

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2013 7:30 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER – OPENING STATEMENT

This meeting is called to order at _7:35_ 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. Laura Peterson
 Mr. Matthew Ramarge
 Mr. Kim Schundler
 Mr. Alfred Turello

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

Members of the Public

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Motion to approve the following minutes was made by Mr. Turello and seconded by Mr. Bell.

Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

August 22, 2013 Regular Meeting
August 22, 2013 Executive Session
September 11, 2013 Special Meeting
September 11, 2013 Executive Session

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2013 7:30 p.m.**

V. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

1. Borough of Califon Minutes 07/15/2013
2. Email from Diane McLaughlin

VI. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Global School House Initiative: Update on Free Rice Program and the Literacy Initiative with Western Africa.

a. Free Rice Program

Dr. Gamble discussed the Free Rice program. He gave an update on the program as it gets integrated to the school's curriculum. Students (K-8) are participating in the United Nations World Food Program. Students log into www.freerice.com website to practice subjects such as math facts, vocabulary, world languages, and Geography, and every time they get a correct answer the United Nations donates 10 grains of rice to areas around the world. He addressed this as a motivating factor as 400 grains of rice can feed a person for a day.

b. Literacy Initiative

Dr. Gamble introduced John Servingas, student teacher. John presented a Power Point on the Califon-Rutgers connection and explained how it seeks to involve students in the initiative to help this non-profit organization in Ghana through book drives, and letter exchanges.

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
September 18, 2013 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.

Jason Beard made positive comments about back to school night and how well teachers are responding; communication has been positive and noticeable. It was also mentioned that it is disruptive that people in the community have the idea that the school is closing, and suggested for the Board to make action and to keep information explicit. Dr. Gamble suggested the use of press releases to talk about the school's global initiative which will show that the school is moving forward. Mr. Turello also said that this message will be reinforced at the street fair.

A member of the public addressed Susan Schaffner's death. Acknowledgement of such was suggested. Mr. Turello said that it will be addressed.

A member of the public responded regarding the elections in November and asked if they could volunteer someone. Mr. Bell suggested community focus meetings as a way to outreach. Mr. Ramarge said the school needed ambassadors other than parents to convey the school's message. Dr. Gamble suggested permanent leadership. He referred to focus groups, have people visit during school hours, flier distribution, and a retreat as strategic plans.

VIII. *BOARD SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

To be presented at the October Board meeting.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

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.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2013 7:30 p.m.**

A. Finance/Facilities/Transportation/Personnel

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

Finance

August/September Bills List

- *1. Motion to approve the payment of invoices from check number 20438 to check number 20507, checks 83013 and 91513, and non check N1130, in the amount of \$162,996.12

Facilities

A motion to amend item 1 was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Turello.

Item #1

Use of Facilities

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

Califon PTA Meeting	8 th Grade Room	09/19/2013	7:00PM – 8:30PM
Califon PTA Make It-Take It	Gym	12/06/2013	5:00PM – 9:00PM
8 th Grade Class Dance	Gym	09/27/2013	7:00PM – 10:00PM
		12/13/2013	7:00PM – 10:00PM
		01/31/2014	7:00PM – 10:00PM
Califon Rec Adult Basketball	Gym	Sundays	9:00AM – 11:00AM
		09/22/2013 – 06/15/2014	
		(pending receipt of certificate of insurance)	

Personnel

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

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2013 7:30 p.m.**

2013-2014 Stipends

- *1. Motion to approve a split of the Kids Care Club Stipend. The stipend of \$250 was approved by the Board on August 22, 2013. The proposed split is \$125 to Linda Patterson and \$125 to Cynthia Behrens.

Staff Development/Travel

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

A. Wiesel	NJ Science Convention	10/15/2013	\$165
	Princeton, NJ		

Item #3

- *3. Motion to approve Diana McLaughlin as Volunteer Cross Country Head Coach for the 2013 Fall season.

B. Curriculum and Instruction

A motion was made by Mr. Turello and seconded by Mr. Schundler. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Field Trips

Item #1

- *1. Motion to approve the following field trips:

Enrichment Consortium Schedule	See Attached Schedule	\$600
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Item #2

- *2. Motion to approve submission to the State of the FY14 No Child Left Behind Grant (NCLB) in the amount of \$1,108 to be used for teacher training in the area of technology applications.

C. Policy

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2013 7:30 p.m.**

- Policy book update

Mr. Bell wants to implement trauma and injury in sports to the policy book.

D. Communications

Ms. Peterson discussed a school video and a school brochure and how it would impact the global initiative. She also said the author that is coming to the school will bring books to give away, and pictures will be taken to be shared on the website.

X. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Schundler inquired about the five year curriculum tech plan. Dr. Gamble said there is no tech plan but one needs to be in place. He also said that it will be addressed this year and will be updated with the curriculum planning.

Mr. Schundler asked about the changes Math sequences.

Mr. Turello talked about the election process and how to procure resumes. There is one open vacancy.

Mr. Ramarge spoke about school choice and suggested goodie bags for runners.

Mr. Bell asked about the certificate of insurance needed for the upcoming street fair.

Dr. Gamble said a 2 to 3 minute video about the school's vision will be done.

Mr. Turello inquired about NJASK individual scores. Dr. Gamble said they will be included in October's meeting.

Mr. Bell asked when the fence will be repaired and suggested to have a company look at it for needed repair.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Dr. Gamble and seconded by Mr. Bell to approve the district goals. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2013 7:30 p.m.**

Discussion of the Board / District Goals for the 2013/14 school year.

Dr. Gamble recommended three goals. Enhance public perception of the schools, develop and enhance classroom or district communications tools, and increase student achievement.

Mr. Turello suggested continuing working on the website and raising the bar on education of the schools.

Mr. Schundler addressed communication tools and how to get the word in from parents to tell the school what they are happy about and get some feedback.

Mr. Bell said he has been attending PTA meetings and suggested to think about a representative.

Dr. Gamble presented goal number #3, the implementation of teacher methods to improve teaching achievement. Expose students to shared inquiry methods to implement critical thinking skills. School choice- \$25,000 for the program including Math, and close reading. A motion was made by Dr. Gamble to approve goal #3. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Dr. Gamble discussed the school's calendar and parent-teacher conferences in October. He suggested changing the dates of October 28, 29, to Friday November 1st, following Monday and Tuesday, as it is closer to the marking period end.

A motion was made by Dr. Gamble and seconded by Ms. Peterson. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Dr. Gamble suggested changing the board meeting date from October 16th to the 23rd.

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.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2013 7:30 p.m.**

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A member of the public inquired about the author that will be coming to the school. Dr. Gamble said that the book program will build relationships with corporations and schools. The member of the public also said the school calendar was behind on the website. Dr. Gamble said it will be updated.

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

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2013 7:30 p.m.**

XIV. RECONVENE- None

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Schundler and seconded by Mr. Turello to adjourn at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Perdomo
Board Secretary