

**KEWANEE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #229
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING-FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

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, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson. Member Dev was absent. Superintendent Sullens was also present for the Closed Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF REGULAR SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

At 6:02 pm, Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member DeMay 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 Dev was absent. The motion carried.

At 7:18 pm Member DeMay 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 Dev was absent. The motion carried.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL FOR OPEN SESSION MEETING

President Johnson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 pm. This Open Session continued in the Petersen Auditorium at Kewanee High School. Roll call showed the following Board Members present: DeMay, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson. Member Dev was absent. The audience included: R Baney, T Atwell, J Anderson, T Brown, C Douglas, A Tidwell, R Kapacinskis, M Bates, J Bates, P Evans, C Bates, J Doan, A Minx, Z Murphy, A McDowell, T Ridings, R Orwig, T Nebinger, B Nebinger, T Nebinger, C Nebinger, and J Russell from Kewanee Radio. 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.

INVITED GUESTS

None

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

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

Breanna Nebinger, a freshman at Kewanee High, addressed the Board about the enforcement of the school dress code. She stated that she felt the dress code was being enforced only on certain students but not all. She stated that her brother was sent to Mr. Butler’s office for wearing his hat on his belt loop. She stated that after seeing many students getting away with dress code violations, she decided to implement an experiment. She stated that she wore a hat on her belt loop and was not sent to the office for a dress code violation. She stated that she wanted the school administration to implement the dress code equally among all students.

Tim Ridings addressed the Board about setting up a meeting with School Boards and community members in the area. The meetings would give the Board members and community members a place for open discussion. He stated he would like the meetings to take place in January, May, and August of each year.

Roy Orwig, parent of a high school student, addressed the Board in regards to the school dress code. He stated that if teachers are going to enforce the dress code for one student they should enforce it for all students. He stated that a cap on the belt loop isn't a dress code violation. He stated that staff should be more concerned with the fights at the high school.

Jason Bates, parent of high school students, thanked the Board and Administration for their support of his son Cooper. He also thanked them for their support of the Music and Theater departments.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent

FY25 EBF (Governor's request \$350 million plus \$150 million for categorical increases)

Dr. Sullens stated that legislators have started working on the State budget for next year. He stated that the Governor has requested \$350 million be added to the EBF funding model and additional \$150 million be added for categorical increases. He informed the Board that the categorical increases would include funding for transportation and special education.

Building & Grounds Improvements

Dr. Sullens stated that the rigging on the stage in Petersen Auditorium was upgraded by a crew from Wisconsin. He stated that they had hoped to have the work done prior to the winter musical but that wasn't possible. He stated that the project was just recently completed.

FOIA Requests

Dr. Sullens stated that the District fulfilled all FOIA requests this month.

E-Learning Day/Snow Day

Dr. Sullens stated that the District was allowed to use five E-Learning days with the current E-Learning plan. He stated that so far this year we have used those along with a snow day. He stated that the snow day will need to be made up at the end of the year.

Kewanee City Street Repair Request by Superintendent

Dr. Sullens stated that he was planning on submitting a request to the City Manager to address the streets around District buildings.

Mr. Anderson-Central Principal

Testing-Preparation

Mr. Anderson informed the Board that IAR testing is coming up in March. He stated that students have been doing interim testing to get ready. He stated that Central was focusing on math fluency and staff was putting interventions into place before testing. He stated that he was excited to see the scores this year.

Jr. High Golf

Mr. Anderson informed the Board that he and Mr. Hinton were approached about adding a Junior High Golf team. He stated that a student survey hadn't been completed yet. He stated that he didn't see football being effected by adding a golf team. He stated that he would have additional information next month.

Mr. Atwell-KHS Athletic Director

KHS Sports Update

Mr. Atwell updated the Board on the Winter Sports Season. He stated that Kristina Armstrong qualified for the IHSA Sectional Bowling Tournament but didn't advance to State. He stated that the Girls Basketball Team lost in the Regional Semi Final game to Peoria Notre Dame. Mr. Atwell informed the Board that the Boys Basketball Team will play Sherrard in Farmington Regional on February 21st. He stated that the KHS Speech Team had multiple Regional Champions, that included Cooper Bates and Tori Dennison-Humorous Duet Acting, Isaac Lynes-Poetry, Laryn Conley-Prose, and Cooper Bates-Original Comedy. Mr. Atwell informed the Board that Scholastic Bowl will compete in the Regional on March 4th. He stated that track practice has begun and baseball and softball practice will begin on February 26.

State Qualifiers-Wrestling-Alex Duarte & Jamal Lasenby (Kingston Peterson Alternate) & Speech-Cooper Bates

Mr. Atwell informed the Board that Cooper Bates was the Regional and Sectional Champion in Original Comedy and competed at the State Tournament. He stated that Cooper was unable to make the State Finals. Mr. Atwell informed the Board that Alejandro Duarte, and Jamal Lasenby qualified for the State Wrestling Tournament with Kingston Peterson being named an alternate. He stated that Jamal Lasenby had a record of 0-2 at the tournament. Alejandro Duarte was a State Medalist taking 5th place at 215 pounds.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval of Jr. High Promotion Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Dr. Sullens recommending approving the Junior High Promotion date as Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Member DeMay seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen to approve. The roll call vote showed DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, DeMay, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Member Dev was absent. The motion carried.

Consideration and Approval of Bid for Central Parking Lot Improvements

Dr. Sullens recommended approving the bid from Hein Construction in Peoria for \$322,000. He stated that four bids were received for the Central parking lot project. He stated that the District will receive \$50,000 in funding from the School Maintenance Grant. Dr. Sullens stated that this project is set to work around end of Summer School and the start of the 2024-2025 school year. President Johnson asked if the District would receive the millings and Dr. Sullens stated that we would. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, DeMay, DeBord, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Member Dev was absent. The motion carried.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION PERSONNEL:

Resignations

Jonathon Henegar	Central 8 th Grade Social Studies Teacher, KHS Assistant Basketball Coach, and KHS Assistant Baseball Coach-Effective End of 2023-2024 School Year
Kara Yepsen	District Office Personnel/Payroll-Effective 6/30/2024

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

Retirements

None

Hires-Vote #1

Amanda Tidwell	KHS Principal for the 2024-2025 School Year
Amanda Minx	Irving Principal for the 2024-2025 School Year

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

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

Hires-Vote #2

Rayanne Busboom	Belle P/T Aide
Tom Mallery	Neponset Custodian
Kelleen Pence	Cafeteria Substitute

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

Jan May Maternity Leave for Karly Allen (KHS Special Ed Teacher)-3/12/2024-5/10/24

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

Transfers

None

Volunteers

Trey Kazubowski	KHS Baseball Coach
Brandy Nelson	Irving Tutor (to fulfill education coursework requirements)
Elec Arndt	KHS Group Interpretation

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

Renewal/Non-Renewal of Stipend Positions

None

OTHER ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

Expulsion of Student B-2024 for gross misconduct. The expulsion will be for the remainder of the 2023-2024 School Year.

Dr. Sullens recommended to approving the Expulsion of Student B-2024 for gross misconduct. He stated that the expulsion will be for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Salisbury, Steffen, DeMay, DeBord, Christiansen, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. Member Dev was absent. The motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Zach Murphy, KHS Speech Coach stated that COVID has impacted Speech program participation throughout Illinois. He stated that this year the Kewanee High School team had eight members competing at Regionals and five of them were Seniors. He stated that he hopes to add some Freshmen to the team. He stated that currently Wethersfield doesn't have a Speech Coach and therefore no Speech Team. He proposed possibly forming a Co-Op with Wethersfield for Speech and creating a Kewanee-Wethersfield Speech Team.

Tim Ridings stated that he wanted to thank each person who sits on the School Board. He stated that he would be speaking with pastors and churches. He stated that churches need to be more involved.

President Johnson reminded the Board that an IASB Division Meeting would be held in two weeks at Stark County High School. He stated that if they wanted to attend to let Connie know and she would make their reservation.

Moment of Silence for William “Bill” Bennett-Former Neponset Board Member
Moment of Silence for Greg Cruse-Father in law of Lynn Cruse (Lyle Aide)
Moment of Silence for Elmer “Bill” Guthrie-Former Neponset Board President
Moment of Silence for Andrew Dearing-Grandfather of Madison Dearing (Central Aide)
Moment of Silence for Pamela Mills-Stepmother of Tim Boswell (District Bus Driver/Custodian)

ADJOURNMENT

Member Salisbury seconded a motion made by Member DeMay to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote from Members DeMay, DeBord, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson was heard all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Member Dev was absent. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

JEFF JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

JON DEBORD, SECRETARY