

**KEWANEE COMM SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL BOARD  
MEETING  
NOVEMBER 23, 2020**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL FOR OPEN SESSION MEETING**

President Johnson called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00pm. Roll call showed the following Board Members present: DeBord, Stabler, Padilla, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson. The audience included P Schneider, S Burkhart, K Johnson, J Russell and KEA President R Kapacinskas. Recording Secretary H Hughes and Superintendent C Sullens were in attendance as well.

**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.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Pam Schneider addressed the Board of Education concerning a Star Courier article from November 19, 2020 titled “Kewanee Schools Keep Pushing Through During the Pandemic.” She feels Dr. Sullens’s quote, “Not one case has been spread in Kewanee schools in regards to teachers and students” is not true in her opinion and feels that it was an irresponsible statement. She also questioned Dr. Sullens’s opinion that the District does not need to be sharing data with families, staff and community. The article stated that it is up to the Henry County Health Department to contact those who need to be contacted for close contact or COVID-19 exposure, not the Districts. Schneider complained about staff mental health and what she considers the lack of encouragement from the Administration.

Suzanne Burkhart addressed the Board of Education as a staff member and a parent. She also took offence to the Star Courier article.

KEA President Ruth Kapacinskas addressed the Board of Education about the ratified contract that they will be voting on tonight. She asked that the Board remember that out of 94 votes to agree to ratify the contract, 66 KEA members voted to strike and felt that they did not receive what they needed during negotiations.

Kapacinskas read several comments from staff related to the COVID-19 pandemic and how it relates to the students, staff, and community.

**III. CLOSED SESSION**

At 6:26pm President Johnson called for a motion to go into Closed Session to (C)(1) 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*.

Member Salisbury made a motion to approve. Member Steffen seconded the motion. 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 for the meeting to return to Open Session at 7:47pm. At 7:52pm Member DeBord made a motion to return to open session. Member Stabler seconded the motion. The roll call showed all

Members present.

**IV. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CONTRACT BETWEEN THE KEWANEE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION AND THE KEWANEE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Member Salisbury made a motion to approve the contract. Member Christiansen 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.

**V. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF PAY RAISES FOR EMPLOYEES NOT COVERED BY THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT**

Dr. Sullens stated that the agreement, if approved, would give Administrators D Brants, D Hodge-Bates, R Baney and J Hinton a 4% raise; J Anderson, J Bryan would receive a 3.5% raise and Dr. Sullens would receive a 3% raise. All other non-union employees would receive a \$1.00 per hour increase in pay.

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

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Member Salisbury made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm. Member Steffen seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all Members voting aye. There were no nay votes heard. The motion carried.

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Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, President

Jan Padilla, Secretary