

## KEWANEE COMM SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OCTOBER 19, 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, DeBord, Steffen, and Johnson. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. Superintendent Sullens was also present.

### II. EXECUTIVE SESSION OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

At 6:00pm 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 (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*. Voice roll vote showed all present Members voting aye. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. The motion carried.

At 7:15pm Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member Debord to adjourn the Closed Session meeting. A voice roll call was heard with all 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 Regular Meeting to order at 7:30pm. This Open Session continued in the KHS Petersen Auditorium. Roll call showed the following Board Members present: DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, Steffen, and Johnson. The audience included staff and community members: T Brown; D Hodge-Bates; KEA President, R Kapacinskas; C Gustafson; B Whitcher; J Whitcher; M Andres, J Anders, T Anders, J Brown, S VanStaden, P Cook, J Russell and M Helenthal reporting for the Star Courier. Recording secretary H Hughes and Superintendent C Sullens were in attendance as well. Board Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent.

### 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 (R Rumbold from Gorenz & Associates postponed until next month to present the 2019-2020 School District Audit due to a delay with Federal filing forms)

### 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 DeBord to approve consent Items V, VI & VII. The roll showed Members DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, Steffen, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. The motion carried.

### VII. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

Mr. Brad Whitcher addressed the Board of Education stating, "We are addressing the Board concerning our children that are struggling. It's an emotional thing. Different students are struggling for different

reasons. We have a 7-year-old who is struggling. We actually had a meeting with Doctor Sullens and Mrs. Bates on Wednesday. It was brought up that he got an A minus in reading. Well, he can't read. He can't and his assessments show that he cannot read. He's getting an A minus because we have to go through his homework with him line by line every night. The teachers are working with him and they're doing everything they can, but he's not going to progress, you know, at the rate that he should. So, the grade shows that he's doing well but he's not. If you speak with his teachers, they'll tell you he's putting in the work, he's trying, but he's got a lot of ground to make up.”

“We also have a sophomore and she believes she needs to be at school more. I know we got an email and a phone call from the school this week saying they were opening the foyer for an Internet Cafe. The comment that our daughter made was, “That's great, but we have Internet at home and I still don't have access to my teachers if I have a question. I can't ask my teachers from the foyer here at the school and I don't have access to the rest of the school”. So, that doesn't really do her a whole lot of good. It probably is great for students that don't have the Internet at home, or students that just need to get up and get out of bed and come here so that they can focus on their stuff. But, her struggles are not being able to reach your teachers. They do have a period at the end of the day of like an hour and a half or something that they can reach out to them, but if she's trying to reach out to five different teachers and they've got other students that they're trying to reach out to at that same time, she can't always get the questions, and her mindset is not always focused on that thing at that time of day. She started doing her homework earlier in the day. She was focused on math or whatever class it was at that time and by two o'clock she's not focused on that. Her head's not in the same spot.”

“My wife and I, we've created a group for Facebook for to get parents to communicate and to talk and so that they can address the board and let the the board know that the students are not doing well in this environment, or at least some students aren't.”

“Like I said, told you last time we have one fifth grader and he's doing pretty well. He's not having problems doing the online stuff. All of our kids do the Hybrid Learning. They go two days a week. But the two days a week is not enough in some cases for some students. We feel that the District has kind of done a one size fits all plan. This is the policy whether there's six schools in the district or it's the same policy for everybody where you know they may have space or room to do more, bring more students in and still maintain mask wearing and social distancing at Irving or at Neponset, or wherever it might be. And they may not necessarily be able to do that. I'm not sure because I'm not familiar with Central because my students, my kids go to Neponset. But, there are things that can be done. “

“We have created a group to try to get parents to come address you guys in a respectful way where we can move things forward and do what's best for our kids. We really do believe that it isn't just our kids that are struggling as we talk to more and more people. Some people are going to want their kids to go five days a week to school. We know that's not going to happen, but there's got to be something better than this.”

“We've got to ask the questions who would feel comfortable if their kids went to school more often. If we don't know how many students would be interested in going more often, we can't say we can't physically do it, or it's not a possibility if we don't ask those questions.”

“I don't know if streaming the classes or recording them live is the way to go. You know, in a Zoom meeting or Google classroom, Google meeting or whatever it is, so that the at-home students can access the teachers at that time when they're ready.”

“I ask that the school board, they revisit it more often.”

President Johnson replied, “I would encourage you to stay in touch with your child's teachers and stay in touch with the Principle of the school. They're working on it every day, working on ways that they can make it work better for your child. But, we're all here because we value their education. We value the education of every student and I sympathize with you. I hear what you're saying.”

IEA President R Kapacinskaskas addressed the board stating, “I have a couple of things. I have some handouts here for the board for some of the neat things that are going on in our District, and our different teacher's classrooms and the different buildings. But, before I pass those out, I had seen in the ‘Weekender Star Courier’ that the Zoning Board was going to be meeting on October 21st to determine if the electronic signs that the School District had purchased several months ago would be allowed. So, I'm curious is that the customary order of doing things? We purchase something and then we get approval from the city that would allow the installation, or is this something new?”

Dr. Sullens responded that, “Several years ago, a church across from Irving School had got their sign approved and as a neighbor we got a notice (that said) ‘Do you oppose this or not by having an LED sign put up at that church and at that time? I talked to Gary Bradley and I said no, I'm not going to oppose it because that's what we want to do at Irving School and rest of our schools. That's our goal and he said ‘Oh, that sounds like a good plan to me’.” At that time, I thought that the rules had actually been changed as far as LED signs. The problem is that we have a rule in Kewanee that still uses the term ‘flashing sign’ and, is LED is considered a flashing sign or not? I don't consider that a flashing sign in my mind. I think of the old arrow signs that said, ‘Backyard sale here or Cars for Sale here’ or something like that.” “Those are what those are designed to do. So, the window came up for us to be able to purchase, we got a great deal on the LED signs and so that's why those were purchased. I just don't see this is a big deal. As far as getting these approved, we've gone through the proper methods, talking with Keith Edwards, as well as Gary Bradley on this. So we will go through the Planning Commission and we'll go through that process.”

Kapacinskaskas responded, “So, it's Gary Bradley and Keith Edwards that will determine.”

Sullens answered that it is the Planning Commission that will make that determination but Edwards and Bradley sit on the Planning Commission hearings.

Kapacinskaskas thanked Sullens for the information.

## **IX. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION**

### **Superintendent**

#### **A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks – Student Enrollment Projections**

Dr. Sullens reported by saying “So again, as we look at our enrollment projections for next nine weeks it has been the conversation here about enrollment and how things are going. I think that when we first started this process, during first nine weeks, parents were a little hesitant. I think staff were hesitant whether we could even have students come to school, we've seen it. Geneseo tried to go five days a week and boom, next thing you know they're out after about three days of school and they are now remote learning for the next 8 1/2 weeks.”

“We do feel good that throughout our buildings it looks like we're going to have another 17 students beginning this week that will be entering Lyle School, another 52 at Belle, another 38 at Irving, another 50 at Central Elementary, another 43 at Central Junior High another 17 at Neponset and another 48 at

Kewanee High School that will be attending in person versus remote, which we think is a total of about 257 students. And again, we look forward to having those students walk the halls of their various schools. I think that's a tribute to what our staff has been doing to be able to maintain social distancing, keeping people 6 feet or greater apart, students wearing masks and trying to mitigate the possible chance of the virus being spread at school.”

#### Cleaning & Sanitation of Buildings

Sullens reported that the District has just hired another person through the American Job Corp to be able to assist with sanitizing our buildings. The District had one person at the high school who started at the beginning of the school year. This person sanitizes the buses twice a day and comes to the High School to work there. We now have recently hired someone to be able to go between Lyle School starting early in the mornings at 5:30am, work a couple hours there, then go over to Belle for a couple hours later in the morning to sanitize that building as well. Dr. Sullens has an interview with another candidate that the Job Corps will be willing to hire on behalf of the School District for Central and Irving School. The District uses electrostatic hand held and backpack sprayer versions.

#### Central Tuck Pointing

Sullens reported that the District had a situation where there was some tuck pointing that needed to be done at Sullens Gym. “There's a window that was popping out. We have been trying to find someone for a year to come and do some tuck pointing,” Sullens said, “We were able to finally find somebody out of Peoria that is doing a wonderful job. The problem was that wherever you have a window, you have a header above it and it's usually made out of steel that's usually 3/8” inch thick and it's an angle iron 3 ½” by 3 ½” which carries the weight to the brick above it and disperses that along the side.”

“Well, overtime that steel will start to rust”, Sullens reported, “The original edition at Central was on ground level and then at some point after 1939-1940, they decided to lift that up.” “They actually built a gym later underneath it, they dug that out, which is kind of amazing when you think about it, raising about six classrooms from ground level up 15 feet in the air.”

Sullens explained that as the metal gets exposed to the elements it bulges and it rusts and gets thicker from 3/8” to approximately 1” thick. That causes everything above it to start to bow out and everything below it starts to pull out as well. There is also a side over by the music room with same problem of bowing out. The problem has to do with another issue, but the guys are doing an outstanding job putting that back together.

#### Summer Food Service Program (Free for All) Extended to June 30, 2021

Supt. Sullens reported that the Free for All District Summer Food Program has been extended to June 30th, 2021. We are very appreciative that the Federal Government has extended this program.

#### OSF St. Luke Medical Center Flu Vaccines at Individual Buildings

Sullens thanked the OSF Saint Luke Medical Center for doing the flu vaccines at our various individual buildings again this year.

### **B. Mr. Atwell – Athletic Director**

#### Fall Sports Update

Coach Atwell reported on fall sports. There were no Boys Golf Sectional Qualifiers this year. The Girls Golf Team was 2020 IHSA Regional Champions, hosted by Kewanee, with Mya Mirocha as the IHSA Regional Girls Golf Champion. At Sectionals the Girls placed 7<sup>th</sup> in Rock Falls. Atwell thanked Mr. Gustafson for running the Girls Regional Tournament in his absence.

Cross Country Regionals will be Saturday the 24th at Saukie Golf Course in Rock Island.

Tennis competed at IHSA Sectionals in Geneseo with no placers.

Winter sports will begin practices on November 16th.

Just a little reminder that dance and wrestling are considered high risk, so unless something really changes, that's probably not going to happen. Basketball is considered medium risk and will be allowed to practice. Currently Swimming and Girls Bowling are low risk. So, if things were to start today those would be the only two sports that would be competing this winter.

By October 28th, the IHSA and IDPH are supposed to make a decision on whether we will be able to have basketball contact competition.

The KHS Fall Play is tentative.

#### Cross Country Senior Night

Cross Country senior night was Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> where Coach Palm presented a wonderful program. Sterling Newman does not have a home course, so when we honored our seniors we also honored their seniors. Sterling Newman has a runner, Karlie Hey, who has just been diagnosed with cancer. Karlie is an Allstate runner for Sterling Newman placing 4th and 5th at State. The Girls Cross Country team along with "Moments by Muti" honored her at the program.

#### Possible Senior Night with a Band Performance

A tentative Fall Senior Night may be held on Friday, October 30th for the fall seniors.

Dr. Sullens explained that the Kewanee High School Fall Play has become an issue with the Covid-19 pandemic. KHS is going to have two individual plays that are going to be filmed. The question becomes how are we going to get that out to the public? There has been some discussion about possibly showing the plays later on by filming one day and then the next weekend or so actually show them at the Kewanee Waunee movie theater. There would be no cost to individuals who would like to come watch. We are also considering, following the rules of no groups larger than 50, possibly bringing parents in, to see the live performance as it takes place as well.

A possible senior night for Cross Country, Band and Golf with a band performance is also being considered. The District is currently working on logistics to follow the rules we have right now of holding events with only a 20% capacity. If we have 1000 seats or so in the Stadium we would only be allowed to have 200 people attending. We can only have 50 people in one group and then you have to keep each group 30 feet away from each other. The event will probably be a ticketed event. The goal would be to come back to the High School with families for pork chops, hamburgers and brats separating groups into specific areas of the building.

The District has talked to Duane Stevens from the Health Department. He does have a heads up of what our plan is and we hope by Wednesday morning at the latest to have that plan together to submit to Mr. Stevens for his review so we can proceed. Mr. Binek is excited about showcasing his band and their talents.

**C. Mrs. Hodge-Bates Neponset-Principal**

Parent Teacher Conferences

Mrs. Hodge-Bates reported that the first quarter of 2020 ended Friday, and this week we're going to be holding parent teacher conferences. Conferences will look a little different this year. The District is offering virtual Parent Teacher Conferences through Google Meets on Wednesday, October 21st, 4pm-8pm and Thursday 4pm to 7pm.

The District will also accommodate those parents who wish to have an in-person conference or who don't have access to the Internet. Those that do decide to come in will have to wear masks and social distance along with temperature checks taken before they can enter District Buildings. Buildings will be sanitized prior to and after each family comes in for conferences. Teachers will be discussing first quarter performances and then goal setting.

The communication between teachers and parents this first quarter has been outstanding. Teachers are talking to parents daily and sometimes hourly, especially on Mondays.

**X. SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Update on KHS Bleachers

Sullens reported that the new KHS Visitor Bleacher Project is about 99% completed. "We're still missing a few parts again, due to the Covid-19 supply chain issues. There's nothing big, but we have to have the entire project completed to pass inspection. The bleachers are looking fantastic."

Update on Front Entrance at Central School (currently waiting on parts)

Dr. Sullens updated the Board on the Central JH Front Entrance project. The project is also approximately 99% done. The District still waiting for some roof trim for final completion.

Update on KHS Teacher's Lounge, KHS Home Ec Expansion & AD Room

Sullens reported that the KHS Teacher's Lounge/Home Ec expansion is on schedule for our steel structure to be delivered at the end of this month and the iron workers are ready to go. Crews will be pouring concrete tomorrow at KHS as well as over at the stadium. Peoria Metro, who is our contractor on the project, has been very good to work with. This is our third project we have worked with them on now and they are doing a great job.

Consideration and Approval of New & Revised Policies: 2:150-AP; 2:250-E2; 2:260; 2:260-A1; 2:160-AP2; 2:265; 2:265-AP1; 2:265-AP2; 2:265-E; 4:180-AP1; 4:180-AP2; 5:10; 5:20; 5:90-AP; 5:100; 5:330; 7:10; 7:10-AP1; 7:20; 7:20-AP; 7:180; 7:185; 7:190-E2; 7:345-AP

President Johnson called for a motion to approve new and revised policies that were included in Board packets. Member Padilla seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen to approve. The roll call vote showed Members Padilla, Christiansen, Steffen, Debord and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. The Motion carried.

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

Consideration and Approval of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks Hybrid Schedule

The recommendation is to continue on with the Hybrid system of learning that we have right now with Mondays being remote full remote days, and students attending in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays or Wednesdays and Fridays. Sullens stated, "Our concern right now is going into flu season



Central Pt/ Playground/Cafeteria Supervisor/1 on 1 Health Aide	Michelle Hand
KHS Boiler Bash Co-Advisor	Casie Douglas
KHS Kewanite Advisor	Jake Saey
KHS Student Council Advisor	Cody Butler
KHS Sophomore Class Advisor	Heather Olalde
KHS Junior Class Advisor	Jennifer Coombes
KHS Contest Play Co-Advisor	Haley Hamilton
Irving 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Substitute Teacher	Amelia Reiter
Central 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Student Assistant	Gabriel Johnson

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

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

Leaves

Taylor Witte	Maternity Leave	Approximately 2/22/21-5/3/21
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Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the maternity leave of T Witte. Member Christiansen made a motion to approve. Member DeBord seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed Members Christiansen, Steffen, DeBord, Padilla and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. The motion carried.

Volunteers

KHS Swimming	Nathan Wager
KHS Bowling	Carl Rohrig

Member Steffen made a motion to approve Dr. Sullens’s recommendation for the KHS Fall Play volunteer. Member Padilla seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed Members Steffen, DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. The motion carried.

Renewal/Non-Renewal of Stipend Positions

None

Other Action Arising From Closed Session

Dr. Sullens made the recommendation to ban person A2021 for the 2020-2021 school year. Member Steffen made a motion to approve. Member Johnson seconded the motion. The roll call vote showed Members DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, Steffen and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. The motion carried.

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

A Moment of Silence was held for Gordon Vickrey, Father of Sarah Titlow, Father in law of Jennifer Vickrey and Grandfather of Julie Fristad.

A Moment of Silence was also held for Genendal Atwell, Mother of Tim Atwell.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:27pm President Johnson called for a motion for Adjournment. Member Padilla made a motion to approve. Member DeBord seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. Members Stabler and Salisbury were absent. The motion carried.

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JEFF JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

JAN PADILLA, SECRETARY