

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER – OPENING STATEMENT

This meeting is called to order at 7:30 p.m. with the following opening statement read by President Turello:

“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. Jim Bell
Ms. Claudia Gangemi
Mr. Matthew Ramarge
Mr. Kim Schundler
Mr. Alfred Turello

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

Members of the Public

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

November 19, 2014 Regular Meeting
November 19, 2014 Executive Session

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V. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Email from parent re: School Calendar for 2015-2016

VI. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- *1. Update on Shared Vision Initiative

Dr. Gamble reviewed the Core Belief Statements. He stated there have been four meeting so far regarding the Shared Vision Statement. Tonight was a first read of the Core Belief Statements. Dr. Gamble pointed out there has been 53 statements to date. He said the Vision Statement will come from the Core Belief Statements. Common themes include communication, respect, and a positive environment. The statements will be used for future strategic planning. Dr. Gamble stated they will also serve as a blueprint for the next superintendent. The final target date for the Shared Vision Statement is April 2015. Dr. Gamble mentioned he is pleased with the response and the statements. He asked the Board to review the statements before the second read at the January Regular Meeting.

- *2. HIB Update – no incidents

- *3. Recognition of Rutgers Teacher of the Year Recipient

Dr. Gamble recognized Mrs. Medea for being one of two teachers chosen by Rutgers. Mr. Turello thanked her for her work at Califon. A motion was made by Mr. Turello and seconded by Mr. Bell to approve a Board Resoulution recognizing Mrs. Medea. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

- *4. Recognition of Board Members

Dr. Gamble recognized and commended Mr. Turello for his service to the Board. He presented a book that will be kept in the school's library. Dr. Gamble also recognized former Board member Mrs. Peterson (not present), and presented a book that will be kept in the school's library.

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.

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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.

Mrs. Stoter read her email addressed to the Board re: the school calendar for 2015-2016. Her concern was the Jewish holidays of Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah. Mr. Turello thanked her for her input, and stated the calendar would be further discussed in Old Business. Mr. Ramarge inquired as to how many students are impacted.

Mrs. Cuberly asked how many people sent in shared vision statements. Dr. Gamble replied that six had. He pointed out that many people are aware of the shared vision process through various forms of communication, and that the six people who sent in vision statements represent a cross-section of the community. Dr. Gamble said the statements received represent quality if not quantity. Mr. Furmansky asked if there would be opportunities for additional input. Mr. Turello replied yes. Mr. Furmansky asked if the snapshot would be available to the community. Dr. Gamble replied yes.

VIII. *BOARD SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

After review of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports for the month of **November 2014**, 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

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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. Schunlder and seconded by Mr. Ramarge to approve the following. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

November/December Bills List

- *1. Motion to approve the payment of invoices from check number 21219 to check number 21270, checks 11014, and 12514, and non check N1152, in the amount of \$227,529.07.

Facilities:

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

- *1. 8th Grade Play Gym & Stage PA System & Spotlight (May only)

Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and Mondays, April 13, 20 4:00PM – 5:30PM
Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and Wednesdays, April 1, 15 7:00PM – 8:30PM
Thursdays, March 19, 26 and Thursday, April 16 4:00PM – 5:30PM
Monday, April 27 and Monday, May 4, 11 4:00PM – 8:00PM
Wednesday, May 6, 13 and Thursday, May 7, 14 4:00PM – 8:00PM
- *2. 5th/6th Grade Dance (Relay for Life) Gym, 8th Gr. Rm. 01/16/15 6PM – 10PM
- *3. Date Change, 8th Grade Dinner/Dance Approved in October for 05/15/15

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Revised Date: 05/08/15

- *4. Date Change, 8th Grade Play Approved in November for May 8 and 9, 2015
Revised Dates: May 15 and 16, 2015

Mr. Turello asked if schedule conflicts led to the date changes, and if the 8th grade parents were made aware of the changes. Dr. Gamble said yes on both questions.

Transportation: (NONE)

Personnel:

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

Substitute List

- *1. Motion to approve the following addition to the substitute list:

Janet Leonardi

B. Curriculum and Instruction

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

Health Report

- *1. Motion to approve the attached Health Report for November 2014.

Field Trips

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------------|
| *2. | DaVinci Science Center | Gr. 3-5 | 02/05/2015 | 8:30AM-3:10PM |
| | Cost per Student: \$27.00 | | Cost to Board: \$0.00 | |

Mr. Bell asked why DaVinci as opposed to Liberty Science Center. Dr. Gamble stated that both are excellent, and that DaVinci is award-winning and very credible. Mr. Turello asked if there were any insurance issues. Dr. Gamble said no.

Course Reimbursement

C:\Users\mzimmerman\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet
Files\Content.IE5\206IVQ0C\12-17-14_Minutes CALIFON.doc

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*3. Motion to approve the following course reimbursement in accordance with Article XIII (2012-2015 Negotiated Agreement).

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| M. Zimmerman | GED659 Children at Crossroads | \$1,230.00 | Spring 2015 |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------------|-------------|

Mr. Turello asked if this was budgeted for. Dr. Gamble said yes.

C. Policy

- Policy book update

Mr. Bell talked about the AED policy. He reviewed the North Hunterdon Voorhees website. He pointed out there should be no more than three minutes total time for the AED unit to arrive on the scene on site. Mr. Bell stated we may need to consider acquiring another unit. Mr. Turello suggested checking with other school Boards. Mr. Bell said he is currently working on that. Mr. Ramarge recommended working on the AED policy. He said cross-country is the only comparable thing to other schools. We need to interpret how close the unit needs to be. Mr. Ramarge stated that for travel for the cross-country team, we need another unit. Mr. Bell said they would meet again.

D. Communications

Mrs. Gangemi said the Council of Instruction will meet on January 27, 2015. They expect to have a decision on the Math program in March 2015. Dr. Gamble pointed out the Math Committee met today. Mrs. Gangemi stated that Mrs. Johnston, the middle school science teacher, has been working on the next generation science standards.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- *1. Update on the process for selecting a new Superintendent for the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Turello discussed his meetings with Tewksbury and Lebanon Township re: shared superintendent services. He stated Califon has entered into negotiations with Lebanon Township; they have a lot to offer. He commended Dr. Gamble for his work at Califon. Mr. Turello said they are looking at an interlocal agreement. He pointed out the recent history of shared services with Lebanon

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Township, specifically the CST services. He said it seems to make a lot of sense. Mr. Turello shared that the decision was made to not go beyond Tewksbury and Lebanon Township. Mr. Ramarge said we don't know what the agreement will look like. Mr. Turello replied it is only direction at this time; the decision will be in January 2015. Dr. Gamble stated the timeline is OK; there is ample time for both Boards to review the agreement in time for the next Board meeting on January 21, 2015. Mr. Bell recognized the Lebanon Township Board members in attendance. Dr. Gamble stressed that the Lebanon Superintendent transition was very important and the decision must be in January 2015.

*2. Discussion of the 2015/16 proposed school calendar.

Dr. Gamble presented two drafts of the proposed 2015-2016 school calendar. The two Jewish holidays in question were not on either draft. Dr. Gamble said he and Mr. Patton would research if they can be accounted for. He said they will take the two days into consideration and do due diligence. He suggested approving one of the drafts now and making modifications later. Dr. Gamble stated that putting calendars together is always difficult. He recommended the first draft with the earlier start date to align with the high school, though he understands the rationale for the second option. He pointed out there is no conflict with the high school graduation date. He is leery of winter, and recognizes Labor Day is late in 2015.

Mr. Schundler stated he is in favor of the two Jewish holidays being added. Mr. Ramarge pointed out the three days of teacher conferences. Dr. Gamble said that could change; Mr. Patton thinks they can get by with two. Dr. Gamble needs to meet with the staff to discuss. Mr. Turello asked if there would be one less early dismissal. Dr. Gamble replied yes. Mr. Turello asked if November 20 could be removed, then put back if needed.

Mr. Schundler stressed that the start date should be decided now, then work in adjustments later. Mr. Turello said the community needs to be given as much notice as possible about the start date. Mr. Ramarge inquired about the history of a half-day before a recess. Mr. Turello replied it is negotiated in the contract. He suggested voting on a draft with the removal of a half-day on November 20, 2015. Dr. Gamble recommended Draft #1 (earlier start date), take out the 11/20/15 half-day, and review for the two Jewish holidays. Mr. Schundler discussed the snow day policy in relation to Martin Luther King Day. Mr. Bell pointed out one snow day has been used already.

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A motion was made by Mrs. Gangemi and seconded by Mr. Ramarge to approve Draft #1 (as amended) of the 2015-2016 school calendar. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Schundler recognized Mr. Turello for his service and leadership on the Board. He pointed out the various accomplishments, such as hiring a full-time principal, more CST availability, the Rutgers Initiative, Fast ForWord, and a longer school day. Mr. Turello thanked the Board for the opportunity, and stated he felt Mr. Beers will do well on the Board.

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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Mr. Beers thanked Mr. Turello and the Board for their work on the Superintendent search. He said it is hard to find a good Superintendent. He thanked Mr. Turello for his work in securing the shared CST services. Mr. Furmansky asked how much public word has there been about the search. Dr. Gamble replied every meeting. Mr. Ramarge encouraged public comments before the executive session.

Mr. Furmansky applauded the shared vision. He asked if the timelines match up. Dr. Gamble stated the shared vision process is taking longer. He said we need to build consistency at Califon, and that the best direction is a shared service. Dr. Gamble pointed out that an interlocal agreement is for one year, which would help in the

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transition and getting the shared vision in place. Then a multi-year agreement could be possible. He said things will be in place to provide a bright future for Califon.

Mr. Turello said Califon needs to hold the new Superintendent to what Califon expects and to meet the shared vision. The interlocal agreement gives both sides an opportunity to appraise the arrangement. He stressed that Califon will make clear what it expects from the arrangement. The focus is on keeping Califon independent and improving it.

Dr. Gamble pointed out the two years of success with shared CST services with Lebanon Township. Mr. Ramarge stated Califon will never enter into a stepchild agreement. Mr. Bell said the shared vision is a living document. Mr. Turello shared that the Lebanon Township Board has discussed the arrangement. Dr. Gamble stressed that the arrangement is do-able and can be beneficial, and it can work since the schools are close to each other. Mr. Turello said it is more a Lebanon Township issue, and their Board must be comfortable with the arrangement. He stated that Califon's expectations will be clear, and that their Superintendent will have more pressure on his time management. Mr. Turello pointed out that he is very comfortable that Dr. Kornagay will do what Califon needs him to do.

Mr. Beers mentioned the role of the principal. Mr. Turello stated that Mr. Patton is a key part, and that he has proven to be very qualified to run the school. Dr. Gamble said that Mr. Patton is the rock. Mr. Turello stated he is 100% behind the Lebanon Township arrangement. He said that all Lebanon Township Board members support the arrangement, that the Califon students must benefit, and that Dr. Kornagay is a strong superintendent.

Dr. Gamble pointed out that he met with Dr. Kornagay. They discussed the need to be proactive and visible in curriculum development, the Council of Instruction, and other specific points for availability. Mr. Turello said it is all about time management; being available as needed and being flexible. He also said it would be an opportunity for teachers from both districts to share insights. Mr. Turello stated that the CST experience has been real good. Mr. Bell added that Dr. Kornagay has been good with the CST. Mr. Ramarge expressed his concerns about Califon becoming second class to Lebanon Township.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Ramarge and seconded by Mrs. Gangemi to approve the following resolution:

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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 9:10 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. Ramarge to reconvene the regular session at 10:33 p.m. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

***XV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Turello to adjourn at 10:34 p.m. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted:

Thomas Johnston
Board Secretary