

## KEWANEE COMM SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 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 Members voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

At 7:00pm Member Christiansen seconded a motion made by Member Steffen to adjourn the Closed Session meeting. A voice roll call 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 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: R Baney, D Hodge-Bates, T Atwell, S Pickering, L Hampton, T Weida, D Nolan, J Bartelt, J Shipley, A Dev, M Anders, J Russell and District Auditor Russ Rumbold. Recording secretary H 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., V & VI 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 IV, V & VI. Member Steffen seconded the motion made by Member DeBord to approve consent Items IV, V & VI. The roll showed Members Stabler, DeBord, Padilla, Christiansen, Salisbury, Steffen, and Johnson all voting aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

### VII. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

Amy Dev addressed the Board stating, “I’m just here to address the Board and Administration to talk to you about the need for better or different communication in our District when it comes to Covid cases at our schools.” “As we all know, cases are rising in Illinois and around the nation. In my immediate family alone, we have had 6 positive cases in the last month. Ages ranging from five and eight up to age 47, one of those six cases was my husband, who is completely asymptomatic, which is worrisome itself.” “You got tested because you traveled for work and proper procedures were of course followed.” “Because children are getting sick I, as a parent would like to stay informed in order to make better

choices for my children and, whether or not to send them to school. This is not only important for me, but also the six other families that I provide daycare for.” “I’m a licensed daycare provider. I have patrons in the Princeton and Annawan school districts. Their families get alerted when there’s another positive case. It’s either by email or text, and it goes something like this…” Today, said School District, was notified of two Covid-19 cases. We have worked closely with the Henry County Health Department and have done contact tracing. Those close contacts have already been notified. If you were not called today, please continue your routine as usual. Thank you and please stay safe.”

“Can something like this be done in each of our grade centers in this District? The simple message does not violate any HIPPA laws, but just provides better communication in these uncertain times. With the holidays coming up, I fear that cases will rise.” “Many of our surrounding schools have already started full-remote learning until the beginning of next year.” “If this district decides to continue hybrid learning over the holidays, I hope you consider this type of covert communication with our school families. I for one would like to hear better communication from the District instead of kids coming home and telling me about other kids, teachers and administrators having tested positive.” “After hear your statement that your communication is based off what the Health Department or what IDPH suggests is not a good enough answer anymore, in my opinion. Clearly other school districts have no problem keeping families informed.”

“On a happy note, I want to commend the teachers for doing a great job since I also have to help with e-learning with the kids that I have in daycare. I have seen great improvement since the beginning of the school year. I know it’s tough. Keep up the good work. Thank you for your time. Thank you.”

## **VIII. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION**

### **Superintendent**

#### **A. Tentative 2020 Tax Levy/EAV**

Dr. Sullens reported that September is when the District officially approves the Budget. It is our road map to our spending and income side as we look for projections throughout that next school year. As we come into fall we start thinking about the tax levy period, which in Illinois is kind of goofy because we actually approve a tax levy in December when the actual amount of our EAV is not a finite number yet. There is still a lot of things up in the air, so it’s kind of a guessing game at that time in December when we talk about how much money we will be looking that we will have available in the EAV. Obviously that relates to how much money is available to be able to levy against.

As of right now the property values in Henry County will diminish by about \$761,000. We always like to see our EAV go up every single year, and again, that doesn’t necessarily mean that anybody’s personal property is going to go up, it could just be due to improvements that have been made throughout the County. Henry County will be going from \$63,854,000 to \$63,093,000, a reduction of about \$761,000 and on the Bureau County side, it looks like that EAV will rise by 2.43% from \$18,661,000 to \$19,114,000 for an increase of \$453,000.

#### **FY20/21 School Funding**

Sullens addressed the board by saying, “When we look at school funding, the Fair Income tax, or Graduating Tax whatever you want to call it did not pass at the last election, so now the governor is in a situation trying to figure out what’s the next path that he’s going to take as far as trying to raise income.” “We do know that the Graduated Income tax would have equated out to \$3.4 billion dollars of new money for one whole calendar year.” The State may try and go back into the veto session, which would take place in late November and December or there’s rumor of increasing the personal income tax. We could also see the Fair Income Tax come back with some different language written into it at the spring election. The governor keeps throwing out there that we’re going to cut across the board.

Every entity that receives funding could be cut 5% to 10% or even higher (which would be for the 2122 school year) if things do not change in Illinois.

National Education Week – Ad with Kewanee Schools Foundation will be this week

This weekend we will be sponsoring an ad with the Kewanee Schools Foundation for the Star Courier's Wednesdays paper.

**IX. INVITED GUESTS**

Russ Rumbold from Gorenz & Associates – Presentation of the 2019-2020 School District Audit

District Auditor Russ Rumbold presented the 2019-2020 School District Audit. He provided handouts to the Board Members and went over them. The Fund Equity of the District is \$55,851,000 and what most of that is made up of is fixed assets (the buildings, the contents of the buildings, the buses and etc.). If we subtract the fixed assets of \$37,743,000 as well as funds that are restricted for special purposes such as the Debt Service, IMRF, Capital Projects and those types of funds, the net equity of the Operating Funds (Ed Fund, the Building Fund, Transportation Fund, and the Working Cash) the balance as of June 30th was \$13,509,000 million. That is an increase of \$1,333,000 above and beyond the previous year.

The financial recognition score for the District remains unchanged at 3.8 out of 4.0. The only thing that takes away from a perfect 4.0 is the debt of the District.

Revenues show \$2,486,000 of additional dollars came into the District Operating Funds. Within the categories, Real Estate Taxes increased almost \$90,000. Other Local Sources were \$161,000, Evidence Based Funding was \$621,000 but the biggest contributor was Federal Funds and of that, \$681,000 was the Cares Grant (Rumbold noted that together with the board he would be looking at a draft for the Cares Grant because it is a large program this year, and it specifically needs to be audited by itself as part of the single audit. If an entity's spending is over \$750,000 of Federal awards, it is required to have a single audit. It is hoped that in December there will be new compliance guidelines for this new program).

Of the 1.7 million increase \$681,000 was the Cares money, \$480,000 was Special Ed or IDEA. The IDEA Grant is now the District's grant. Now that the IDEA Grant has been reworked throughout the State of Illinois it is now coming to the District and then the District is turning the bulk of the funds right back over to Henry Stark to cover Special Ed expenses. Title 1 increased in the amount of \$384,000 out of the \$2,486,000. Expenditures increased as well, to the tune of \$2,081,000.

The Education Fund salaries were up 2.08%. The Operation and Maintenance Fund salaries increased 1.2%. Salaries actually declined in the Transportation Fund. Purchase service and Capital Outlay expenses also increased from the previous year. With Salaries and Benefits being up Dr. Sullens explained that the District belongs to the Special Ed Co-op that covers the Special Ed teachers, psychologists and social workers. The payments made to the Special Ed reflects the District's purchase service expenses of 14%. If the Salaries and Benefits of 60% are added to the purchase service expenses of 14% it would reflect 74% of our dollars is going towards salaries and benefits. Purchase Services definitely increased more than it had in previous years, architect fees were \$90,000 were included and the Special Ed room and board (Chaddock the Hope School, Northern Illinois Academy, etc.) had a \$175,000 increase as well.

The Capital Outlay for this year took a little bit of a spike due once again to the Cares Act. The \$680,000 was spent primarily on Chromebooks and laptops.

Again, the revenues did exceed the expenditures of the District by \$1,330,000.

Rumbold reported the Average Daily Attendance is 1,786. This is the number reported to IASB. The most recent information shows that the Kewanee District spends \$9,150 per student. The State average is \$13,903.

The assessed value has increased from 4.5442 to 4.5924.

In 2020, the State contributed \$6,445,000 of "On Behalf" payments into the TRS System. The pension liability associated with the Kewanee District is \$59,703,000 as of June 2019.

Sullens noted that currently the School District pays approximately 19% to IMRF employees for IMRF pensions and Social Security.

The Education Fund has about six months' worth of Operating Fund Balance.

**a. Mr. Atwell – Athletic Director**

KHS Winter Sports

TRAC Conference Honors

Atwell reported that Winter sports were able to start practice today. Basketball, Cheerleading, Girls Basketball, Bowling and Swimming. Speech, Scholastic Bowl and Winter Musical were able to start as well.

Coach Atwell also announced the Three Rivers First Team All-Conference athletes. The Students were: Girls Golf-Maya Mirocha (10<sup>th</sup>) and Natalie Epsom(12<sup>th</sup>), Boys Cross Country-Colin VanStechelman (11<sup>th</sup>) and Girls Cross Country-Natalie Martin (9<sup>th</sup>).

Atwell shared what is going on in the conference in a handout. Fulton High School has petitioned to leave the TRAC. For them to do that, we had to find a school to replace and Mendota is going to be that school. Monmouth-Roseville, who was only in for football, have now been granted to play in all sports. There will be some realignment of the Conference. The realignment will be based on geography which will help with travel purposes. Kewanee will be in the East Division.

Atwell then shared with the Board of Education a brief history of the Conference alignment through the years.

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

School Report Cards

Mrs. Hodge-Bates reported on the 2020 Kewanee School District School Report Card. The District and each individual school's report card will be posted on the KCUD229.org website. Assessments, growth percentiles, assessment, participation rate achievement gap in climate surveys are blank on this year's report card due to the suspension of in-person instruction in the spring. All schools did keep their ratings as they were last year.

**X. SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Update on KHS Bleachers-Completion week of November 16th

Supt. Sullens reported that the KHS high School visitor bleachers were completed last week. Crews are still working on the fencing. “It's a very nice, clean look. They are going to be some of the nicest bleachers in our conference. I'll go out on a limb say they are the nicest visitor bleachers in our conference. Hopefully we'll get to use them soon”, said Sullens.

#### Update on Front Entrance at Central School-Completion week of November 16th

Sullens reported that the District architect was in town today. They are working on tying into the central fire alarm system. Once the system is approved by the architect and we get tests back for certification we will have the ROE come in for an inspection and the entrance will be ready for use.

#### Update on KHS Teacher's Lounge, KHS Home Ec Expansion

Due to COVID we have had a difficult time getting parts and people had been laid off. When the company tried to bring them back people didn't want to come for whatever reason.

And so trying to get production back up to speed has been kind of hectic. The teacher's lounge at Kewanee High School is just looking for the exhaust system for the for the microwaves to be installed and some grills to be installed and I think we're pretty much good to go in the teacher's lounge.

Drivers delivered the insulation last week and only half of the installation was on the truck. They crews didn't bother counting how many rolls were there and started thinking how big the building is. Our project manager put the hammer down and the rest of our delivery was there this morning at 7am.

The building will be enclosed by the end of this week. The windows be installed in a couple of weeks after that. One the building is secured crews will go into the middle Home Ec room and cut a 10-foot section for the entrance into the new Home Ec room. Sullens is hopeful that we will have a completion date of February 1<sup>st</sup> if not earlier.

## **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

### Discussion of Boys & Girls Basketball by Tim Atwell (tentative January 2021 games)

Coach Atwell discussed the current Boys and Girls Basketball schedules. It has definitely been very frustrating. We know the current seniors obviously ended the year not having to be able participate in a regular season. Baseball and Softball had a few practices and then everything got put on hold. The Illinois Department of Public Health has been working closely with the governor. They came up how they decided what sports were either going to be in high risk, moderate risk or lower risk, The Governor came out approximately 2 hours prior to an IHSA announcement who was asking how we can make Basketball work for the season. The question is how can we make basketball a lower risk in order to have competition? The IHSA now basically says teams can compete (basically ignoring the Governor's orders) and can hold regional tournaments. They won't provide legal assistance in needed but will “Support the school Districts.”

There will be another meeting with the IHSA on Thursday.

Kewanee Basketball teams is currently practicing two days per week at this point just on skills. There is talk of pushing Basketball back until after January 1<sup>st</sup> and hopes that the athletes can play at that time.

The District was able to have Baseball, Softball, Elementary Golf, Cross Country and Tennis competitions this fall. We already know that Wrestling was never going to be held this winter.

### **XIII. ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION PERSONNEL:**

#### **Resignations**

KHS P/T Cafeteria Worker	Doreen Kida	Effective 10/30/20
Belle Alexander School Secretary	Edith Corral	Effective 1/4/21
P/T Bus Driver	Sarah Ozuna	Effective 11/2/20
KHS P/T Cafeteria Worker	Storm Sullivan	Effective 11/4/20
KHS office Aide	Angela Salisbury	Effective 11/20/20

Dr. Sullens proposed to approve the above resignations. Member Padilla 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.

#### **Retirements**

None

#### **Hires**

ROE 21 <sup>st</sup> Century After School Teacher	Samantha Spears
KHS Sophomore Volleyball Coach	Maria Sakellaris
KHS Freshman Volleyball Coach	Hannah Bridgewater
KHS Freshman Class Advisor	Jacob Doan
Central 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher	Ashley Blade-Galle

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the above hires. Member DeBord made a motion to approve the above listed hires. Member Stabler seconded the motion. 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.

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

#### **Leaves**

Kelsi Nolan	Maternity Leave	Approximately 1/21/21-3/4/21
-------------	-----------------	------------------------------

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve the maternity leave of K Nolan. Member Salisbury 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.

#### **Long-Term Subs**

KHS/Central Resource-2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester 20/21	Kristen Adkison
Central Title I-2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester 20/21	LaNita Brown
Central Elementary Gr 6-2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester 20/21	Suzanne Burkhart
Central Elementary Gr5-2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester 20/21	Jennista Eastman
KHS Alternative-2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester 20/21	Jakob Saey
Central Computers-2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester 20/21	Alexandria Weston

President Johnson called for a motion to approve. Member Steffen seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen. 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.

### **Transfers**

Part-Time to Full-Time Nurse Assistant at Irving School                      Tara DeBlieck

Dr. Sullens recommended the transfer from part-time to full-time for T DeBlieck. Member Padilla seconded a motion made by Member Christiansen 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.

### **Volunteers**

None

### **Student Teachers**

Logan Bennison    Central School (Jonathon Henegar)

Dr. Sullens recommended to approve L Bennison as a student teacher under J Henegar. Member DeBord seconded a motion made by Member Stabler 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.

### **Other Action Arising From Closed Session**

None

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

A Moment of Silence was held for LeRoy Wetzal, step-father of Tamara Brown (Irving Principal), Doris Dybdal, mother of Robert Dybdal (Central Science Teacher) and Bill Tunney, nephew of Board Member Ronald Salisbury

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

## **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:38pm President Johnson called for a motion for Adjournment. Member Steffen 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