

## **KEWANEE COMM SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OCTOBER 18, 2021**

### **I. 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 CUSD #229 Petersen Auditorium with Vice President Christiansen calling the Meeting to order at 6:00pm. Roll call showed the following Members present: Dev, Stabler, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, and Steffen. Member Johnson was absent. Superintendent Sullens was also present.

### **II. EXECUTIVE SESSION OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

At 6:01pm 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/2020*. Voice roll vote showed all present Members voting aye. Member Johnson was absent. The motion carried.

At 7:15pm Member Steffen seconded a motion made by Member Dev to adjourn the Closed Session meeting. A voice roll call was heard with all present Members voting aye. Member Johnson was absent. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL FOR OPEN SESSION MEETING**

Vice President Christiansen called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:32pm. This Open Session continued in the KHS Petersen Auditorium. Roll call showed the following Board Members present: Dev, Stabler, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, and Steffen. The audience included staff and community members: KEA President, R Kapacinskas; R Baney, T Atwell, J Bryan, T Baney, R Rumbold of Gorenz & Associates, J Russell from Kewanee Radio and M Helenthal reporting for the Star Courier. Recording secretary H Hughes and Superintendent C Sullens were in attendance as well. Board Member Johnson was absent.

### **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Vice President Christiansen asked the audience to stand, if able, and join the Board in saying the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag.

### **IV. INVITED GUESTS**

Russ Rumbold of Gorenz and Associates presented an overview of the Audit report for fiscal year 2021. Mr. Rumbold reminded the Board that last year he presented a draft of the Audit. The government hadn't released reporting guidelines for the CARES Act funds in time causing the delay. Unfortunately, the compliance issues are still occurring this year. But in an effort to prevent the backlog of audits like last year, the audits are to proceed without the CARES Act funding single audit. The single audit report for the CARES Act will come later in a separate bound report.

Mr. Rumbold provided handouts with an overview of the FY21 Audit to Board. As of June 30, 2021, the total fund equity for the District was \$58,695,999. Most of this amount is made up of fixed assets which includes the buildings, the contents of the buildings, the buses and etc. If we subtract the fixed assets of \$40,207,804 as well as funds that are restricted for special purposes such as the Debt Service, IMRF, Capital Projects and those types of funds, the net equity of the Operating Funds (Ed Fund, the Building Fund, Transportation Fund, and the Working Cash) the balance as of June 30, 2021 was \$14,830,106.

The District's financial profile score improved to a 3.9 out of 4.0. The only thing keeping the District from a perfect score is the long term debt (Bonds) that the District has.

For the past three years the District has had positive ending balances in the Operating Funds. Fiscal Year 2021 was very similar to FY 20 for the Operating Funds. The District had a decrease of \$154,816 in cash receipts for the Operating Funds. There was a decrease in expenditures in instruction and support services for the year. But had an increase in non-programmed charges that includes Special Education Services.

The audit showed that a majority of District's funding comes from the State's Evidence Based Funding 58%. Many of the categories of District funding have stayed consistent. These include Real Estate Taxes, Other Local Revenue, and Other State Sources. Federal Sources have increased in the last couple of years. This is due to the IDEA Funding flowing through the District versus going directly to Henry Stark Special Education District.

Mr. Rumbold discussed the breakdown of expenses by Operating Fund. For the Education Fund the majority of the expenses was salaries and benefits. There was an increase of 4.8% for the year. In the Operation and Maintenance Fund, salaries and benefits were up 3%. For the Transportation Fund, salaries and benefits were down 7.6%. Salaries and benefits make up 63% of the Operating Fund expenses. Since 2018 the revenues have outpaced expenditures each year.

The District has an operating expense per pupil amount of \$10,047. This is \$4188 less than the state average.

Mr. Rumbold informed the Board that the On behalf payments is the amount the State is to pay into TRS on behalf of the District. It is a revenue and expense so it doesn't impact the District. The on behalf amount for fiscal year 2021 was \$6,971,690.

The District's debt schedule has been declining over the last couple of years. This is due to principal payments on the bonds.

Mr. Rumbold discussed the investment collateral of the District. The Auditors look to see if there is enough collateral to cover the District's investments. The District currently has approximately \$18,000,000 of investments. All but about \$900,000 was not covered with collateral. Mr. Rumbold stated that was something to keep an eye on.

## **V., VI & VII MINUTES, FINANCIAL, TREASURER'S REPORT, AND BILLS AND PAYROLL CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice President Christiansen asked for a motion for a Consent Agenda and acceptance of Items V, VI & VII. Member Dev seconded the motion made by Member DeBord to approve consent Items V, VI & VII. The roll showed Members Stabler, Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, and Steffen all voting aye. There were no nay votes. Member Johnson was absent. The motion carried.

## **VII. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE**

None

## **IX. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION**

### **Superintendent**

#### **A. Flu Vaccines at Individual Buildings**

Dr. Sullens stated that OSF Saint Luke provided flu vaccines at District buildings for students and staff. According to Nurse Becker the number of vaccines given this year was up compared to prior years. On October 11, Henry County Health Department hosted a flu vaccine clinic at Central Steamer Gym.

#### **Recognition of Honorary Boilermakers: Christopher Gustafson & Donna Havelka**

Dr. Sullens informed the Board that Christopher Gustafson and Donna Havelka were named Honorary Boilermakers for this year. Both individuals go above and beyond for the students and it is nice to be able to recognize them.

#### **FOIA Requests**

Sullens reported all FOIA requests that had been received have been responded to.

Dr. Sullens also wanted to address an article printed in the Kewanee Star Courier. He wanted to state that the Kewanee School District was not part of the Galva and Wethersfield Food Co-op as the Star Courier reported.

#### **B. Mr. Atwell – Athletic Director**

##### **Fall Sports Update**

Mr. Atwell gave an update on fall sports. Both the boys and girls golf teams had Sectional qualifiers. Mya Mirocha qualified for Sectionals with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at Regionals. Chaz Peed and Emmitt Brokaw both qualified for Sectionals. Mya Mirocha was also the Three Rivers Conference champion. Cross Country will have their Regionals at St. Bede on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The tennis team finished their season at Geneseo at the Sectional tournament. Unfortunately, no one advanced from Sectionals. The soccer team finished their season on October 9<sup>th</sup> with a quarterfinal loss to Alleman in overtime. Volleyball will play Canton on October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Class 2A Regional at Prophetstown. The regular football season wraps up on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> with a game against Sterling Newman in Sterling. Mr. Atwell stated that fans will need to purchase tickets via the GoFan app. The IHSA will require schools to use this app for ticket sales during the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals of the football playoffs. Winter practices are starting soon. Competitive dance starts on October 25, Girls basketball on November 1, Boys basketball on November 8, girls and boys wrestling on November 8, bowling on November 15, and swimming on November 22.

Member Salisbury asked how well the app was working to purchase tickets. He had heard that individuals were having difficulty. Member DeBord stated that he was unable to use the link provided to purchase tickets. Mr. Atwell said he would look into it. Member Salisbury and Dr. Sullens both were wondering how individuals without access to technology would be able to purchase tickets. They wondered if tickets that are purchased ahead of time could be printed and have the printout presented at the gate. Dr. Sullens felt it could be frustrating for many longtime Boiler fans to use the app to purchase tickets. Member Salisbury wondered if it was possible for the District to purchase tickets through the app and print the tickets. The District could then sell them to the fans who don't have access to the required technology. Mr. Atwell was going to look into the options. He also stated that TRAC passes will be honored at the gate.

## **X. SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### KHS Ag Complex

Dr. Sullens updated the Board in regards to the Ag Complex project. He stated that he met with the architect about timelines for the project. The plan is to have the bid information available in November. The bids will hopefully be brought to the Board for the December board meeting. This project will include a set of boys and girl's restrooms and a classroom that will be built with concrete poured walls. The Ag Science classroom, office, and traditional Ag shop will be a pre-fabricated building similar to the Home Ec addition. There is currently a five to six month wait period to get the pre-fabricated building. Therefore, if approved in December we won't see that part of the building until July 1<sup>st</sup>. The goal is to be into the complex next August. The hope is to be able to begin the project at the end of March. With the location of the project it is possible to start with limited interruptions to classrooms.

### Belle Gym Addition

Dr. Sullens stated that we are still looking into adding a gym at Belle Alexander School. This space could be used during the day by Belle students for additional gym space, location for indoor recess, and for the after school program. Once Belle students are done with the space for the day it could be used for high school sports as an additional practice space.

## **XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### Update KHS Bus Parking Project

Dr. Sullens informed the Board that weather permitting the last section of concrete will be poured this week. It will have to set for 7-14 days before the buses park on it. It was hoped to have the buses parked there before the playoff game. Unfortunately, that is unable to happen.

### KHS Welding/Cafeteria and Fine Arts Storage Project

Dr. Sullens updated the Board on the KHS Welding/Cafeteria and Fine Arts Storage project. At the present time, occupancy for the Welding addition and the Fine Arts storage area is November 10, 2021. Occupancy is approximately December 6, 2021 for the Cafeteria. Each project is currently waiting for a small amount of materials to arrive to complete the projects.

### KHS Brockman HVAC Project

Sullens reported that the KHS Brockman Gym HVAC system is working well.

### Various Gym/Cafeteria HVAC Projects

Dr. Sullens stated that the various elementary HVAC projects are underway. There have been a few areas that have needed to be tested for asbestos. These are nothing major so far just the wrap that was used on older pipes. At Sullens Gym at Central the heating units will be removed gaining back some seating.

## **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

### Consideration and Approval of the 2020-2021 School District Audit, Transfers, and Adjustments as Recommended by the Auditors

Vice President Christiansen called for a vote to approve the 2021-2021 School District Audit, Transfers, and Adjustments. Member Steffen made a motion to approve. Member DeBord seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed Members Dev, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Stabler all voting aye. There were no nay votes. Member Johnson was absent. The motion carried.

Selection of Delegate and Alternate to the Joint Annual Conference

Member DeBord nominated Member Christiansen to be the Delegate and Member Johnson as Alternate to the Joint Annual Conference. Member Dev seconded the motion. A voice roll call was heard with all present Members voting aye. Member Johnson was absent. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of KHS Graduation Date and Junior High Promotion

Dr. Sullens recommended holding KHS Graduation on May 15, 2022 at 1:00 pm and Jr. High Promotion on May 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm. Member Salisbury a made a motion to approve the dates. Member Stabler seconded the motion. A voice roll call was heard with all present Members voting aye. Member Johnson was absent. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

Review of Policy 7:180

Dr. Sullens stated that the Board is required by the State of Illinois to review the Bullying policy. The Board made no changes to the existing policy. Therefore, no action was necessary. It will be recorded that the Board reviewed the policy.

**XIII. ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION-PERSONNEL:**

Resignations

Neponset Girls Basketball Coach	Emali Porter	Effective Immediately
Belle Aide	Krista Eble	Effective 11/23/21
Bus Driver	Dan Morgan	Effective 10/14/21

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

Retirements

Irving Teacher	Rosalinda Comer	Effective End of 2024-2025 School Year
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Member Salisbury made a motion to approve the retirement of R Comer. Member Stabler seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed Members Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, Dev, Stabler, and DeBord all voting aye. There were no nay votes. Member Johnson was absent. The motion carried.

Hires

Belle Aide	Maya Padilla
Neponset Cheerleading Advisor	Jordan Soja
KHS Girls Basketball Freshman Coach	Blair Bullock
KHS Girls Basketball Sophomore Coach	Emma Miller
KHS Girls Basketball Varsity Assistant Coach	Brett Sellers
KHS Set Design	Jacob Doan
KHS Girls Wrestling Coach	Ryan Welgat
Administration Office Aide P/T	Mary Bates
Neponset 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Bus Aide	Linda Stetson
Central 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Teacher	Nicole Kubiak
Central 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Aide	Morgan Holthaus
Central 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Aide	Kayla Thomas
Central 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Aide	Sandra Bonilla
Central 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Aide	Aryeale Watts

Central 21<sup>st</sup> Century Aide  
Central 21<sup>st</sup> Century Student Assistant  
Irving 21<sup>st</sup> Century Aide

Rachel Freeburg  
Kyra Shimmin  
Amber Barker

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

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

#### Leaves

None

#### Long Term Substitute

Kami Branom Substitute Teacher for Emily Asleson's Maternity Leave Approximately 11/24/21-1/4/22

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

#### Student Teachers

Alison Dennison Student teacher at Neponset with Kandice Hansen (8 weeks)- Starting 1/3/22

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

#### Transfers

Jolene Poole From Belle Kitchen Server to Cafeteria Substitute Beginning 9/27/21  
Aimee Inocencio From P/T Central Cafeteria Worker to Cafeteria Substitute Beginning 10/19/21  
Trisha Behnke From KHS Cafeteria Worker to KHS Head Building Cook Effective 10/4/21  
Karen Colwell From P/T KHS Cafeteria Worker (4 hrs) to F/T KHS Cafeteria Worker (7 hrs)  
Effective 10/19/21

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

#### Volunteers

KHS FFA	Jeff Johnson
KHS Sophomore Class	Jason Bates
KHS Robotics	Ron Lindberg
Central Jr. High Girls Basketball	Brandon Pickering
Neponset Girls Basketball	Sarah Milnes

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

Renewal/Non-Renewal of Stipend Positions

None

Other Action Arising From Closed Session

Hire

KHS Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach                      Chad Kelly

Approve

Ali Weston	Practicum/Internship with Central Alternative (Liberty University)
Brandy Nelson	Observation Hours at Belle 40 hours (WIU)
Rebecca Baney	Superintendent Intern-Supervised by Dr. Chris Sullens January 2022
Kait Nordstrom	Principal Intern-Supervised by Rebecca Baney January 2022

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

**XIV. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION**

A Moment of Silence was held for Norma Hepner, Retired Belle Alexander Secretary

A Moment of Silence was also held for Maxine Kaine, former employee.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:33pm Vice President Christiansen called for a motion for Adjournment. Member DeBord made a motion to approve. Member Stabler seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Member Johnson was absent. The motion carried.

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JEFF JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

JON DEBORD, SECRETARY