

KEWANEE COMM SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING JULY 20, 2020

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 President Johnson calling the Meeting to order at 6:00pm. Roll call showed the following Members present: Padilla, Christiansen, Stabler, DeBord, Steffen, Salisbury and Johnson. Superintendent Sullens was also present.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

At 6:00 pm 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/2017*. Voice roll vote showed all present Members voting aye. The motion carried.

At 7:20 pm Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen to adjourn the Closed Session meeting. A voice roll call was heard with all present 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 7:31pm. 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, R Baney, J Bryan, D Hodge-Bates, KEA President R Kapacinskas, J Vickery, K Laue, P Schneider, M Dever, L Hampton, S Pickering, E Robinson, P Costenson, M Anders, G Gerard, J Bartelt, J Becker, A Johnson, R Smyth, C Weir, A Clementz, M Newman, K Ellenberger, S Oldeen, P Copeland, A Reiter, A Crofton, E Crofton, M Wise, A Joos, K Maupin, M Dyer, K Mitchell, A Dev, L Dev, S Dev, L Murphy, E LaFlora, L Yarger, P Evans, A Miler, K Buerk, M Bates, J Bates, T DeBlieck, S Ferns, K Carton, R Carton, N Kubiak, J Carlson, N Taylor, B Taylor, J Taylor, J Kell, K Fraker, B Utenage, K Callahan, H Safiran, A Binek, F Polowy Jr, T Polowy, C Osborne, V Miles, and S Courier. M Helenthal was in attendance to report on the meeting for the Kewanee Star Courier. Recording secretary H Leckey-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

None

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 Kapacinkas questioned the District's purchase of electronic signs for District Buildings at this time. President Johnson stated that the costs have went down on electronic signs and the purchase of signs allows for individual schools to communicate with families. Dr. Sullens stated that the signs are a great way to quickly and easily inform parents of District events.

IX. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

A. Superintendent

1. Summer Maintenance

Dr. Sullens reported that the Summer maintenance crews have been working on District buildings cleaning, painting and waxing floors while practicing social distancing.

2. FY/21 State Evidence Based Funding

Sullens reported that we have been informed that the new EBF dollars that the District was to receive for FY/21 will not be increasing from last year. The EBF has been flat lined for the current school year. There is talk if the Progressive Income Tax passes in November, the EBF model would be fully funded with \$35,000,000 per year to get every school district up to the 90% adequacy target with the federal government making up the remaining 10%.

3. Fall 2020 School Plans

Dr. Sullens stated that most area schools will be deciding this week what the start of school will look like. ISBE has issued requirements including masks being worn by all students and staff at all times, no more than 50 people in one space, social distancing of 6' must be maintained, temps must be taken, and special attention to cleaning must be maintained.

Dr. Sullens met with a teacher group that consisted of C Eads, R Price, G Arzola, M Rachel, D Hodge-Bates, R Baney, J Bryan and R Kapacinkas to discuss options to start school. The District looked at ISBE requirements, took into consideration the social distancing issues on buses, in classrooms and etc. The District's proposal for In-Person Learning is "A" days (Tues. and Thurs.) and "B" days (Wed. and Fri.) with Remote Learning on the days that students are not In-Person Learning. Remote Learning teachers/students will be utilizing Skycasting and Google classrooms. Mondays would be Remote Planning days. Students/parents would also have the option to register to attend Remote Learning exclusively. The plan would be for the first nine weeks and will be reviewed at the end of that time. This plan would reduce the number of students in a classroom, cafeterias and on buses. All buildings will be dismissing by 2pm each day to allow teachers their planning times.

Dr. Sullens thanked A Zarell, D Carr, Matt Schneppe (Henry County OEM), ROE, Scott Kuffel, and our Teachers for all of their help and input into putting the plan together for the start of 2020 Learning.

Sullens explained the Registration process that the District will be using this year. The District is encouraging parents to register on line but will have on site registration for those that are unable to register on line.

Member Christiansen asked about how meals will be served to students who are Remote Learning. Dr. Sullens stated that the District is working on that at this time. The Federal Government has not

yet brought back the “Free for All” program but are talking about it. We are also considering sending meals for the Remote Learning days’ home with students at the end of their In-Person attendance day.

Christian also asked if there could be an algorithm made up showing how students are progressing while Remote Learning, especially the younger students and Special Ed students. Dr. Sullens stated that we are working with Henry County Special Ed. for students who have IEP’s. These students will be allowed to attend In-Person Learning more often than just two days per week as required by their IEP minutes. Some area schools are considering bringing K-3 students back more than two days per week.

The State is no longer “shelter in place” and our teachers are now allowed to be teaching from their classroom locations.

Through the State Jobs Act grant we were able to hire four people to come in and assist with extra cleaning. The District has purchased electrostatic sprayers/foggers to sanitize the air in the classrooms and busses.

President Johnson stated that he has had many conversations with families and most have voiced that the students need to be in the classrooms five days per week but with the situation the Hybrid method is a good compromise. Johnson also expressed his concern over wearing masks and younger students being able to learn phonics while wearing one.

Sullens stated that he is hopeful that by the next board meeting the IDPH will have some hard set rules for dealing with Learning and sports.

Member DeBord asked how teachers could do double the work teaching online and In-Person? Are students being taught new material each day or are the Remote Learning days just review? Can teachers teach live from the classroom every day? Dr. Sullens stated that when meeting with the Teacher group to discuss our options some of the teachers stated that it would be very difficult teaching live and In-Person at the same time. DeBord stated that he was disappointed that the District didn’t start discussing a better Learning plan way back in April. Dr. Sullens stated that the rules kept changing and the direction from IDPA did not come out until recently. Mrs. Baney stated that the District was promised instructional recommendations/rules and guidelines from the State that did not come. The District will be continuing grading practices with new instruction. She feels that first the Board of Education needs to decide if the District will be doing a Hybrid model and then the principals need to sit down with their teachers and decide how that makes sense for each building. She does not feel that synchronous Learning is good for everyone and can put limitations on some students. It needs to be determined by the individual teacher, team and grade level and how technology will work for them. Baney stated that she has no concerns about the quality of education for student learning. Baney said, “Our teachers will continue to improve (with Remote Learning and Instruction), all these people are amazing and are very good at what they do, and I really believe that they will rise to the challenge.”

An individual from the audience asked “If a child refuses to wear a mask what will happen.” Dr. Sullens stated that the student would be removed from the classroom and it will become a

disciplinary matter with a series of punishments or penalties with possible expulsion if the student refuses to cooperate.

Member Christiansen asked if “A” and “B” students would be separated alphabetically or by family? Dr. Sullens explained that they would be separated by both. We will separate alphabetically and then adjust for students with different last names in the same family pod.

Member DeBord asked if IHSA and IESA come out with favorable decisions for fall sports, will students only be allowed to come to practice on days that they attend by Remote Learning. Dr. Sullens stated that students will be allowed to attend practices whether they are In-Person Learners or Remote Learners. Sullens is not optimistic about fall football. Sullens also stated that extra-curricular activities such as band & chorus will not be cut. The guidelines for these activities are that they should be held outside.

4. Fall 2020 IHSA & IESA Sports & Activities Plans

Dr. Sullens stated that the IHSA Board sent out a memo on July 3 regulating the 20 contact days each sport is normally allowed. By the following Thursday they again sent out a memo stating that masks must be worn during all indoor athletic activity (volleyball and basketball). Later in the day they came out stating that there could be no contact what so ever including football even if masks are worn. There is another IHSA Board meeting this coming Wednesday to decide what to do with fall sports or if they will let the decisions fall on the IDPH and Governor.

The IESA has stated that Softball will be put on hold for now.

X. SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Update on Administration Office & Belle Alexander School Parking Lots

Dr. Sullens thanked Henry County Highway Department for the phenomenal job they have done for the District asphaltting the Kewanee Administrative parking lot and Belle Alexander.

b. Update on KHS Bleachers

Dr. Sullens updated the Board of Education that the visitor’s bleachers at KHS have been torn down in preparation of the construction of new bleachers. He believes that the original bleachers were installed in 1946-1948. The new bleacher footings will be poured in the next couple weeks and the bleachers themselves are being manufactured.

c. Update on Front Entrance and South Retaining Wall at Central School

Dr. Sullens reported that the old retaining wall on Lyle street was removed and a new retaining wall has been erected. The front entrance is on schedule to be completed by the start of school.

d. Update on Solar - (Neponset & KHS Online)

Solar panels are now live at Neponset at KHS. We are waiting on inspections by Ameren for the remaining buildings.

e. Update on KHS Teacher’s Lounge & AD Room

The KHS Teacher's Lounge and AD Rooms are still being worked on. We expect them to be completed by the August Board meeting.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration and Approval of Closed Session Minutes and Approve Them as Remaining Closed or as Being Open (through June 30, 2020)

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

B. Consideration and Approval to Authorize the Superintendent to Prepare the 2020/2021 Budget

President Johnson called for a motion to approve in order to meet the State guidelines. Member Padilla seconded a motion made by Member DeBord 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 of Bus Hazard Resolution

President Johnson called for a motion to approve the yearly Bus Hazard Resolution. Member Steffen made a motion to approve. Member Christiansen 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. The motion carried.

D. Consideration and Approval of Kewanee High School Graduation Date: May 16, 2021

President Johnson called for a motion to approve May 16, 2021 for KHS Graduation. This would be the Sunday after Mother's Day. Member Steffen seconded a motion made by Member DeBord 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 Bids for Paper Products, Milk Products, Bread Products & Waste Disposal

Dr. Sullens recommended to accept the bids from Enyeart for milk, Aunt Millies for bread, Waste Management for trash and Wilson Paper for paper product bids. Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Steffen to approve. 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.

President Johnson asked if there was paper products left over from this year due to the shortened year. Dr. Sullens stated that there was due to the COVID-19 closures.

F. Consideration and Approval of Bus Mileage Rate – Stay at the Current Rate of \$2.35/mile

President Johnson called for a motion to keep the Bus Mileage rate unchanged at \$2.35/mile. Member Stabler seconded a motion made by Member Salisbury 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.

G. 1st Reading of New & Revised Policies

President Johnson called for a motion to approve the 1st Reading of New and revised policies listed in the Board packets. Member Padilla seconded a motion made by Member DeBord to approve. The roll call vote showed Members DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen,

Stabler and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried.

XIII. ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION PERSONNEL:

A. Resignations

KHS Sophomore Class Advisor	Sara Davis	Effective End of 19/20 School Year
ROE Safe School Teacher	Michael Ostrowski	Effective End of 19/20 School Year
Irving 3 rd Grade Teacher	Megan Kehl	Effective End of 19/20 School Year

Dr. Sullens proposed to approve the above listed resignations. Member Salisbury 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.

B. Retirements

None

C. Hires I

School Counselor/School Counselor Intern	Tiffany Platz
ROE Professional Development Coordinator	Amy Boyles Began 7/1/20
Summer Custodial Aide	Colton Johnson
Summer Custodial Aide	Tyler Diego Jackson

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above hires. Member Christiansen made a motion to approve the above listed hires. Member Padilla 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. The motion carried.

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

D. Leaves

None

E. Long Term Sub

None

F. Transfer/Hire

From Belle 1 on 1 Health Aide to Irving 1 on 1 Health Aide Mindy Bumphrey

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the transfer of M Bumphrey. 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.

G. Volunteers

KHS Soccer Coach
KHS Soccer Coach

Maria Grajeda
Alex Bermudez

Member DeBord made a motion to approve Dr. Sullens’s recommendations for volunteers. Member Steffen 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.

H. Renewal/Non-Renewal of Stipend Positions

None

XIV. OTHER ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

None

XV. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Pam Schnieder addressed the Board of Education and thanked the committee who worked on the back to school plan. She stated that it makes her a little nervous losing one teaching hour per day and only teaching In-Person two days per week. She asked how allowing students to participate in band and choir should be a requirement. She also questioned how staff should manage their own students while teaching when their children are on Remote Learning Days. Dr. Sullens stated that these are some of the problems that all parents are having to address.

Pam Osborne commented that she is concerned that students are losing something without In-Person Learning and not being able to ask questions and learn from other student’s questions. She feels that the live instruction her son received during Driver’s Ed was much better than recorded videos. Mrs. Osborne stated that it was also difficult and confusing this spring when students were Remote Learning and teachers were using different tools to teach.

Emily Robinson asked about the “A” & “B” schedules for blended families. Dr. Sullens stated that students with different last names from one family will be registered to be attending on the same days if In-Person Learning. Ms. Robinson also asked for options for child care for staff and teachers.

Tameran Polowy spoke asking why parents have not been a part of data processing and decision making about what they would like to see for their students. She feels that the District’s plan has not been formulated fully and the Board has not answered all the questions from families and teachers about what Remote Learning means. Polowy also asked the board to consider social and emotional issues of the community.

Karen Carton addressed the Board asking how fully Remote Learning students can attend sports and practices together and not be cross-contaminating with the In-Person Learning students. She feels that there would be cross-contamination between sports, bus riders, and In-Person Learning. She also asked why meetings hadn’t started earlier for teachers and fine tuning the Return to School Plans. She questioned the District’s spending on electronic signs instead of spending the funds on teacher education and PPE supplies. Carton also asked the Board to understand what they are asking the District teachers’ to do this year and the teachers deserve the Board’s support and should be compensated for their work.

Ruth Kapacinkas noted that not all of the sinks and faucets are working in District buildings, nor is there always soap in the District restrooms. She asked that the District make sure these are all in working order before school starts. President Johnson advised her to notify maintenance staff when she discovers these issues.

Member Christiansen thanked the staff and parents and asked for support to work together during these unprecedented times.

President Johnson stated that more than half of the Board of Education is made up of people working in health care fields and feels that the more information there is out there the more confusing it gets. Information changes on a daily basis.

A moment of silence was held in honor of former Boys Basketball Head Coach Shaune Lewis. Dr. Sullens noted what an outstanding job Shaune did for our student athletes, parents and community. Shaune was a positive influence on many.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:16pm President Johnson called for a motion for Adjournment. Member Padilla made a motion to approve. Member Christiansen seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried.

JEFF JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

JAN PADILLA, SECRETARY