

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER – OPENING STATEMENT**

This meeting is called to order at 7:29 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 Mrs. Claudia Gangemi Mr. Kim Schundler Mr. Matthew Ramarge
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Members Absent:	None
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Also Present:	Dr. James Gamble, Interim Superintendent Mr. Thomas Johnston, Board Secretary
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Members of the Public

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

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

January 21, 2015 Executive Session

**V. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - NONE**

**VI. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**\*1. Shared Vision Statement: First Reading**

Dr. Gamble reviewed the initial draft of the Shared Vision Statement. He said the statement needs to be concise, but not too concise. There were 62 belief statements that shaped the Shared Vision Statement. Dr. Gamble stated the statement provides guideposts for moving forward. Mr. Beers asked if the statement represents what Califon is striving for. Dr. Gamble replied yes, and that we have some things in place. Mr. Beers emphasized the importance of the STEM curriculum and the large commitment it requires. Mr. Ramarge stated the goals are what Califon is shooting for in terms of robust 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, and that they guide decisions. Steps can be taken each year. Dr. Gamble reminded that the document is not carved in stone and can be revisited. Mr. Bell objected to limiting the additional world language to one. Dr. Gamble pointed out that world language is important, and that the statement is in plural on the Shared Vision Statement.

**\*2. Superintendent Transition Plan**

Dr. Gamble reviewed the Superintendent Transition Plan. He noted that he and Mr. Patton and Dr. Kornagay have met, and more meetings can be scheduled. The plan outlines the various meetings Dr. Kornagay will have with staff, parents, the Board, and the Administration. Mr. Bell said the plan looks good.

**\*3. HIB Report**

Dr. Gamble reported there was one incident in January which was investigated from January 16, 2015 to January 23, 2015. There was no HIB found. All the interviewing paperwork was filed accordingly.

**\*4. Head Custodian**

Dr. Gamble mentioned that on February 6, 2015 George Fox, Head Custodian, presented his letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement as of June 30, 2015. Dr. Gamble read the letter. He stated that Mr. Fox has been a fixture

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

here, and that he received a plaque for his length of service at the pancake breakfast held earlier this year.

**\*5. World Languages**

Dr. Gamble stated one of the goals is to look at the world language program. The Council of Instruction is discussing a World Language Academy as an after-school activity. French, Portugese, and Russian programs would be managed by Mrs. Winter, Mrs. Gangemi, and Mrs. Kiebler respectively. The program would utilize a conversational approach during one meeting per week for ten weeks. It would be available to 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Letters to the public are going out. The academy would run from March 16 to the end of May (3:15PM – 4:00PM). Mr. Bell asked if there would be instructional manuals. Dr. Gamble replied no; this would be fun exposure to language. Mr. Ramarge asked what the limit on the number of participating students would be. Dr. Gamble said ten to twelve for each group. Mr. Bell said he had spoken with people from Rosetta Stone. Dr. Gamble pointed out the Council of Instruction meets March 24.

**\*6. PARCC**

Dr. Gamble reviewed the PARRC parent meeting. He said there were ten attendees to hear his and Mr. Patton's presentation. Dr. Gamble pointed out that PARCC is more assessment at this time. Mr. Ramarge asked how they know what the passing grade will be. Dr. Gamble replied the cut scores are yet to be determined. Mr. Ramarge asked if the tests were continually on a curve. Dr. Gamble replied yes. He said New Jersey is backing off evaluation for now. Mr. Beers asked if the PARCC schedule is posted anywhere. Dr. Gamble said he would check the school's website.

**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,

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

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.

No comments were offered by the members of the public in attendance.

**VIII. \*BOARD SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT**

After review of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports for the month of **January 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**

**Curriculum Committee**

Mrs. Gangemi spoke of three goals for middle school math: materials, curriculum, and structure. Mr. Beers said there was a good conversation with Dr. Gamble. Mr. Beers is concerned with math achievement in the middle school. He asked if students are prepped for the highest level of study. Review books and materials, update curriculum, and provide more transparency. Mr. Beers discussed four years of courses in three years, clear pathways, what to do with low performers, time differentiated instruction, and all students doing algebra in eighth grade. He expressed concern that the differentiation gap could widen. Mrs. Gangemi mentioned looking at the middle school math curriculum this summer, with the Council of Instruction meeting. Mr. Beers discussed leveraging technology and blended learning. He stated that Califon can do better. Dr. Gamble agreed that the meeting was good and that Califon can do better. He stated there is a proactive approach going on now, and that resources are being looked at. Dr. Gamble stated we have excellent teaching going on. The math sub-committee met, and will have recommendations to the Council of Instruction on March 24. Dr. Gamble mentioned budgeting for math textbooks and exploring professional development with a university partner.

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

Dr. Gamble said a hard look has been taken to improve math; chase perfection to attain excellence. One idea is team teaching in 6<sup>th</sup> grade (now split). Dr. Gamble emphasized our students do well in high school: 28.57% got A's (5 points above school average), 52.38% get B's (9 points above school average), a lower percentage of C's, and no D's and F's. Mr. Bell brought up that some of the public are not in favor of combining class, and asked if there was a combined model. Mr. Ramarge asked if the team teaching would only apply to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Dr. Gamble replied yes, and that the small student population helps. Mr. Ramarge asked what would determine the 7<sup>th</sup> grade path. Dr. Gamble replied he would have to work on that. Mr. Bell asked if there had been teacher input. Dr. Gamble replied yes; they had met today. Mr. Ramarge asked about including some 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Dr. Gamble stated it is possible, but we would need to be careful. Mr. Ramarge stresses flexibility. Mr. Beers stated our Honors numbers were not very good. Mr. Ramarge said all are in agreement to move the ship forward, and that it starts with professional development. He pointed out that word must go out ASAP regarding any structure change.

**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. Beers to approve the following. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

January/February Bills List

- \*1. Motion to approve the payment of invoices from check number 21332 to check number 21352, checks 13015, and 21514, and non checks N1154 and N1155, in the amount of \$213,246.23.

2014-2015 Grants

- \*2. Motion to approve the 2014-2015 IDEA grants (Basic \$32,354, Preschool \$3,709).

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

***Facilities:***

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

- \*1. ACS Relay for Life Dance    Gym, 8<sup>th</sup> gr. Room    02/27/15    6:00PM – 10:00PM
- \*2. Califon PTA Meeting            8<sup>th</sup> Grade Room            02/19/15    7:00PM – 8:30PM
- \*3. North Hunterdon Youth Baseball    Gym    Various Dates            3:15PM – 4:30PM

Tuesdays: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28

Wednesdays: 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/15, 4/22, 4/29

***Transportation:*** NONE.

***Personnel:***

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

Development/Travel

- \*1. Motion to approve the following staff development/travel:

P. Johnston	STEM Education Workshop	03/20/2015	\$139
I. Maginnis	FLENJ Conference	02/27/2015	\$165
D. Patton	FEA/NJSPA/NJASCD Conference	10/22-23/15	\$260
L. Patterson	NJSSNA Annual Conference	03/27-28/15	\$210

A motion was made by Mr. Beers and seconded by Mrs. Gangemi to approve the following. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

Work Hours

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

- \*2. Upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, a motion to approve increasing the time of Susan Samela, speech instructor, from 0.4 FTE to 0.6 FTE effective immediately and through the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. Ramarge and seconded by Mrs. Gangemi to approve the following. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Resignation

- \*3. Motion to accept with regret the resignation of George Fox, Head Custodian, for the purpose of retirement.

Mr. Bell asked if there was any “custodial bible” available. Dr. Gamble replied he would check with Mr. Fox on what the new custodian would need to know. Mr. Bell asked about the steps to replace Mr. Fox. Dr. Gamble said the position would be advertised, and he would reach out to the part-time night custodians to see if either of them have any interest in the position. Mr. Ramarge asked if there will be a recognition event for Mr. Fox. Dr. Gamble replied it will be discussed.

***B. Curriculum and Instruction***

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

Health Report

- \*1. Motion to approve the attached Health Report for January 2015.

Mrs. Gangemi asked about absences and snow days. Dr. Gamble said we are still at 181 school days, and that the average attendance over the course of the year presents no problem for Califon.

Field Trips

- \*2. Brown, Hubiak, Parisella      Lehigh Valley Zoo      05/22/2015      \$0 cost to Board

***C. Policy***

- Policy book update

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

Mr. Bell continues to work on the AED policy. He said there will be more discussions. Dr. Gamble recommended the adoption of a dyslexia screening policy. Mr. Bell said he would bring it to the committee. Mr. Ramarge asked if it is similar to what is in the new law. Dr. Gamble replied yes. He asked if a first reading could be done in March. Mr. Bell replied yes.

***D. Communications*** – NONE.

**X. OLD BUSINESS** – NONE.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Bell mentioned a light was needed outside the building by the sixth grade room. Dr. Gamble said he would let Mr. Fox know.

**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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No comments were offered by the members of the public in attendance.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion to approve the following resolution:



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

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 8:46 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 Mrs. Gangemi and seconded by Mr. Bell to reconvene into regular session at 9:29 p.m. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the settlement and release in the matter captioned, Califon Education Association – and – Califon Board of Education, Docket Nos. CO-2015-018; AR-2015-037; and

Be it further resolved, that the Board President is authorized to execute the settlement on behalf of the Board.

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

**\*XV. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Beers and seconded by Mrs. Gangemi to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.