

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 15, 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**

Mr. Bell brought a motion to amend the previously adopted minutes of December 18, 2013, under the public comment, personnel, and old business section (s). The amendments were ratified by the full Board.

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

December 17, 2013 Regular Meeting  
December 17, 2013 Executive Session

**V. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

- \*1. Borough of Califon Meeting Minutes 11/18/2013
- \*2. Borough of Califon Meeting Minutes 12/16/2013
- \*3. Borough of Califon Appointments and Organizational Resolutions for 2014 dated 01/06/2014
- \*4. Letter from the Governor Chris Christie

A member of the public enters the meeting at 7:35.

**VI. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- \*1. Review of District Goals

Dr. Gamble said that there are a number of press releases going on. He said he has to compliment the reports, especially from The Democrat. He said there is a great deal on perception.

Dr. Gamble said that the planning page picks the initiative from Rutgers which has helped with communication on those lines. He said that we sent an e-mail blast advertising the meeting. He also said we were going to pick up the parent advisory group on January 31st. He said that maybe the next one was going to be in the evening to reach out to most people. He also said that the first part of the meeting was going to be a presentation, opportunity to questions and answers, and for the community to learn what's going on.

Dr. Gamble said that Fast ForWord was expanding. He said progress has been excellent. He also said that teachers claimed kids were spelling much better already. Mr. Turello asked for a target of students. Dr. Gamble said he was doing research in order to begin adding students during classroom sessions. He also said that the council of instruction was going to meet on Jan 28th. He said it was going to be important because we were going to be doing curriculum development.

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\*2. Update on Literacy Initiative and the Rutgers-Califon Connection

Dr. Gamble said we were continuing with Rutgers through the second half of the year. He also said their focus has been to align instruction to common core. He said text was more complex, more rigor was going to be added to it. He also said that Rutgers has helped save on guiding groups. He said students had more emphasis on reading. He said we had a blog that we used internally with teachers. He also said that after they finish their PD sessions they had to reflect on the blog for 1/2 hour to get ideas from each other.

Dr. Gamble said that in summary, we can say that the initiative we started last year has been a success. He thanked the Board for letting us continue through the second part of the year. He also said that some of the areas that we have been working on this year were the effective utilization of data to drive instruction. He said we wanted to create a literacy rich environment through posters. He said one of the areas we were working on was vocabulary instruction. He also said that all the teachers will have PD on Monday. He said that 1/2 will be with Rutgers to review and go over training. He said the emphasis will be on how to motivate students through empowerment and how to make assignments more authentic.

**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 if Algebra isn't required in 8th grade. Dr. Gamble said there was a shift in Math and there was a deeper focus to make sure everything was on alignment. He said it was not a hit or miss. He also said that in 7th grade where you have students going for

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Algebra it will not happen. He said you will find Algebra for 7th grade top students and it will be the option there. He said that as long as they get Algebra I it won't affect students in H.S.

Mr. Turello asked if this was consistent with other districts. Dr. Gamble said yes. He said it was in alignment with the common core.

Mr. Bell asked if we had any sessions posted on Algebra. Dr. Gamble said teachers have been playing around with it on the Math website. He also said it will with help us with PARCC next year.

Mr. Beard asked if we had an accelerated language program like the one in Tewkesbury. Dr. Gamble said the one in Tewksbury evolved through the council of instruction. He explained the process used in Tewksbury. He said at Califon we couldn't cluster a group. He said we have a small group of teachers to accelerate those kids to a great reading. He also said differentiation had to be a well thought out plan.

Mr. Bell asked if there was a gifted or talented program. Dr. Gamble said teachers are using Great Books for enrichment in the classroom. He also said we were trying to bring things in without overwhelming teachers. He said we put a lot on their plate. He said we have teachers learning Fast ForWord, PARCC, the blog, PD, plus we were going to be bringing Genesis next year to do report cards and use grade book.

Ms. Peterson asked about PD and the blog. She asked if all teachers were required to write. Dr. Gamble said that it wasn't a requirement at this point. He said the only thing we mandate is to reflect in a blog for professional development. He said we could build it into PD.

Ms. Peterson said the model should be achievement directed. She said she came up with a few of examples and gave them to Mr. Turello.

Mr. Bell said he agreed.

Dr. Gamble said we had a contest for the kids and the entire community looking for a logo and statement and it's been on for 20 something years. He suggested a contest.

Mr. Schundler said he liked "making our lives extraordinary" for school Board because of the individualized approach.

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

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

**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.

- 2014-2015 School Budget

Dr. Gamble said the preliminary budget reflects the goals for next year, one of them being the focus on technology.

Miss Perdomo went over some of the preliminary numbers.

***A. Finance/Facilities/Transportation/Personnel***

***Finance***

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.

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December/January Bills List

- \*1. Motion to approve the payment of invoices from check number 20662 to check number 20698, checks 12013, 11514, and non-check N1136, in the amount of \$ 155,850.21.

Budget Transfers

- \*2. Motion to approve the attached list of budget and 10% transfers from the period of 9/1/13 to 1/15/14 in the amount of \$13,500.00.

***Facilities***

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.

Use Of Facilities

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

Boy Scout Troop 192	Gym	3/20/14	7:00PM-9:00PM
Monthly Scout Meetings		4/17/14	7:00PM-9:00PM
		5/15/14	7:00PM-9:00PM

***Transportation (none)***

***Personnel:***

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

Development/Travel

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

L. Patterson	NJSSNA Conference	03/22/2014	\$210.00
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- \*2. Motion to approve Kenneth Maxwell as a part-time custodian at the rate of \$12.50 per hour, 3 hours per day effective January 15, 2014.

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- \*3. Motion to advertise for two (2) instructional aides at \$17,388 prorated from February 1, 2014.

Mr. Turello asked if aids were required. Dr. Gamble said we had one student who wasn't getting full coverage in all academic areas. He said we were using teachers to cover different sections and but it wasn't the best thing to do and we didn't have it fully covered. He also said the student must have History, Geography, and Science and we haven't had the student covered for Science.

- \*4. Motion to approve Kelly Hubiak as cheerleading coach at a stipend of \$2,100 effective immediately (NOTE: the dollar amount of the stipend was approved at the August 2013 meeting, but no one was named as recipient. This motion is to simply approve Ms. Hubiak as recipient).
- \*5. Motion to approve Lisa Kooger, Marie Heyduke, Erika Hellings, and Matthew Zimmerman as Reading Olympic coaches at a stipend of \$500 each effective immediately.

Dr. Gamble said it was a 5th and 6th grade program. He said there were two (2) teams of twelve (12) students on each team with two (2) teacher coaches. He said each team reads twenty five (25) books and as they practice one teacher coaches while the other one is the moderator. He also said we have had a couple of blue ribbons. He said we get the books from PTA and fundraisers.

Mr. Ramarge asked what the practice entails. Dr. Gamble said he didn't know what the schedule for practice was. He said the stipend was for 25 hrs. He said it was for 18 hrs of practice time and preparation but he wasn't sure about the breakdown. He also said the event was in April.

### ***B. Curriculum and Instruction***

A motion was made by Ms. Gangemi and seconded by Mr. Ramarge 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 December 2013.

### ***C. Policy***

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- Policy book update

Mr. Bell went over the second read on sport injury concussion policy. He said changes were highlighted and the cheerleading part had been edited.

Mr. Turello asked for more research on cheerleading as part of the athlete program.

Mr. Ramarge asked if there was a separate policy for gym class. He said if there wasn't a school wide thing we could use this.

Mr. Turello asked if there were any other policies on how illnesses were handled. He said we should do research and if there were no other documents we could use one to reference both. He said to pull the current health policy, amend it if needed, and go forward with this.

***D. Communications (none)***

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Schundler informed that one former Califon student was the quarterback in the High School team, and another student had become the cheerleading captain at the end of the fall sports season. He also said that the highest GPA from student athletes was a student from Califon.

Ms. Gangemi asked if this info could be put on the website or how to inform the student body about these kids.

Mr. Schundler said some of them had siblings but people may not be aware.

Ms. Gangemi asked if we could reach out to those students, take picture and post in hallway.

Mr. Ramarge said we had discussed making a bulletin board.

Mr. Bell suggested creating an honor roll.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**



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Mr. Bell handed out a print out of parking bumpers to consider for purchasing due to safety issues.

**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. Beard asked if we received any applications for school choice and if any of our students have been accepted somewhere else next year.

Dr. Gamble said we got five (5) applications but we couldn't accept any. He said sometime this month we will know officially if anyone has been enrolled or will be enrolling in another school district.

Mr. Turello asked if we knew if Tewksbury and Lebanon had the capacity for more students.

Dr. Gamble said it was up on the website.

Mr. Bell said it was good to know the reason why the person was leaving the school. He also asked if we couldn't accept people who came in to inquire.

Dr. Gamble said no.

Mr. Ramarge asked if we would see some change in the future.

Dr. Gamble said no.

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**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (*none*)**

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
- 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 \_\_\_\_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 (*none*)**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Ramarge and seconded by Mr. Schundler to adjourn at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Perdomo  
Board Secretary