

**KEWANEE COMM SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR  
BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL FOR OPEN SESSION 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 President Johnson calling the Meeting to order at 6:00pm. Roll call showed the following Members present: Stabler, DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen and Johnson. Superintendent Sullens was also present.

**II. CLOSED SESSION:**

At 6:00pm Member DeBord seconded the 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/2020*. A voice vote was heard with all Members voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

At 7:15pm Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to adjourn the closed session meeting. A voice vote was heard with all 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 7:30pm. This Open Session continued in the KHS Petersen Auditorium. Roll call showed the following Board Members present: Stabler, DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson. The audience included staff and community members: R Baney, T Brown, J Bryan, K Ellerbrock, C Gustafson, B Ince, A Dev, J Russell from the Kewanee radio station and KEA President R Kapacinkas. Recording secretary H Hughes and Superintendent C Sullens were in attendance as well.

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

President Johnson asked the audience to stand, if able, and join the Board in saying the “Pledge of Allegiance” to the flag.

**IV. INVITED GUESTS ADDRESS THE BOARD**

K Ellerbrock – Demonstration of Anatomage Anatomy Table

Ellerbrock demonstrated the District’s new Anatomage Anatomy Table that was recently purchased by the Kewanee Schools Foundation through the Francis Horler Trust.

The Anatomage Table is new teaching tool, a fully-segmented real human 3-D anatomy system

which allows students to visualize anatomy exactly how it would look on a fresh cadaver. This cutting-edge piece of classroom technology allows students to rotate the human body 360 degrees, take it apart, identify specific structures and look at multiple views at the same time. Not only can the table be used for introductory lessons, lectures and assessments, but students are able to use the equipment to perform activities like laboratory practicals and testing. The new virtual table will give students exposure to the technology at a high school level and make them more comfortable with science. The KHS table is one of only seven tables being used in high school classrooms across the State.

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

## **VIII. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE**

Brandon Ince addressed the Board of Education asking for consideration for a JH Baseball program. Sullens stated that the District had 98 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students take an interest survey but Mr. Anderson was not able to get all that information downloaded so we don't have an accurate update.

Mr. Ince stated that he understood that the District is concerned about JH Baseball effecting football numbers and the use of the diamonds at Northeast Park. He stated that Windmont Park and Annwan would be appropriate places to play due to the bases being 80 feet.

Dr. Sullens stated that due to Covid, sports seasons have been pushed back and was not sure how adding JH Baseball would interfere with that. Sullens stated he would have a full report at the next month's board meeting.

## **IX. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION**

### **A. SUPERINTENDENT**

#### **1. ESSER II Update**

Dr. Sullens updated that Board of Education on the ESSER II package. As of this time the District has still not received those funds. We're still waiting to have the State figure out exactly who's going to be in charge of those funds, what Department within the State Board of education.

#### **2. 3<sup>rd</sup> Stimulus Package Update**

We are very hopeful that the third stimulus package will include extra dollars for education when Biden approves the plan. Whether that flows through as extra Title I dollars, which over the last five years has been kind of flat lined, is unknown. The District actually lost approximately \$75,000 in Title I dollars at one point. Sullens is hopeful the District will gain this back plus some.

#### **3. FOIA Requests**

The District has replied to several FOIA Requests this month having to do with making sure prevailing wages were being paid on the new KHS Home Ec project as things are finalized and payroll gets submitted.

#### 4. 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose of Vaccine, February 26<sup>th</sup>

Sullens reported that the second round of Covid Vaccines will be given out to staff members on Friday, February 26, 2021. District nurses will be administering the vaccines. Instead of doing everything at Central as we did for the first vaccine the District nurses will travel to each location and administer the vaccines.

Duane Stevens and Matt Schneppe had nothing but praise for our nurses, referring to them as the “rock stars of Henry County”. They have truly done a tremendous job. Dr. Sullens also thanked Angie Zarvell for her efforts and help organizing the rollout of the vaccines and getting information out to the District staff.

#### 5. Snow Days/Remote Days

Dr. Sullens stated that typically when we're looking at snow days we are following AccuWeather, the radio stations, going out, driving around, and talking to our Road Commissioners both in Bureau County as well as Henry County. Superintendents are calling each other concerning school cancellations. It's not the best situation, but at least we've been able offer remote days to students for learning.

### **B. Mr. Anderson – Central Principal**

#### IAR Testing Preparation

Sullens reported in Mr. Anderson's absence. IAR Testing is still taking place. Theoretically, the District is supposed to be bringing those remote kids into the school to take to test.

So if you're going to take the SAT tests as a junior, or you didn't take it last year as a senior, that has not been waived yet. Students have to take the SAT in order to graduate from any high school so it is hoped that the State Superintendent will file for a waiver with the federal government. As of now that hasn't been approved. The basic change will just be an extension for one more year due to remote learning. Not only does this effect academic testing in the high school but students must be tested from 3-8<sup>th</sup> grades also.

### **C. MR. ATWELL – KHS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

#### 1. KHS IHSA Spring Sports Update

Coach Atwell updated the Board of Education on the spring and summer sports schedules.

Yesterday was the first day of football practice. We've opted to play four out of the six games to try to help with some overlap. The IHSA is trying to get as many competitions as they can in a short amount of time, but it's caused some concerned for administrators and athletic directors who feel kids are trying to do too much. Football will start out playing Erie/Prophetstown during week 3 and will end April 16<sup>th</sup> against Riverdale.

Volleyball has got a busy schedule. The District cleared off the last week of volleyball to help those kids that are out going out for a summer sport, which would be softball and track.

Soccer will start on March 1st. Again, we cleared off the schedule the week of April 12th through the 16th for those baseball and boys track athletes.

Softball starts on the 5th. Softball is a summer sport this year. The rumor on the street is postseason will start June 2<sup>nd</sup> for Softball, Baseball and Track.

Member DeBord asked if we know what sort of guidance we are going to get for outdoor sports. Coach Atwell responded that he has a meeting with IHSA coming up and that will probably be a question that is asked. The IHSA seems to be slow on putting out their guidance.

Member Salisbury asked if we have a preliminary roster yet of how many students intend on playing multiple spring sports at the same time. Coach Atwell stated that we do not at this time but will work on it.

Member DeBord asked if additional games could be set up during the time when the State series is going on to give athletes more playing time once they lose at Regionals. Coach Atwell stated that would be a great question to see if it would be allowed.

## **X. SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

## **XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Consideration and Approval of Revised Policies 2:140 and 4:150**

Superintendent Sullens recommended to approve the revised policies. Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

### **B. Update on Front Entrance at Central School**

Sullens reported that that it has taken a long time to get the fire alarm system and the phone system working. We are hoping that Asst. Regional Superintendent, Kathy Marshall, will be out within the next week to inspect and certify that space ready for use.

### **C. Update on KHS Home Ec. Expansion**

Sullens noted that the District is still waiting for the fire alarm system to get finalized. Once that is finalized and inspected it will be ready to go. Everything is really coming together nicely. All of the commercial equipment has been delivered however, we are still waiting for three residential refrigerators and five residential stoves. Those are expected to be delivered in March. Kathy Marsh will be out to do the final inspections on that and issue a certification for occupancy hopefully by the end of the month.

Sullens stated that he knows Mrs. Johnson, our Home Ec teacher at the high school, is very excited to get into her new space. "It's a beautiful space. It looks great and something we can all be very proud of" stated Sullens.

## **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Consideration and Approval of Gorenz and Associates, Ltd, to conduct the District's FY 2021 Audit.**

Sullens recommended to approve Gorenz and Associates Ltd. to conduct the District's fiscal year 2021 audit. Their fees are going up from \$20,950 to 21,400 which basically has to do with the increase in Federal grants that have to be audited and take more of their time. Gorenz has been with the school district probably since the 1960s or early 70s, so they do a fabulous job.

Member DeBord made a motion to approve. Member Padilla seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed Members Padilla, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, Stabler, DeBord and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

- B. Consideration and Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement Resolution (QCC Vo-Tech)  
 President Johnson called for a motion on Dr. Sullens’s recommendation to approve.  
 Member Stabler seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, Stabler, DeBord, Padilla and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.
- C. Consideration and Approval of Naming Rights: Welding Lab and East Academic Wing at Kewanee High School  
 Sullens recommended to name the Welding Lab “Great Dane Welding Lab” and the East Academic Wing at KHS the “Dr. Horler Wing”  
 The Anatomage table (\$90,000) was purchased through the Kewanee Schools Foundation funds and the Horler trust. At some point we will have the current director, Liz Breedlove, come and speak to the Board. Francis Horler left roughly \$2.3 million in her estate to Kewanee Schools Foundation. These funds are very much appreciated and this would be a great way to recognize Doctor Frances Horler who at one time was a teacher at the old Kewanee High School before she left to pursue her doctorate and then taught at the academic level later on.  
 Sullens also thanked Great Dane Plant manager Chuck Kuhn and Great Dane for their continued support of the Kewanee school system, particularly with the Great Dane Strength Training facility as well as the Mac Computer lab. We believe that it would be appropriate to name the lab the Great Dane Welding lab in honor of their continued donations and support.
- President Johnson made a motion to approve. Member Salisbury made a motion to approve. Member Christiansen seconded the motion. The roll call showed Members Salisbury, Steffen, Stabler, DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.
- D. Consideration and Approval of Teacher’s Retirement System 457(b) Deferred Compensation Supplemental Savings Plan Employer Participation Agreement.  
 Sullens recommended to approve. This is a requirement of law that TRS would have to set up a 457B plan. This would be an option in addition to our local people that we have that would sell investments, retirement investments, annuities, that they would be able to if a teacher chose to be part of the TRS system on this deferred compensation supplemental savings plan.
- Member Christiansen made a motion to approve. President Johnson seconded the motion. The rollcall showed Members Steffen, Stabler, DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, Salisbury and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.
- E. Discussion Only - of Increase In Number of Student In Person Days Effective March 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
 Increase the number of student in person Days Affective March 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
 Dr. Sullens lead the discussion. District teachers and staff have had the option to receive the first dose of the vaccine, and now the second dose will be distributed at the end of this month. It's our belief that the CDC currently is stating that 14 days after second dose you would not be considered a close contact. This would allow the option of students who are currently totally hybrid or totally remote to come back to four days a week. Currently by law, we're still required to offer remote learning as an option for any student. We would be looking at still keeping Monday as our full remote day, and then students would be able to attend in person



None

**G. Volunteers**

Central & KHS Wrestling	Norm Brown
Central Jr. High Volleyball	Shannon Arzola
Neponset Boys Basketball	Corry Ince

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

**H. Other Action Arising from Closed Session**

A Moment of Silence was held for the following individuals:

Moment of Silence for Roberta VanDeVoorde (Mother of Angie Kluever –Irving Teacher)

Moment of Silence for Valeria Bolton (Step-Mother of Michelle Bolton-Gomez-Central Aide)

Moment of Silence for Heidi Heinrich (Henry/Stark Special Ed Teacher at Irving)

Moment of Silence for Calvin Peart (Retired Custodian, Father-in-law of Jill Peart-Instructional Coach and Kal was also Sports Announcer for WKEI Radio)

Moment of Silence for Marvin VanDeVelde (Father-in-law of Roger Wallace - Event Worker, Retired Teacher & Transportation Director)

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

Dr. Sullens noted that the KHS Winter Musical was shown at the Kewanee Waunee Theater. Sullens and Member DeBord stated that it was a phenomenal effort by all the students and staff members. The musical portrayed the despair and now hope that students have went through during the last year with COVID.

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

Member Salisbury made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Member Stabler seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all Members voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried.

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Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, President

Jan Padilla, Secretary