

**KEWANEE COMM SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULARBOARD  
MEETING**

**MARCH 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 Christiansen seconded the 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*. A voice vote was heard with all Members voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

At 7:11pm Member Stabler seconded a motion made by Member DeBord 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: J Anderson, J Bryan, R Baney, T Brown, T Weida, K Callahan, A Callahan, H Olalde, A Dev, N Baney, B Delgado, L Dev, N Woods, M Maxon, J Maxon, J Russell from the Kewanee radio station, M Helenthal of the Star Courier and KEA President R Kapacinskas.

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 Callahan-Finalist for State Ag Teacher of the Year

Mr. Brian introduced and congratulated KHS Ag/FFA Teacher, Mrs. Kendra Callahan, for being nominated for the Illinois Nationwide Agricultural Golden Owl Award as being an outstanding Illinois Agricultural Teacher. Mrs. Callahan was given a check for \$500 to be used in her classroom from Illinois Nationwide. Mrs. Callahan was one of five finalists for the award. The Golden Owl Award will be given out in June. Mrs. Callahan thanked the Board of Education, Dr. Sullens and Mr. Bryan and said that she is motivated by her great KHS Ag students and hopes to add more students to the career and technical education programs in the future.

#### KHS Musical Students

Mr. Bryan also introduced Mrs. Olalde and some of her senior theater students. Mr. Bryan and Mrs. Olalde discussed the challenges they faced to produce the Musical “We’re all in this together”, a musical review of Broadway shows while under Covid restrictions. The students were able to only perform before a very limited audience due to social distancing guidelines. The Musical was filmed by Mr. Jason Bates and John Taylor, then shown at the Kewanee Wancee Theater by Mr. Bud Johnson and shown on two separate weekends (4 days) for audiences to enjoy there. There is also a link on KCUD229.org website for viewing.

The Contest Play and Group Interpretation students have been recording videos to submit for Sectional competition. There will be a virtual awards ceremony where winners will be announced for both Sectionals and 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 Steffen seconded the motion made by Member Salisbury 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**

### **IX. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION**

#### **A. SUPERINTENDENT**

##### **1. State of Illinois FY22 Education Budget – EBF (Evidence Based Funding)**

Dr. Sullens updated the Board of Education on the FY22 education budget. There are a lot of things that are happening right now with American Recovery Act that was just passed. Sullens stated, “The question now is, how many of those dollars are flowing back to the State of Illinois? It’s a little bit of a mystery although we do know it will be quite a bit.” “It will be up to the discretion of the state legislators to decide how they want to spend those funds or to use it to pay down the State’s 3.2 billion dollar debt.” Evidence Based Funding decreased last year and is currently flat-lined with no additional dollars thrown in. Sullens continued, “There is always a question of will they throw in what they're supposed to and put in \$350,000,000 a year so that at the end of 10 years every District would be at the 90% adequacy target that they're trying to get all school districts to meet?” “Really that \$350,000,000

becomes 400,000,000 because there's \$50,000,000 that gets funneled to a different direction within that formula and never gets put into formula that would affect our school district.” “The request has been made for \$400,000,000.00 out of the federal dollars that are coming to increase the education budget for next year, that remains to be seen.”

2. KHS Prom (no dance), Homecoming (no dance), Graduation (May 16<sup>th</sup> on the Football Field – rain date will be May 15<sup>th</sup>)

Superintendent Sullens discussed KHS Prom, Homecoming and Graduation. The District is trying to get back to some type of normalcy for this school year. We do have sporting events coming back and homecoming is traditionally associated with football season. The goal would be to still have a homecoming this year during our last home football game in April with the homecoming court that would be comprised of freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. At this time, we do not foresee there being a situation where we could host a dance or sponsor a dance whether it was on campus or off campus someplace.

It is our intention to have some type of Prom. Under the current rules we do not see how we could organize a dance at this time. We don't know what tomorrow is going to bring but we still plan on having a King and Queen, Prince and Princess and honor the graduating Seniors.

Graduation is tentatively set for Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> with the goal for it to be held on the football field in order to socially distance people as much as possible and meet the criteria from the IDPH. The aspects of trying to hold graduation inside with the current rules that we have, we would have to go back to individual graduation ceremonies like the District had last year. Graduations have not been held outdoors since 1983. Graduation is still several months away, things could change, but the goal is to have one entire graduation for everybody, instead of holding individual ceremonies like we did last year. There would be a rain date for Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> if it looks like there's going to be rain on Sunday.

The District is very excited that our staff had the opportunity to receive the Covid vaccine. Staff members who received the 1<sup>st</sup> doses at Central school and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose in various buildings though out the District are now past the 15 days where they would still be considered close contacts. Staff members who received their vaccines at Black Hawk College will reach their 15 days on Thursday this week. This is really a game changer for the District.

**B. Mr. Bryan – KHS Principal**

KHS Testing Schedule

Mr. Bryan reported that SAT testing for juniors at KHS will be April 13<sup>th</sup>. The State has dropped the essay portion of the SAT for the spring. PSAT 8-9 for freshman and PSAT 10 for sophomores testing window will be from April 13-23<sup>rd</sup>. The State has now said they are not requiring schools to give the PSAT tests but the District plans on still giving it to our students in that window as long as the State is still willing to pay for those tests. Bryan also stated that the ISA (Illinois Science Assessment) tests will be given to students in grades 5, 8 and 11 with a testing window from March 14 through May 15.

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

#### **1. KHS IHSA Spring Sports Participation**

Coach Atwell updated the Board of Education on the spring and summer sports numbers. Volleyball will be opening at St. Bede tomorrow and Soccer will be home at Northeast Park.

There are currently 40 students out for football this spring, 24 in soccer, 23 in volleyball, 20 out for cheerleading and 10 out for dance for a total of 117 involved in spring sports.

Atwell noted that the soccer team and football team have been practicing some at the Lott. Softball and Baseball have been able to have contact days there also.

### **D. MR. ANDERSON – CENTRAL PRINCIPAL**

1. Jr. High 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion – Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> on the KHS Football Field  
Mr. Anderson invited the Board of Education members to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion to also be held on the KHS Football Field.

2. Mr. Anderson stated that IAR testing will be April 7. ACCESS testing and Science testing will also be done during the next month and a half.

3. Numbers are very low this year for Girls Basketball. There are 8 seventh grade girls and 11 eighth grade girls participating this year. Volleyball numbers were also low this year. There were only 8 seventh graders and 9 or 10 eighth graders playing.

### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Update on Front Entrance at Central School  
Dr. Sullens stated that the Central Front Entrance addition has been completed and we are now working on hiring staff members to fill the security position. Visitors are still being buzzed in by the office staff at this time.
- b. Update on KHS Home Ec Addition  
Sullens reported the equipment for the Commercial side was ordered by the District ahead of time rather than waiting until project was complete. It is taking longer to get equipment delivered due to the breakdown of the supply chain due to Covid so we wanted to make sure we received it as soon as possible. We are still waiting for 5 stoves and 3 refrigerators for the residential side. We have been waiting for a refrigerator for the teacher's lounge for over 3 months now. We have finally gotten clarification on getting the fire alarm system tied into our existing alarm system. Johnson Control will be out this week to connect everything. We are hoping to have the ROE approve the occupancy for the new addition on Friday.
- c. Central Jr. High Baseball Program – April Board Meeting  
Dr. Sullens reported that the surveys for a possible Central Jr. High Baseball program have been completed and given to the Board of Education for review for the April board

meeting. The biggest issue that the District has is a conflict with the football conference schedule. A full report will be presented in April.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consideration and Approval of Kewanee Personnel for 2021-2022 School Year

- i. Vote #1: Consideration and Approval of Kewanee 2021-2022 Probation and Tenure List

The 2021-2022 Probation and Tenure List was included in the Board packets.

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

- ii. Vote #2: Consideration and Approval of Resolution Authorizing Notice of Non-Renewal and Dismissal of Probationary Teacher

No Action

- iii. Vote #3: Other – Additional individual names as requested by Board Members

No Action

- b. Consideration and Approval of Increase in Number of Student In-Person Days Effective March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dr. Sullens noted that the State of Illinois and the IDPH has released new guidelines that would allow the District to increase students in the buildings and increase In-Person attendance days. A majority of staff members have been vaccinated and students can now be in attendance in classrooms with 3 feet social distancing rather than 6 feet. The District is reviewing class lists and classroom sizes and is confident that we can have more students attending 4 days per week and still be following the IDPH rules. Remote learning will still be an option for students if that is their choice. Dr. Sullens stated that it is his recommendation to approve up to 4 days per week.

Member DeBord stated that after reading through the parent surveys there are a lot of different view-points. He asked if there was going to be an option for Hybrid Learning. Dr. Sullens stated that if a student chooses to come back to school 4 days per week but only shows up 2 or 3 days per week they would not be penalized. Dr. Sullens stated that he is proud of our students who have gotten jobs during the Covid while Remote Learning. 4 days is the maximum students can come to school but if they choose to come only 2 days per week and doing their work on line, that is their choice.

Member Christiansen stated that she feels like all these choices put a real stress on our teachers. President Johnson stated he can see where it would be difficult for a teacher to set up a lab not knowing how many students will be in attendance each day. Member Christiansen stated she wants to see as many students as possible going 4 days per week. Member DeBord responded that his daughter is concerned for her health being in class 4 days per week and within close contact with other students. Christiansen pointed out that

students are playing sports and are in close contact with others.

President Johnson asked if other Districts are allowing students the flexibility to only attend 2 or 3 days per week. Supt. Sullens stated that there is really no way to stop it. Mrs. Baney stated that teachers are presenting new learning each day and homework help comes with the after school programs. She also noted that students are considered absent when they do not log-in or are no-call-no shows. Mr. Bryan stated that his teachers have expressed that they would prefer to have students 4 days but would rather have kids show up 2 days than not at all. Mr. Anderson spoke as a parent. His son has been allowed to do remote learning from home but if his grades drop he would have to go back to class.

President Johnson called for a motion on Dr. Sullens's recommendation to approve. Member Salisbury seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen to approve. 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.

c. Consideration and Approval Bus Bids

Sullens recommended to approve the Bus Bids from Central State Bus Sales, Inc. for one 2015 IC Handicap 59+1 passenger bus, three IC 71 passenger buses and one IC Handicap 29+3 passenger buses with air conditioning with trade-ins for \$387,972.50. The District gets reimbursed over a 5-year period of time (approximately 80%).

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

d. Consideration and Approval of Energy Contract with MC<sup>2</sup>.

Sullens recommended to approve. Member DeBord made a motion to approve. Member Steffen 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.

**Action From Closed Session**

**A. Resignations**

Alternative Teacher at Central JH	Ryan Senneff	Effective 3/19/21
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Central	Jennista Eastman	Effective 3/26/21
Maintenance	Doug Wager	Effective 4/30/21

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

**B. Retirements**

None

**C. Hires**

KHS Business Teacher 2021-2022	Marcus Throneburg
Belle 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher for 2021-2022	Aubrey Warner
Neponset 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher for 2021-2022	Jordan Soja
MTSS Coordinator at Lyle	Madison Costenson-Segura
KHS P/T Cafeteria Worker	Leoyondres Suggs
Belle 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Aide	Haley Hamilton
Central 21 <sup>st</sup> Century After School Teacher	Pamela Schneider
KHS Assistant Track Coach	Jenny Lang/Jakob Saey

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

**D. Leaves**

Bus Aide	Sheri Swearingen	Began 2/28/21 for 6 weeks
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Sullens recommended to approve S Swearingen’s leave. Member Christiansen made a motion to approve. President Johnson seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed Members DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, Stabler and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

**E. Long Term Sub**

Neponset 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Allison Dennison	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter (splitting Grades 1 & 2)
Taylor Witte Maternity Leave	Jonathon Lake	approximately 10 weeks

President Johnson called for a motion on Dr. Sullen’s recommendation to approve. Member Salisbury 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.

**F. Transfers**

None

**G. Volunteers**

Neponset Girls Basketball Coach	Sarah Milnes
ESL Observation K-8 March 15-19	Gloria Guerrero
KHS Football Coach	Jakob Saey
Neponset Track Coach	Corry Ince

Sullens recommended to the above listed volunteers. President Johnson 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 many votes. The motion carried.

**H. Renewal/Nonrenewal of Stipend Positions**

None

**I. Other Action from Closed Session**

None

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

Amy Dev approached the Board of Education and asked if extended family members would be able to attend the graduation ceremony? Dr. Sullens and Mr. Bryan stated that we would be operating at 20% (or approximately 400 people) being able to attend. This would equal approximately 4 tickets per student. There is a lot unknown at this time.

She also asked why there cannot be a Prom dance when we have contact sports. Dr. Sullens told her that this is IDPH rules that we have to follow and again...this could change in the future.

A Moment of Silence was held for the following individuals:

Moment of Silence for Aldona Kapacinskas – Mother of Ruth Kapacinskas (KHS Librarian)

Moment of Silence for Marilyn Humphry – Grandmother of Cody Butler (KHS Social Studies) and Krista Eble (Belle Paraprofessional)

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Member DeBord made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57pm. Member Salisbury 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