approval of KHS Activity Account Changes

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the KHS Activity Account changes as presented in the Board packet. Member DeMay 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. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of New & Revised Policies

No action required.

**ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION PERSONNEL:**

**Resignations**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Chad Kirkhove      | KHS PE Teacher-Effective Immediately                                       |
| Tara Woller        | Belle 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher-Effective Immediately                  |
| Michelle Bruty     | P/T Central Counselor-Effective Immediately                                |
| Emily Boyler-Smith | Central Counselor-Effective 6/30/2023                                      |
| Catie Griffin      | F/T Lyle Pre-K Aide-Effective Immediately                                  |
| Kayla Jewell       | F/T Substitute/Aide Effective Immediately                                  |
| Nick Woods         | P/T Belle Aide-Effective Immediately                                       |
| Dede Grice         | Central Jr. High Assistant Track Coach-Effective Immediately               |
| Bob Dybdal         | KHS Assistant Golf Coach-Effective Immediately                             |
| Rob Weston         | KHS Head Girls Softball Coach-Effective Immediately                        |
| Jason Grice        | Central 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coach-Effective Immediately |
| Michael Weir       | Central Jr. High Assistant Wrestling Coach-Effective Immediately           |

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

**Retirements**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Rebecca Henkins | Belle Lunchroom/Library Aide Effective 5/23/23                    |
| Rosalie Schmidt | KHS SE Step Transition-Effective End of the 2022-2023 School Year |
| Gail Pickering  | Bus Driver – Effective 6/2/23                                     |

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the above listed retirements. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member DeMay 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.

**Hires**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Eric Westerlund  | Central PE Teacher                                   |
| Willie Terry III | KHS History Teacher-2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester         |
| Anne Kaiser      | Neponset 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher               |
| AJ Cook          | ROE Neponset Summer School Teacher                   |
| Sheadon Oetzel   | Summer Custodial Worker (20 hours)                   |
| Steven Wager     | P/T Belle Custodian-P/T Bus Driver                   |
| Scott Wager      | KHS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Shift Custodian                  |
| Steve Wager      | Bus Driver for 2023-2024 School Year                 |
| Kari Sturtevant  | F/T Aide at Belle                                    |
| Elizabeth Folz   | Bus Aide   |
| Jennifer Edwards | Central 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coach |
| Grace Clucas     | KHS Assistant Girls Basketball Coach                 |
| Emma Reidner     | KHS Assistant Golf Coach                             |
| Eric Westerlund  | KHS Assistant Soccer Coach                           |
| Daymon McDowell  | KHS Head Softball Coach                              |
| Jen Chapman      | Central Jr. High Head Softball Coach                 |

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above hires. Member Steffen 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.

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

### **Leaves**

None

### **Long Term Sub**

None

### **Internships**

Mandy Rutter-Daly                      Counselor Intern at Central Junior High with Chelsea Hamerlinck

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

### **Transfers**

Carl Rohrig                              From P/T Belle Custodial-P/T Bus Driver to Bus Driver

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

### **Volunteers**

Chase Palm                              Irving  
Yuki Lli                                    Americorp Worker at Central

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

### **Renewal/Non-Renewal of Stipend Positions**

None

### **Student Teachers**

Kayla Jewell                            1<sup>st</sup> Grade at Belle – 1<sup>st</sup> Semester  
Tom Campbell                         KHS History-1<sup>st</sup> Semester  
Meaghan Keel                         2<sup>nd</sup> Grade at Irving-1<sup>st</sup> Semester  
Jace Jennings                        Special Education with Julie Fristad at KHS and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade with Angie Kluever at Irving-1<sup>st</sup> Semester

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above listed Student Teacher placements. Member Dev 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. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

### **OTHER ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION**

None

### **COMMENTS FROM VISITORS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Pam Schneider asked for clarification on the bid amount for computers that was approved earlier in the meeting. President Johnson stated that the bid was approved for 32 computers at \$1765 each for a total of \$56,480. He stated that the computers are for the computer programming class at Kewanee High School.

Moment of Silence for Scott Porter-Former Neponset Teacher  
Moment of Silence for Alice Bartlett-Retired 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher 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, Steffen, and Johnson was heard all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Member Salisbury was absent. The motion carried.

The open meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

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**JEFF JOHNSON, PRESIDENT**

**JON DEBORD, SECRETARY**