

**KEWANEE COMM SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 19, 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 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 7:10pm Member Stabler seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen 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 Atwell, D Brants, S Burkhart, A Dev, L Rux, H Burhart, H Pratt, K Pratt, M Pratt, M Anders, K Anders, A Duarte, 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**

Mr. Bryan introduced KHS Student Council President, Hannah Pratt who in turn introduced the 2021 KHS Homecoming King and Queen to the Board of Education. This year's KHS Homecoming King and Queen are Henry Burkhart and Ailynn Duarte.

## **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 Christiansen 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**

KEA President R Kapacinskas approached the board stating, "Ruth Kapacinskas, Yes, I've got a few different comments tonight looking over the agenda for the business tonight. I see that there's summer school hires listed but no information about the rate of pay or stipends for summer school hires and I know that that's something. That's not a KEA issue because summer school is not covered in our contract, but it is of concern for the staff that work summer school. I don't know if all of the Board is aware but the different job categories are paid at different rates. The teachers and teacher aides in particular are paid at a flat rate. Which means that a lot of our experienced teachers and experienced teacher aides, in particular, are paid at a lower wage than what they earned during the school year and particularly in this time of trying to catch up students after the loss of school days. With Covid that seems counter intuitive to attracting the most qualified and experienced workers to work with our students during summer school. Doctor Sullens explained to me that the difference in pay meant that for example, secretaries are doing both school year work as well as summer school work. But I mean, that same logic doesn't apply to all the job categories of the staff that we hire for summer buses and bus drivers and nurses.

Administrators, they're not being paid at a reduced rate like the teachers and the aides are so I wanted to bring that to your attention. I think that should factor into your decision as far as what can be budgeted for Summer School. Doctor Sullens explained to me that if we were to pay a higher rate for teacher aides and teachers we wouldn't be able to hire as many and I think that's a curious situation as well from what I'm understanding. We're willing to pay thousands of dollars for consultants out of a grant that could be directed towards summer school funding so I don't see the balance there and I want you to be aware of that."

Kapacinskas further added, "Another item I wanted to comment on tonight is that as I look at the agenda again. I always see that there's an item listed as Superintendent Committee reports and at least for as long as I've been attending school board meetings I've never heard a Committee report. I don't know if there are such committees that exist. Perhaps you are part of them, but I as president of the union am not Privy to those committees and I think that's a real missed opportunity for our construction situation in particular. I think it would really behoove the District to develop for example, a strategic Planning Committee who could oversee our long term goals and maybe plan out our construction projects in a more prioritized and thoughtful way than the way we approach it right now where we're building something over here and something over there and oh now we've got a need over here, so now we're running over there. If we were to look at it in a long term sense and, you know, involve the stakeholders such as staff and teachers, parents, you know, maybe even students and not just principals and the school board. I think you would really hear some different points of view.

I think you would gain some valuable insight and again I think it's a lost opportunity.

You're not getting the input from the people who are on the ground on a day to day basis. You're not getting that input from the stakeholders and for example, you know on the bills that you just approved. We're paying \$10,000.00 for a track storage building on the football field and to my knowledge, we already had a track storage building on the football field so... that's a relatively new building and when we built that if that was not going to meet our main needs 2 or 3 or even 5 years down the road that really seems like we're missing out on some big piece of information and I would just hope that the school board could maybe make some effort to direct Doctor Sullens in actually having some Superintendent Committees and the big one I think in particular is construction or strategic planning. Whatever you want to call it. It seems like we direct a lot of our money there and not to salaries and wages. We prioritize that and that message is loud and clear to the community. So thanks for your time and thank you for listening. Thank you.”

## **IX. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION**

### **A. SUPERINTENDENT**

#### **1. State of Illinois FY22 Budget Proposals**

Dr. Sullens reported that the State is going through the process of developing a FY22 budget that will go into effect on July 1, 2021. The big issue is obviously loss of revenue; the state has actually borrowed funds from the Federal Government that needs to be paid back over the next 2 or 3 years. The State is receiving some stimulus money under the latest Federal plan. It is to be determined how much of that funding the State will be pigeonholing to help out the pension crisis and pay down the approximately 9.4 billion dollar deficit.

One of the big items that affects our school district is known as the Evidence Based Funding model that gives schools that have lesser local resources more dollars under what used to be known as the General State Aid formula. As of right now, the original budget has no increase for the evidence based funding model, which means that the amount of money the District would receive no matter how many students are enrolled is going to stay the same for next year.

#### **2. District General Maintenance**

Dr. Sullens reported that work is going on switching off boilers and starting up the air conditioners in the District buildings. When the temperatures dip like they have during the past week the boilers have had to be restarted. The maintenance department is a bit short handed due to people who have moved on from the District and on to other ventures.

#### **3. Windfarm North of Tower Road**

The Windfarm north of Tower Road appears to be a project that is going forward. The project will have a financial impact on the District and we will see how that progresses.

#### **4. Phase 4 (Bridge)/Phase 5 – Illinois Reopening Plan**

Currently our positivity rate seems to be raising a little bit in the County and the State overall compared to a month ago. The County is in Phase 4 with no mitigations. The goal is that as more people are vaccinated we will be able to move forward into what is known as the “bridge” (between Phase 4 and Phase 5). Phase 5 is the total State reopening plan going back to normal with 100% capacity at all events. The District will continue to adapt and continue to move forward with the rules that are set forward.

District nurses are going to have a webinar meeting tomorrow with Illinois Department of Public Health officials talking about what the governor is thinking and what the plan is for either moving forward or moving backwards.

#### 5. Esser II and Esser III

Esser dollars are funds that we are receiving from the federal government as stimulus dollars. The stimulus under Esser II will bring about \$3.1 million to the District. As for Esser III the government has not finalized everything but we are looking at approximately \$10,000,000 plus. We will be working to develop plans on how to spend those dollars or how to recuperate some of the dollars we've already spent over the past 11 months since this pandemic began. Dr. Sullens will bring those plans to the board as we continue to receive the funds.

### **B. Mr. Bryan – KHS Principal**

1. KHS Prom (No Dance) Mr. Bryan reported that unfortunately with the current Covid status and protocols for Phase 4 the District will not be having a prom dance.

#### 2. Homecoming 2021

The District was thankful to be able to have a somewhat modified homecoming at KHS. Students still had “dress up” days, the building was decorated by the Cheerleaders and others with the theme of “Wizard of Oz”. The District was able to have a homecoming at Kewanee High School. There was no Assembly but a bonfire was held on Thursday evening. Parents, students and community members were able to attend the crowning of the 2021 Homecoming King and Queen held at the KHS Stadium. 2021 Co-Honorary Boilermakers Todd and Diane Reeser were introduced during the activities.

1. Bryan also reported that this afternoon Doctor Sullens, himself, staff members: Laura Carmichael, Marissa Romanelli, Mister Gustafson and others met to try to come up with a plan for graduation. May 14<sup>th</sup> will be the last student class day for seniors. No assembly will be held this year due to Covid restrictions.

The plan for 2021 Graduation is to hold the Senior graduation outdoors at the KHS Stadium on May 16th at 1:00 o'clock. “We're going to be watching the weather pretty closely that weekend to determine whether or not graduation will take place on Sunday, the 16th as planned, or if we believe there's a threat of bad weather”, said Bryan. “We may bump the event back to Saturday, May 15th at 1:00 o'clock if needed.” We do believe we can get a lot more family members and people that want to come support our graduates on the green space that the District will have available on the football field. Each student will be given eight tickets for family members/visitors. The Henry/Stark Counties Health Department will allow us to have 15 people for every 1000 square feet of green space. The District is excited to at least be able to plan a somewhat traditional graduation again.

2. National Honor Society Banquet

Bryan informed the board that the National Honor Society banquet for Seniors was held last Wednesday for returning seniors from last year who met the requirements again to remain in National Honor Society. There were roughly 60-66 people in attendance at Goods Gym.

Part 2 of the National Honor Society Banquet will be held this Wednesday for our incoming members.

Students who were honored were: TJ Arzola, Connor Bryan, Henry Burkhardt, Atsiri Custis Castillo, Brianna Delgado, Layla Dev, Eileen Duarte, Cody Fetzima, Gabe Johnson, Isabelle Tondreau and Natalie Yepson.

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

#### **1. IHSA**

Mr. Atwell reported that students that are 16 and older are now eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine. The District will be busing those students who wish to receive the vaccine out to Black Hawk College tomorrow for their first dose which is very exciting as we talk about getting back to normal.

We tentatively have about 122 students that going to take advantage of the vaccination date and that does not include 18-year-old students who have already received the vaccine on their own.

The senior class trip will be held after graduation on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **2. Spring Summer Sports**

Atwell went on to report that the District finished up our spring sports this past week and we are now into our summer sports season which includes baseball, softball, track and wrestling.

Baseball and Softball Regionals will start on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sectionals should start on June 9<sup>th</sup>, Super Sectionals on June 14<sup>th</sup> and State tournaments should be the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, barring any rain.

Girls track Sectionals will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>. State competition will be June 10<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Boys track will be Sectionals on June 9<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup> and State competition will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>.

There will be no IHSA State series for wrestling, however, the Illinois Wrestling Officials Coaches Association is looking to provide wrestlers with a state series sponsored by themselves to allow students to compete if they choose to do so. This will take place in June.

This past weekend KHS was supposed to host the IHSA Music Organizational Sectional.

This year the competition was held virtually. Mr. Binek did an awesome job taking care of all the details. Kewanee had an overall score from Solo and Organizational of 366 points and were in 4<sup>th</sup> place. There were several schools that were still waiting to be judged so our placing is tentative.

Mister Binek has informed Atwell that If the 4<sup>th</sup> place holds it would be our highest placing in that competition.

### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### Update on KHS Home Ec Addition

The KHS Home Ec Addition is now operational with the exception that we are still waiting for 3 residential refrigerators and 5 stoves. The new sewing room is completed and students are utilizing the space.

## XII. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Consideration and Approval of 2021-2022 School Calendar  
Member Stabler seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. 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.
- B.** Consideration and Approval of KHS IHSA Membership Renewal for 2021-2022 School Year  
Dr. Sullens recommended to approve. Member Salisbury made a motion to approve. Member Christiansen 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.
- C.** Consideration and Approval of Joint Agreement for the Iowa Illinois School Food Cooperative  
President Johnson called for a motion. Member Christiansen made a motion to approve. Member Steffen seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed Members Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, Stabler, DeBord, Padilla and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes.
- D.** Consideration and Approval of Bank Account Changes  
Dr. Sullen recommended to approve the Bank Account Changes. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Salisbury, Steffen, Stabler, DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.
- E.** Consideration and Approval of Central Jr. High Baseball Program  
Dr. Sullens explained that the District will be starting a new conference in August. Princeton and one other District in the whole conference actually have softball and the rest do not have softball or baseball, so we would not have conference competition for those sports. If we did add baseball now it would interfere with our conference football program. A survey was taken from students in grades 4 through 7<sup>th</sup>. There were 98 responses. 36 said if they had to choose between football or baseball, 36% would play football 35% would chose baseball and 27% said neither. We looked at the results and asked if there wasn't a conflict, how many baseball players would play football? 16 students responded yes. So out of 35 baseball players, 16 of those, if there wasn't a conflict, would play both.  
Dr. Sullens recommended not to approve JH baseball at this time. The issue died for lack of motion. There was no action required.

- F.** Consideration and Approval for the Superintendent to Apply for and Implement a Rapid COVID Testing Program Through the Henry County office of Emergency Management, Including the Authorization of the Cost of a CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) Certificate of Waiver

President Johnson called for a motion. Member Christiansen made a motion to approve. Member DeBord 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.

- G.** Consideration and Approval of Administrative Contract Addendum (thru June 30, 2024)  
Member Steffen made a motion to approve. Member Salisbury seconded the motion. 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.

**H. Action From Closed Session  
Resignations**

Central Playground Supervisor	Kendall Thompson	Effective 3/26/21
KHS Head Golf Coach	Kandice Hansen	Effective End of 20-21 School Year
Central Cafeteria Worker	Angela Nordstrom	Effective 5/24/21

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

**B. Retirements**  
None

**C. Hires**

Central 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher for 20-21 School Year	Kimberly Chenoweth
Central Elementary Teacher for 20-21 School Year	Hailey Cox
Neponset ROE 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Teacher	Alison Dennison
Irving ROE 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Teacher	Hailey Plum
Irving Paraprofessional	Pasence McClintic
12 Month F/T Maintenance	Jebadiah Ralston
12 Month F/T Maintenance	Heather Chapman
P/T Custodial Aide	Anna Peterson
Summer Custodial Workers: Brandon Pickering, Hannah Pratt, Jennifer Pratt, Lisa Verbout, Chloe Sullens (work with Mr. Atwell), Kerrigan Kelly, Lauren Sheets, Blaine Pickering, Trenton Terry, Willie Terry III, Brady Zarvell, Logan Zarvell	

Summer KHS Office Worker	Rocio Morales Quintero
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Summer School Administrators (not on contract): Rebecca Baney, Dena Hodge-Bates, Deena Brants (Program Director)

KHS Summer School Teachers & Counselors: Emma Reidner, Jacob Doan, Jennifer Grebner, Jace Jennings, Marland Rachel, Cody Butler, Charley Eads, Jakob Saey, Julie Fristad, Brad Swanson, Vincent Miles, Katrina Wager.

Belle Summer School Teachers & Counselors: Leticia Martinez, Katie Buerk, Koreen Jurgensen, Kelli Jackson, Amanda Minx, Laura Anderson, Ashley Mikenas

Irving Summer School Teachers & Counselors: Melissa Newman, Jennifer Plum, Katie Gerard, Angie Kluever, Joanne Bennett, Megan Gayer, Brigida Castillo, Michelle Palm, Chad Palm, Brooke Esquer, Tiffany Platz

Summer School Social Worker                      Robin O'Conner

Central Summer School Teachers & Counselors: Jill Pear, Kimberly Chenoweth, Jennifer Vickrey, Yesenia Guerrero, Nikki Kubiak, Hailey Plum, Emily Robinson, Peggy Costenson, Jessica Carlson

Superintendent Sullens recommended to approve the above hires. Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member Steffen 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.

12 Month F/T Director of Maintenance                      JR Salisbury

Superintendent Sullens recommended to approve the hire of JR Salisbury as Director of Maintenance. Member Stabler seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Christiansen, Steffen, Stabler, DeBord, Padilla and Johnson all voting aye. Member Salisbury abstained from the vote. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

**D. Leaves**

None

**E. Long Term Sub**

None

**F. Transfers**

From 12 Mo. Custodian at Adm. Office/Central to 12 Mo. Custodian/Security Asst. at Adm. Office/Central                      Lindy Richardson

From 12 Mo. Custodian at KHS 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift to 12 Mo. Custodian Central 1<sup>st</sup> Shift                      Colton Philhower

From 12 Mo. Maintenance/Belle Custodian Split to 12 Mo. F/T Maintenance                      Anthony Verscha

From 12 Mo. Head of Maintenance to 12 Mo. Maintenance                      Roger Waugh



Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above transfers. Member Salisbury made a motion to approve. Member DeBord 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.

**G. Volunteers**

Neponset Track Coach	Tatum Drury
Belle Alexander School	Stephanie Alejandre
Central Jr. High & KHS Track	Kim Becker
STEP Program	Anna Peterson

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

- A.** Moment of Silence for Katherine Clague (Mother of Brad DeWolfe-KHS Teacher)
- B.** Moment of Silence for Jacob Ketelaar (Stepfather of Trisha Behnke-Head Cook)
- C.** Moment of Silence for Ignacio Navarro (Father of Rosalinda Comer-Irving Teacher and Grandfather of William Comer-Irving Aide)
- D.** Moment of Silence for E Suzanne McGovern (Mother of Rita Burrows-KHS Teacher)
- E.** Moment of Silence for Elizabeth “Betty” Ouart (Former Employee)
- F.** Moment of Silence for Samuel Garcia (Father of Yolanda Quintero-Belle Aide and Grandfather of Eusebia Quintero-Belle Aide-Substitute Teacher)
- G.** Moment of Silence for Mae Miller (Former Teacher, Aunt of Connie Briggs-Administration Office Secretary, Aunt of Amie Olson and Jamie Wilson-Central Cafeteria)

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Member DeBord made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm. Member Padilla seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all Members voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried.

\*There will be a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 5:30pm in the Administration Office to Canvass the Votes and Re-Organization of the School Board.

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Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, President

Jan Padilla, Secretary