

## KEWANEE COMM SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AUGUST 3, 2020

### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL FOR SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Special 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: DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, Steffen, and Johnson. Members absent were Stabler and Salisbury. Superintendent Sullens was also present.

### II. EXECUTIVE SESSION OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

At 6:00 pm Member Christiansen 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 \* 5ILCS 120/2 Open Meetings *The School Code of Illinois/2020*. Voice roll vote showed all present Members voting aye. The motion carried.

At 6:17 pm Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to adjourn the Closed Session meeting. A voice roll call was heard with all present Members voting aye. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL FOR OPEN SESSION MEETING

President Johnson called the Special Meeting Open Session to order at 6:30pm. This Open Session continued in the KHS Petersen Auditorium. Roll call showed the following Board Members present: DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, Steffen, and Johnson. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. The audience included staff and community members: R Baney, D Hodge-Bates, KEA President R Kapacinkas, G Gerard, Gary Bradley, Shane Pickering, Larry Hampton, Troy Weida, Emily Robinson, Peg Costenson, Melanie Anders, Joseph Anders, Laura Nolan, Amanda Johnson, Joan Becker, Melissa Newman, Kathryn Gerard, Justin Ford, Jacque Komnick, Mike Komnick, Melissa Maxon, James Maxon, Adam Huffman, Stephanie Huffman, Kelli Maupin, Amy Dev, Sid Dev, Kasey Mitchell, Liz Murphy, Megan James, Amy Miler, Lori Yarger, Melissa Bates, Jason Bates, Tamera Polowy, Frank Polowy, Jill Bartelt, Chris Weir, Amanda Clementz, Stephanie Ferns, Tara DeBlieck, Andrew Dwyer, Megan denBlaauwen, Nichole Taylor, Cheryl Osborne, Jim Padilla, Julie Fristad, Emma Reidner, Kim Johnson, Pam Schneider, Erin Sheets, Kari Laue, Jennifer Vickrey, Autumn Brown, Tiffany Platz, Trisha Behnke, James Behnke, Becky Henkins, Brad Gayer, Paula Evans, and other community members. Erin Henkel & M Helenthal were 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. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gary Bradley approached the Board of Education to make a formal request from the Board to consider allowing his son to attend school four days per week in a District Building.

Amy Dev questioned what is to happen with PreK students. She is a daycare provider in Neponset and Neponset normally held full day PreK verses Lyle's half day PreK.

Roy Orwig also requested that his daughter has the opportunity to attend classes four to five days per week In-Person Learning.

Andrew Dwyer asked the Board of Education why the cleaning is being done on Mondays rather than on Wednesdays between “A” and “B” student attendance. He also asked how Teacher Aides would be utilized in the classroom, would Zoom meetings be utilized, what will essential workers do with their students on Remote Learning Days? What is the process moving forward after the COVID-19 pandemic is over, what will the expectation levels be? Dwyer stated that he has read about quarantining. Teachers will be working with their class and then mingling with other staff members. He believes the quarantining part of the return to work plan is lacking. He hopes for fluid conversation with the Board of Education.

KEA President, Kapacinkas asked about the discrepancies in the instructions that were provided to parents during the Skyward registration process and what Dr. Sullens has advised in our reopening schools meetings. In the paperwork that parents were provided it stated that there would be notification to parents not necessarily from the Health Department of positive tests but from the school District itself. Kapacinkas said that Dr. Sullens has stated that notifications will be only from the Health Department. Dr. Johnson stated that the District cannot give out HIPAA information about specific employees. Kapacinkas stated that the knowledge that there has been a case should be sent out to parents. Dr. Sullens asked Kapacinkas to send him a copy of the paperwork she was referring to so it can be corrected.

Pam Schnieder stated she still has concerns. She worries about the COVID-19 risks returning to school and is it worth the risk? She asked why temperature checks are not being done at bus stops. She asked what the protocol was if a student is sent home if displaying symptoms? Would the ill student be sent home or will the entire class be sent home? She requested that there be ample cleaning and disinfecting supplies in the classrooms for teachers to use. Schnieder asked why the Return to Learn Plan is being voted on tonight but was already presented as “the plan” for registration and parents.

Cheryl Osborn addressed the Board of Education and thanked them for their thoughtfulness going into this situation. She stated that there is not much detail as how things will work going forward. What is happening for lunches, hallways, will six feet apart actually be good enough for separation in the hallways? She stated that parents need to be notified if there is a positive COVID-19 case in their student’s classroom. Osborn is worried that students will not comply with masks and the rules will not be enforced. She also complained that it was very difficult last spring to figure out student assignments due to District teachers all using different teaching methods. She stated it would be much easier if everyone used one platform such as Google Classroom and she encouraged the District to consider synchronous learning with live feed to each classroom.

**V. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CLAIRE NICHOLS RESIGNATION**

KHS Science Teacher, Head VB Coach, and Student Council Advisor      Claire Nichols  
Effective Immediately

Dr. Sullens proposed to approve resignation from Claire Nichols. Member Padilla seconded a motion made by Member DeBord to approve. The roll call vote showed Members DeBord,

Padilla, Christiansen, Steffen, and Johnson all voting aye. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

**VI. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF HIRING KHS SCIENCE TEACHER**

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve Michael Ufkin for the KHS Science position. Member Steffen made a motion to approve the hire. Member Christiansen seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed Members Padilla, Christiansen, Steffen, DeBord and Johnson all voting aye. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

**VII. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF HIRING KHS ALTERNATIVE TEACHER**

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve Jakob Saey for the KHS Alternative position. Member DeBord made a motion to approve. Member Steffen seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed Members Christiansen, Steffen, DeBord, Padilla and Johnson all voting aye. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

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

**VIII. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF HIRING CENTRAL JR HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTER TEACHER**

No Action was taken

**IX. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES (4 COVID-19 POLICIES)**

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

**X. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF JOINING THE SCHOOLS OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC COOPERATIVE (SIPC)**

Sullens recommended to approve. President Johnson called for a motion. 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. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

**XI. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RETURN TO LEARN PLAN FOR FALL 2020 (REMOTE LEARNING & HYBRID INSTRUCTION OPTIONS)**

Dr. Sullens discussed PreK State Guidelines. The PreK is a Grant Funded program. Obviously Remote Learning and Hybrid days will look a lot different for a Pre-schooler. Sullens stated that the District will be deep cleaning every night. Cleaning products and electrostatic foggers have been ordered and hopefully will be here soon. Mondays are being reserved as a day off for teacher lesson planning and teacher institutes. Dr. Sullens commented that it has not gone unnoticed by the District that staff was using different platforms for teaching last spring. The District is already working on the issue for Remote Learning this fall. The 21st Century Program is working on options of hiring staff to work at night to assist students K-8 with homework problems remotely. Mrs. Osborne's question was answered about lunches. Sullens stated that students will be fed in different areas and separated to keep gatherings less than 50. Sullens stated that the ultimate goal will be to keep our students safe

and provide them with a quality education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The District is also preparing for the worse and working on a plan if the State Mandates the return to Remote Learning only. President Johnson called for a motion. Member Steffen made a motion to approve.

Member Christiansen stated that the issues weigh heavy on the Board with positivity rates increasing. The Board feels strongly that students need the opportunity to be back in school. If there is any chance of making a Hybrid plan work rather than returning to full Remote Learning the teachers, parents, community and staff all need to come together. We need to tighten up our social circles and practice safe social distancing and masking. She asked our City leaders to really push for social distancing and masks. Christiansen asked that our Principals really support and listen to our Teachers.

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

- XII. CLOSED SESSION:** \*(C)(1) to consider 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  
\*5ILCS 120/2 Open Meetings *The School Code of Illinois/2020*

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:14pm President Johnson called for a motion for Adjournment and to go into Closed Session. Member Steffen made a motion to approve. Member Christiansen seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried.

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**JEFF JOHNSON, PRESIDENT**

**JAN PADILLA, SECRETARY**