

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 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 May 1, 2013. 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

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. James Gamble, Interim Superintendent
Miss Karen Perdomo, BA/BS

Members of the Public

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the following minutes was made by Mr. Ramarge and seconded by Ms. Gangemi. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

January 6, 2014 Reorganization Meeting
January 15, 2014 Regular Meeting
January 15, 2014 Executive Session

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

V. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- *1. Election Law Enforcement Commission Memorandum

VI. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- *1. Review of District Goals

Dr. Gamble said we were moving forward with all of them. The Junior Grade Books program, District Advisory, Parent Advisory meetings, and Council of Instruction meetings.

Member of the public walked in at 7:34.

- *2. QSAC Update

Dr. Gamble said we had received very good compliments regarding staff and instruction. He also said we will be passing in all areas. He thanked the staff, Mr. Patton, Ms. Koogar, Mr. Fox, Ms. Perdomo, and Mr. Johnston with the business office and operations. He said the Committee only had a couple of suggestions.

Dr. Gamble said the Committee thought the council of instruction was excellent. He also said that because of the combined effort we did very well.

Mr. Turello said to please thank the staff on behalf of the Board.

Dr. Gamble said the Committee benefited us a great deal. He also said that teachers performed very well like they do every day.

- *3. Junior Great Books Program Update

Dr. Gamble said that it was not going to cost the Board a penny because it was approved by the WinterFall Committee. He said we will have presentations in the Spring.

Member of the public walked in at 7:38.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

He also said that we will be training two teachers. He said this will be focused on students that need some help. He said that we look forward to starting this in March since it is a 12 week program. He also said students will participate once a week and two teachers will do two sessions after school.

Mr. Bell asked about the cost for the second year.

Dr. Gamble said it would be less because we wouldn't have the training; between \$650.00 and \$750.00 for materials. He said the biggest cost was the stipend and it will remain the same but there will be a savings.

*4. District Parent Advisory Update

Dr. Gamble said we had seven parents. He said they discussed the vision, and had a really good discussion on how to move forward in the future. He also said that they decided that the meetings will be one that meets bi-monthly that won't be fixed, and it will be whoever would like to attend during the day and the evening. He said we will have two more meetings before the year ends. One will be on Thursday, March 25, at 7:00 pm, and the other may be during the day.

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.

Mr. Beard asked what students were being targeted.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

Dr. Gamble said it will entail report card grades, literacy arts, and teacher recommendations. He said that we intend to have the more capable readers on this group.

Mr. Beard asked about the Corrective Action Plan.

Dr. Gamble said the Corrective Action Plan was to involve the Business Office in keeping student funds.

Mr. Turello said it was moved from the secretary to the Business Office.

Mr. Beard asked about update of minutes.

Dr. Gamble said he will find out.

VIII. *BOARD SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

After review of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports for the month of **December 2013** 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 in total 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

***1. Report of the Curriculum Committee, Council of Instruction**

Ms. Gangemi said they met with five teachers and talked about procedures, and the five year district curriculum renewal plan. She said they also looked at the District Advisory Committee. She said they are going to be two in one. She also said the Global School House Initiative was the main point of discussion. She said they elected the officers. The Chair is Lisa Kooger, and MaryJane Medea the reporting Secretary until the end of June. She said that next year they will elect new officers.

She said that Dr. Gamble presented the five goals that the County discussed last year

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

(included in hand out). She said they also looked at the World Language Plan.

Dr. Gamble said this had come from QSAC. He said that the Committee said it was fine but it wasn't dated so they needed to get an updated date.

Ms. Gangemi thanked Ms. Maginnis for the work she put in it.

Dr. Gamble said the core curriculum is the same so we didn't lose a bunch of pts. He also said the Committee liked the idea of going through the council and then the Board. He also said that next year you will have a grade book and report cards online.

Mr. Bell asked if the new curriculum plan includes new languages and if there was any way to add more languages.

Dr. Gamble said it was not included in the five year renewal plan. He said that however, as we move forward with parent advisory and the council of instruction, a sub-committee could be formed to look into it. He also said that when you take a look at the five year plan, you look at the timeline and those questions will come up when world languages come.

Mr. Bell said it was important to have choices for students as there is a diverse community. I.e. German, and Italian.

Dr. Gamble said in order to look into other languages that you want to expose your children to, we needed to begin to realize that some other languages are critical to the global well-being. He said we can look to see how to bring this in.

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

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

Finance

A motion was made by Ms. Gangemi and seconded by Mr. Schundler to approve all of the following. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

January/February Bills List

- *1. Motion to approve the payment of invoices from check number 20699 to check number 20750, checks 13014, 21514, and non check N1137, in the amount of \$ 199,841.34.

Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

- *2. Motion to approve submission of the attached Comprehensive Plan and M-1 to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Corrective Action Plan

- *3. Motion to approve the attached Corrective Action Plan for the 2012-2013 year. (Since September 2013, the BA Office has kept the records and managed the monies for the Student Activity Account).

Facilities

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

Use Of Facilities

- *1. Motion to approve the following use of facilities:

TREPS Meeting (M. Zimmerman)	Library	02/26/14	7PM-8PM
TREPS Marketplace & Workshop	Gym	03/21/14	4:30PM-9:00PM
Booster Club Winter Sports Banquet	8 th Gr. Room/Gym	03/06/14	5:00PM-8:30PM
7th & 8th Grade Dance	Gym/8 th Grade Room	03/14/2014	7:00PM-9:30PM

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

Transportation (none)

Personnel:

Two members of the public walked in at 8:07 pm.

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

Substitute Staff

- *1. Motion to approve the following additions to the 2013-2014 substitute list. Annual per diem rates are \$110.00 (nurse), \$80.00 (teacher or secretary), \$12.50 per hour (custodian).

Lisa Fenton (teacher)

Jennifer Dyer (teacher)

Development/Travel

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

K. Brown	Tri-County Reading Council Spring Fling Workshop	04/10/2014	\$65.00
L. Montesion	Tri-County Reading Council Spring Fling Workshop	04/10/2014	\$65.00
D. Thompson	NJMEA Music Conference	02/20-22/14	\$185.00

Maternity Leave

- *3. Motion to approve maternity leave for Kristen Charleston from April 18, 2014 thru August 31, 2014.

Mr. Turello asked if she was returning.

Dr. Gamble said she was coming back. He said we can have a sub, or advertise it as temp. He said having a maternity leave replacement was his preference as it gives you a greater ability to get someone you want to get in that position. He said we will have a recommendation prior to that.

Mr. Turello asked if we plan on continuing with Rutgers.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

Dr. Gamble said it will be a yearly thing. He said he will have to place students in the spring for the fall semester.

Mr. Turello said it has worked well and wants to continue with it.

Instructional Aides

- *4. As recommended by the Interim Superintendent, a motion to approve Dawn Hup as an instructional aide effective February 1, 2014, at an annual rate (prorated) of \$17,338.

Dr. Gamble said we had 15 initial applications. He said Mr. Patton interviewed 9. He also said we got additional applications after that. He said that Dawn had started, and Brad started today. He said he wanted to make sure we got this covered. He also said both candidates knew that this was pending board approval.

- *5. As recommended by the Interim Superintendent, a motion to approve Brad King as an instructional Aide effective February 18, 2014, at an annual rate (prorated) of \$17,338.

Interim Superintendent

- *6. Motion to approve, pending approval by the County Superintendent, the contract for the Interim Superintendent for the 2013-2014 year.

B. Curriculum and Instruction

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

Health Report

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

Field Trip

- *2. Motion to approve the following field trip.

Trenton State House, Museum, Old Barracks	4 th and 6 th Grade	04/15/14	8AM-4PM
		No Cost to Board	

Curriculum Guide

- *3. As recommended by the Interim Superintendent, a motion to approve the World Language Curriculum Guide.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

Mr. Bell asked about expansion of world languages to include other languages.

Dr. Gamble showed curriculum guide for Spanish. He said that if we were to have another offering, it would go through the council and then brought up to a sub-committee.

C. Policy

- Policy book update

Mr. Bell said he met last night. He said Linda Patterson sent an e-mail with clerical changes. He also said he checked into what covered people in the building. He said there is an accident policy under letter b.

Dr. Gamble said that regarding policies on home schooling there was terminology that needed to be changed. He said this went to County Office prior to monitoring. He said he will e-mail those changes to Mr. Bell.

Mr. Turello requested for them to be sent for review before voting at the next meeting.

D. Communications (none)

Ms. Gangemi met with Mr. Patton to move forward to have a bulletin board with the H.S athletes that are doing well and want to include academics as well. She said they are working in the guidelines and will let parents know prior to posting any pictures.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- *1. Parking Lot Safety Parking Bumpers

Mr. Bell brought in a quote to purchase parking lot bumpers

Dr. Gamble said we will discuss with facilities committee.

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

- *2. Motion to approve the purchase of a four part grant writing webinar series at the cost of \$299.00.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

Dr. Gamble spoke about a training webinar for the grant writing committee.

Mr. Turello asked if the webinar will be part of the committee meetings.

Dr. Gamble said they will gather as a group to get feedback. He also said it was difficult for teachers to get involved in grants because to go for serious money it takes time, effort, and training. He also said that our first initiative should go towards technology because it is an area that we need to target.

Mr. Bell suggested the Exxon Mobil foundation for technology support.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1* School funding

Mr. Bell sent a PowerPoint presentation and went over a couple of items in order to save money.

2* School calendar

Dr. Gamble recommended following the protocol but this has been in place since last Spring. He suggested having April 24th and 25th as school days because that gets us out on June 20th, and graduation will be on the 19th. He said that if we get more snow days we can then take the 22nd and 23rd from Spring break and that still get us out on the 20th. He said that if more days are needed the option is to take the weekends and or June 23rd moving forward.

Mr. Turello said we didn't use Presidents Day is because we did in-service on Martin Luther King's Day.

Mr. Ramarge asked if we were obligated to take the same school days as Voorhees.

Dr. Gamble said no.

Mr. Ramarge said that we are one square mile going forward and he would think anyone could walk to school if it isn't dangerous.

Dr. Gamble said we will talk about that on Friday with the Superintendents. He also said that some of the factors were that it starts at 4:00 am with the Washington

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

Police, and then the Superintendents to make sure we are on the same page. He said that what they take into consideration is not only the fact that kids walk but they also worry about having a productive school day. He said that staff comes from different distances. He said they also think about the integrity of the school day. He said they try to stick together.

Mr. Turello asked if the 90 minute delayed opening is working.

Dr. Gamble said yes.

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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Ms. Peterson said she doesn't think it will be unexpected. She said that people know we have had really bad weather.

Mrs. Medea said that missing Spring Break wasn't a big deal since they have had six days off.

Mr. Beard offered support and mentioned that the good majority will go away on Spring Break. He said that someone will be upset no matter what the decision is.

Ms. Gangemi asked what the percentage was to have the school count as a school day.

Dr. Gamble said an overall average of 94% for the entire year.

Mr. Beard asked for an update on the budget.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

Dr. Jim said that it has been started. He said that have gone through all of the process. He also said we will be setting up with the committee. He said we need to have a hearing on March 26th, or 27th. He said that next month we will have a finance meeting and will have a Board meeting the following week. He said that unless we go over the cap we don't have to have an election.

Ms. Perdomo said next Tuesday we will find out the numbers for State aid.

Mr. Beard asked if the same documentation will be provided.

Dr. Gamble said yes.

Ms. Peterson asked about ways to make Califon famous. She said she wanted to suggest initiatives and asked if that would be through the council of instruction or Mr. Patton.

Dr. Gamble said that this fits in into what we want to achieve globally. He also said to go through Mr. Patton first.

Mr.Beers thanked Dr. Gamble and the Board because it is refreshing hearing about teaching Mandarin and various programs and for keeping Dr. Gamble for another year. He said it was appreciated and they could see a difference in the school.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Schundler, seconded by Mr. Ramarge, and carried on a unanimous voice vote to approve the following resolution:

Motion to approve the following resolution:

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

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

- _____ 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 9:15 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

The Board reconvened into General Session at 9:40PM.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Schundler and seconded by Ms. Gangemi to adjourn at 9:40PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Perdomo