

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2015 7:30 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER – OPENING STATEMENT

This meeting is called to order at 7:31 p.m. with the following opening statement read by President Ramarge:

“I would like to announce and have placed in the minutes that adequate notice of this meeting of the Califon Board of Education has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Proper notice of this Regular Meeting was provided in the notice dated June 24, 2014. Said notice was posted at the office of the Califon School, mailed to the Hunterdon County Democrat, the Hunterdon Review and The Express Times. A copy of this notice has also been posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filed with the Borough Clerk. The agenda of this meeting has been posted at the Califon School and on the district’s website.

II. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present participated in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Robert Beers
 Mr. Jim Bell
 Mr. Kim Schundler
 Mr. Matthew Ramarge

Members Absent: Mrs. Claudia Gangemi

Also Present: Dr. James Gamble, Interim Superintendent
 Mr. Thomas Johnston, Asst BA/Board Secretary

Members of the Public

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. A motion was made by Mr. Schundler and seconded by Mr. Beers to approve the following minutes. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

February 18, 2015 Regular Meeting
February 18, 2015 Executive Session

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2015 7:30 p.m.**

V. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - NONE

VI. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

*1. Recognition of Students

Dr. Gamble congratulated the students on their achievements and presented them with certificates. He thanked Mrs. Kooger and Mr. Zimmerman for their efforts.

Spelling Bee Champions: Taj Pionkowski (1st Place), Benji Beard (2nd Place), Lauren Beers (3rd Place).

Geography Bee Champion: Benji Beard

Girl's Basketball Team – Second Place in the League Championship

*2. Shared Vision Statement: 2nd Reading

Dr. Gamble reviewed the process of creating the Shared Vision Statement. He reminded everyone that the statement represents what Califon School should look like. He then proceeded with the second reading. Mr. Bell commented that a lot of effort was put into creating the document and that it is a great start. Dr. Gamble thanked all the participants. Mr. Ramarge requested the order of the STEM and World Language sentences be reversed. Mr. Beers said that made sense. Mr. Bell mentioned that STEM is global. Dr. Gamble agreed to the change. He stated the document will be posted on the website.

Upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, a motion was made by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Beers to approve the Shared Vision Statement, after the order of the two sentences was reversed. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

*3. Superintendent Transition Update

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2015 7:30 p.m.**

Dr. Gamble provided an update on the Superintendent transition. He stated Dr. Kornagay met with the staff. He also met with the administration to discuss curriculum. He will meet the administration in April to discuss the budget, and will attend the next Council of Instruction meeting.

*4. HIB Report – nothing to report.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT (resolutions only; time limits: 20 min. total; 3 min. /person)

At this time, comment is invited on any matter relating to the resolutions on tonight's agenda.

Anyone wishing to speak before the board concerning these resolutions may do so during this public commentary portion of the agenda. The presenter shall give his/her name and address and make the presentation as brief as possible. Unless an extension of time is given, each speaker shall be limited to 3 minutes.

Speakers may offer suggestions or express their concerns. However, in public session, the board will not discuss concerns about individual students or staff members. Other, more appropriate, channels are available for expressing concerns about individual students or staff members.

The Board President may terminate the remarks of any individual, when they do not adhere to the rules established above.

There was no public comment at this time.

VIII. *BOARD SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

After review of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports for the month of **February 2015**, based upon consultation with the Board Secretary, the Board of Education of the Borough of Califon has ascertained, to the best of our knowledge and ability, with the information provided, that no major account has been over-expended, that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which exceed the line item appropriation, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year, and hereby certifies the district's financial plan as approved is being followed as revealed in the financial reports.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2015 7:30 p.m.**

A brief review re: the math sub-committee where new math materials were discussed. Recommendations are to be made to the Council of Instruction. The Go Math Program and Houghton Mifflin were mentioned. There will be more details at the April 29, 2015 meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Matters listed within the consent agenda designated by *(**including Board Secretary and Treasurer Report**) has been referred to members of the Board of Education and/or its standing committees, for reading and study and will be enacted with one motion. The Personnel items on the consent agenda are recommended by the Interim Superintendent. If separate discussion is desired, the item may be removed from the consent agenda by Board action.

A. Finance/Facilities/Transportation/Personnel

Finance:

A motion was made by Mr. Schundler and seconded by Mr. Ramarge to approve the following items. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

February/March Bills List

- *1. Motion to approve the payment of invoices from check number 21353 to check number 21406, checks 22815, and 31514, and non check N1156, in the amount of \$225,878.62.

2015-2016 Tentative Budget Presentation

- *2. As recommended by the Interim Superintendent, motion to approve the 2015-2016 Tentative School Budget.

Dr. Gamble presented the 2015-2016 tentative budget. He noted the public hearing is scheduled for April 29. Mr. Beard asked about changes in the level of instruction. Dr. Gamble replied that is being worked on. Mrs. Beers asked about Chromebooks for students. Dr. Gamble replied the plan is for there to be, and that grants are being explored. Mr. Beers asked about Google apps education costs. Dr. Gamble said the plan is to move in that direction, but that the purchases must make sense. It is a process, with the infrastructure being the first step.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2015 7:30 p.m.**

Mr. Ramarge had questions on some line items. He asked about summer curriculum. Dr. Gamble explained it would primarily math, and the total time for everything around 80 hours. Mr. Ramarge asked about the new special education teacher. Dr. Gamble said Califon is looking at a minimum of 4 to 5 new special education students. This provided the best possible option for Califon. Mr. Ramarge asked if the structure would be the same. Dr. Gamble replied that was to be seen. Mr. Ramarge asked if there was a schedule. Dr. Gamble stated he would work on it before the April meeting. Mr. Ramarge expressed the desire to address the need.

Mr. Beers asked if the excess surplus being used for the new special education teacher. Dr. Gamble replied that the excess surplus is being used for the math textbooks and technology purchases, and the special education teacher was part of the 2% cap. Mr. Beers stated he is concerned with declining enrollment. Dr. Gamble replied that while enrollment has steadied, special education enrollment has increased. Mr. Ramarge asked about the need going forward. Dr. Gamble said that younger students are coming into special education, and that the money can always be re-allocated if things change. The special education teacher will be hired in the summer.

Mr. Bell asked if banked cap is a contingency fund. Dr. Gamble explained that banked cap affects the tax rate. Califon has surplus in the budget that can be put back if not used. Mr. Ramarge asked about the school psychologist. Dr. Gamble said that currently Kelly Edsall is in one day every other week, and that would increase to one day per week in 2015-2016. He stated that Mrs. Edsall has been a great service and an excellent resource. Mr. Ramarge asked about parent requests. Dr. Gamble replied we have seen the need.

Mr. Ramarge asked about technology and health insurance. Mr. Beers stated we need to do STEM. He discussed activities, Chromebooks, Google apps, G-Mail system, teacher training. Mr. Ramarge asked about grants. Dr. Gamble said we'll see. Mr. Bell asked if there was a target date. Dr. Gamble replied not yet. Mr. Bell asked if purchasing professional development was ongoing. Dr. Gamble replied it was an annual license. Mr. Bell asked if the math books applied to all grades. Dr. Gamble said yes. Mr. Bell asked about the DC trip chaperones. Mr. Schundler explained there were multiple people.

Medicaid Initiative

- *3. Motion to approve the request for a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2015-2016 School Year as the district will have fewer than forty (40) Medicaid eligible classified students.

Extraordinary Aid

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2015 7:30 p.m.**

- *4. Motion to approve \$19,281 of Extraordinary Aid to be used in the 2014-2015 school year.

Mr. Beers asked what this was. Dr. Gamble explained that it is money available to us either this year or next year.

Budget Transfers

- *5. Motion to approve the attached list of budget and 10% transfers in the amount of \$8,000.

Mr. Bell asked for the details of the transfer. Mr. Johnston provided them.

Helen S. Apgar Trust

- *6. Motion to approve Erin McLaughlin as the 2015 winner of the Helen S. Apgar Trust.

Mr. Schundler commended Erin McLaughlin and Mrs. Apgar.

Facilities:

A motion to approve the following use of facilities was made by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Beers. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| *1. | 8 th Grade Cake Auction | Gym | 04/24/2015 | 6:00PM – 9:30PM |
| *2. | Califon PTA Meeting | 8 th Grade Room | 03/05/15 | 7:00PM – 8:30PM |

Transportation: NONE

Personnel:

Development/Travel

- *1. A motion to approve the following staff development/travel was made by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Ramarge. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

K. Hoitsma Practical Strategies: Common Core State Standards for Writing
Bureau of Education & Research Allentown, PA 03/23/2015 \$229

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2015 7:30 p.m.**

- *2. A motion was made by Mr. Schundler and seconded by Mr. Ramarge to approve adding up to ten additional days to Dr. James Gamble's work schedule at the contracted per diem rate of \$488.66.

Mr. Beers stated that it was not an evaluation of Dr. Gamble, but with a full-time Principal and hiring a new superintendent, he did not see how the extra days were justified. Dr. Gamble explained that the purpose for the additional days was to address specific areas of the curriculum. Specifically, Dr. Gamble noted that the Statement of Assurances that was submitted to the NJDOE this fall indicated the need to address curriculum pacing guides (scope and sequence), the integration of 21st century skills, and modifications for English Language Learners. Califon received an 80% in Instruction and Program as opposed to 100% due to this need. Dr. Gamble further stated the extra time would allow him to meet with teachers during common planning time and gather input from the staff as he addressed the curricular needs. Dr. Gamble said he would put his professional development days on hold to accommodate the extra time in Califon. Mr. Ramarge asked if this was for all ten days. Dr. Gamble replied it was for up to ten days, depending on budget constraints. Mr. Bell asked if the motion could be tabled. Dr. Gamble replied please don't, as it would be nice to get it done now. Mr. Schundler said rarely has Califon been in better shape under Dr. Gamble's leadership. There is strong morale, the Vision Statement is incredible, and rarely has Califon been in better shape budget-wise. He further remarked that Dr. Gamble's efforts have been excellent, and that Califon should take advantage of the opportunity to have Dr. Gamble spend more time at Califon to work on the curriculum.

A vote on the motion was taken, with two ayes (Schundler, Ramarge) and two nays (Beers, Bell). Therefore, the motion was defeated.

B. Curriculum and Instruction

Health Report

- *1. A motion was made by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Schundler to approve the attached Health Report for February 2015. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Field Trips

A motion was made by Mr. Beers and seconded by Mr. Schundler to approve the following class trip. The motion was passed on a unanimous voice vote.

- *2. 7th Grade Trip: "Wicked" on Broadway, Lunch @ Ellen's Stardust Diner 05/27/15
8:45AM – 6:00PM \$186.50 per guest (students, parents) No Cost to Board

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2015 7:30 p.m.**

A motion was made by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Ramarge to approve the following class trip. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

- *3. Reading Olympics Holland Township 04/22/2015 3:45PM - 9:00PM
Transportation Cost to Board: \$295

A motion was made by Mr. Beers and seconded by Mr. Schundler to approve the following class trip. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

- *4. Trenton Barracks and State House (4th Gr.) 04/29/2015 8:15AM – 3:00PM
\$16.75 per student No Cost to the Board

A motion was made by Mr. Schundler and seconded by Mr. Bell to approve the following class trip. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

- *5. Destination Imagination Ridge High School, Basking Ridge NJ 03/21/2015
7:00AM – 9:30PM \$65 Activity Fee per Student (2 teams) Cost to Board: \$560

C. Policy

- Policy book update

Mr. Bell presented the first reading of File Code #5339, Dyslexia Screening. Mr. Ramarge asked if the policy paraphrases the law. Mr. Bell replied yes. He also mentioned cross-referencing with other district policies.

D. Communications: NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bell asked about the status of the light outside the 6th grade room. Dr. Gamble said that would be taken care of in the summer.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2015 7:30 p.m.**

*1. Adjustment to the 2014-2015 Calendar

A motion was made by Mr. Schundler and seconded by Mr. Beers to approve making up the additional snow day on Thursday, June 18, 2015 instead of April 10 as indicated on the approved 2014-15 school calendar. It is further moved that any additional emergency closings days during the 2014-15 school year will be made up at the end of June 2015. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

*2. Date(s) for April Board Meeting and Public Hearing on the Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Schundler and seconded by Mr. Beers to hold both the regular Board meeting and the Public Hearing on the budget on Wednesday, April 29, 2015, with no meeting on April 15, 2015. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Schundler then announced his decision to reassign from the Board at the end of April 2015. He said it was a privilege and an honor to serve on the Board for 18 years. Mr. Ramarge expressed that he was greatly saddened by the news, and that he appreciated Mr. Schundler's service. Mr. Bell gave his thanks, stating that Mr. Schundler has gone above and beyond. Dr. Gamble applauded Mr. Schundler for always presenting the positives of Califon.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT (all school-related topics; time limits: 30 min. total; 3 min. /person)

At this time, comment is invited on any matter relating to the school district.

Anyone wishing to speak before the board may do so during the public commentary portion of the agenda. The presenter shall give his/her name and address and make the presentation as brief as possible. Unless an extension of time is given, each speaker shall be limited to 3 minutes.

Speakers may offer suggestions or express their concerns. However, in public session, the board will not discuss concerns about individual students or staff members. Other, more appropriate, channels are available for expressing concerns about individual students or staff members.

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**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2015 7:30 p.m.**

Mrs. Weiss expressed, on behalf of the teachers, the wish to reserve time at the April meeting to properly express their appreciation for Mr. Schundler's service to Califon.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Schundler and seconded by Mr. Beers to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

WHEREAS, Section 6 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 (R.S. 10:4-13), permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting or portion of a meeting of this public body in certain circumstances and

WHEREAS, the Board must consider (see check below), which is/are exempt from public discussion pursuant to the Act;

- 1. Matter which by express provision of law is rendered confidential
- 2. Release of information which would impair receipt of federal funds
- 3. Individual Privacy/ Student Matters
- 4. Collective Bargaining/Negotiations
- 5. Real estate matters
- 6. Disclosure could impair public safety
- 7. Pending/Anticipated Litigation
- 8. Terms and conditions of employment
- 9. Deliberations involving imposition of specific civil penalty.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session at 9:24 p.m. to discuss the above-mentioned matters to the exclusion of all others. Matters discussed may or may not be made public this evening. Resulting action may or may not be taken following re-entry into regular session

XIV. RECONVENE

A motion was made by Mr. Schundler and seconded by Mr. Bell to reconvene into regular session at 9:45 p.m. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

***XV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Schundler and seconded by Mr. Bell to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2015 7:30 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Thomas Johnston
Board Secretary