

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 13, 2016 7:30 p.m.**

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

This meeting is called to order at 7:32 p.m. with the following opening statement read by President Gangemi:

“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 April 28, 2016. 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:     Dr. Jevan Furmanski  
                              Mr. Terren Suydam  
                              Mrs. Nina DeCoster  
                              Mr. Mark Cantagallo  
                              Mrs. Claudia Gangemi

Members Absent:     None

Also Present:         Mr. Jason Kornegay, Superintendent  
                              Mr. Thomas Johnston, Board Secretary  
                              Members of the Public

**\*IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A.     A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mr. Suydam to approve the following minutes. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

September 28, 2016 Regular Session

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 13, 2016 7:30 p.m.**

**\*V. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: NONE**

**\*VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**\*1. Presentation of Winter/Fall Grants**

Mrs. Winter gave a brief synopsis of the history of the grants. She announced the recipients of the grants: Miss Hubiak, Mrs. DeMarco, Miss DeAngelo, Mrs. Medea, Mr. Zimmerman and Miss Heyduke (combined grant), and Mr. Patton. Miss Hubiak talked about her I-Pad digital portfolio project. Mr. Kornegay thanked Mrs. Winter for the grants which are presented twice per school year. Mrs. Gangemi thanked Mrs. Winter on behalf of the Board.

**\*2. Superintendent Update - PARCC Spring 2016 Results**

Mr. Kornegay made his presentation on the most recent PARCC scores. He first thanked Mr. Patton for the graphs used in the presentation. He then discussed the history of the PARCC tests. He stressed that small districts present a small sample size, so percentages can create a false picture of performance. He added high school feedback is more critical. As for the latest tests, Mr. Kornegay said there was progress in most areas. Dr. Furmanski asked who provides the movement analysis. Mr. Kornegay replied Link It. Mr. Suydam asked if the movement analysis follows grade or student. Mr. Kornegay replied grade; some trends are easier to see. He added scores in New Jersey were up slightly, and that scores are not used for major decisions. He stressed the importance of benchmarks. Dr. Furmanski said PARCC was more benchmarking. Mrs. DeCoster asked if the high school tracks scores based on what elementary school a student went to. Mr. Kornegay replied yes, but Califon does not have access to data. Dr. Furmanski asked if aggregated data is available. Mr. Kornegay replied general trends are; he likes to look at student trends individually. He added middle school scores need to be higher. Dr. Furmanski asked if the scores were representative. Mr. Kornegay replied generally. He pointed out that grade buckets are not decided upon until after the tests are scored. He added there is mobility between buckets. Mr. Kornegay said the elementary school is doing well, and that middle school benchmarks need to increase in FY2017; this is the primary area of focus. He discussed algebra requirements for high school. He said the State is concerned with curricular integrity. He said with cluster proficiency, lower scores are better. Mr. Kornegay said the math challenges are measurement and adjusting materials if necessary. Dr. Furmanski suggested if the math materials are not pushing scores than to utilize enrichment. Mr. Kornegay stated supplemental materials do not equal more math books. Mr. Suydam asked how data gets translated to action. Mr. Kornegay discussed the review of curriculum updates and how often standards are being addressed. He spoke of the need to use some language for math. Mr. Suydam asked about reporting to the Board. Mr. Kornegay replied soon, and added the Board needs to

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 13, 2016 7:30 p.m.**

reapprove the curriculum. Mr. Cantagallo remarked it was an impressive presentation. Dr. Furmanski asked when does the “so what” happen. Mr. Kornegay talked about the first curricular work, the need for consistency, and that lesson plans must be analyzed and professional development must be continued. He added teachers need more time to have conversations on goals and objectives. Mr. Cantagallo stated timeframes of testing and scores are more difficult now. Mr. Kornegay replied that is why benchmark assessments are ue,

- \*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.

There was no public comment at this time.

**\*VIII. BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT**

After review of the Board Secretary’s reports for the month of September 2016, 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.

Mr. Johnston stated the annual audit went exceedingly well. The auditors left very happy with the condition of the financial records of the school, and there were no

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 13, 2016 7:30 p.m.**

adjusting journal entries or any other adjustments required. Mr. Kornegay thanked Mr. Johnston for his work in the business office and for the positive result of the audit.

**\*IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Curriculum & Instruction Committee: The Council of Instruction is scheduled to meet on October 18, 2016.

Policy & Legislation Committee: NONE

Finance, Facilities, & Transportation Committee: NONE

Personnel Committee: NONE

Negotiations Committee: NONE

Long Range Planning, Shared Services, and School Choice Committee: NONE

Communications Committee: The North Hunterdon/Voorhees speaker did not attend the last Califon Board meeting.

**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 Superintendent. If separate discussion is desired, the item may be removed from the consent agenda by Board action.

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

***Finance:***

Sep - Oct Bills List

- \*1. A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mrs. DeCoster to approve the payment of invoices from check number 22323 thru check number 22364, and check 93016, in the amount of \$134,175.88. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 13, 2016 7:30 p.m.**

Budget Transfers

- \*2. A motion was made by Dr. Furmansli and seconded by Mrs. DeCoster to approve the attached list of budget transfers in the amount of \$3,206.67. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

***Facilities:***

Facilities Donation

- \*1. A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mrs. DeCoster to approve the following donation from Steven Weber, Head Custodian. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

Two 4'x6' Stall Mats for Playground. Donation Value = \$80.

Mr. Cantagallo praised Mr. Weber for his donation. Mr. Kornegay explained the mats were a recommendation of the recent playground inspection.

***Transportation:***

Joint Transportation Agreement

- \*1. A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mrs. DeCoster to approve a Joint Transportation Agreement with Delaware Valley Regional High School for Athletic and Field Trips. The cost is \$69.35 per hour per bus for the first four hours, then \$40.60 per additional hour. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

***Personnel: NONE***

***B. Curriculum and Instruction***

Health Report

- \*1. A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mrs. DeCoster to accept the attached Health Report for September 2016. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

Student Activity

- \*2. A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mrs. DeCoster to accept \$73.00 raised by Mr. Weber, Head Custodian, for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Activity account from the sale of old school items at the town-wide tag sale. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 13, 2016 7:30 p.m.**

Mr. Cantagallo praised Mr. Weber for taking the initiative in raising money for the Student Activity Fund. Mr. Kornegay explained the items sold were old clocks that had been replaced.

**\*X. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Cantagallo said he was sad to hear Mrs. Gangemi was resigning from the Board, and he thanked her for her service to the Califon School District.

**\*XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Suydam said he can be available to help with the design of the school's website. Mr. Kornegay stated some redesign is needed. Mr. Suydam said he can make recommendations. Mr. Kornegay stated compliance must come first. Dr. Furmanski said there should be a discussion of what the best website design would be.

Dr. Furmanski discussed the decreasing enrollment. He asked about possible school choice defections in FY2018, when does a grade become non-viable, when does a school become non-viable, and should strategic studies be done now. He stated the situation must be studied, and communications must be made to the public. Mr. Cantagallo said it is the Board's responsibility to prepare, and that we have a great school. He added the topic should be approached on a regular basis. Mr. Kornegay said the current year's enrollment is 93 students, including nine in preschool. He added there needs to be answers and enough information to make decisions based on what is best for the students. He stressed the conversations must be more than financial and the decisions must be educational first; it is not only about tax levies. Dr. Furmanski mentioned contingency planning for a shrinking school. He asked when explicit conversations start. He said the Board must communicate frankly. Mr. Kornegay stressed the working group must include staff in addition to the Board and the administration. Dr. Furmanski agreed. Mr. Kornegay pointed out the Board has a Long Range Planning Committee. He added the work is done in committee, and the conversations are in public session. He said transparency is a must. Dr. Furmanski asked is the first survey can be out and in and interpreted by the November 2016 meeting. Mr. Kornegay asked what information is being sought. He mentioned reaching out to the non-parent community and the South Hunterdon merger. Mrs. Gangemi stated the Board must be clear on all information disseminated, and suggested working with the Borough Council. Mr. Kornegay stated Califon is facing shrinking enrollment, and that difficult program decisions lie ahead. He added the options must be defined. Dr. Furmanski stated enrollment is low and shrinking.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 13, 2016 7:30 p.m.**

**\*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.

The Board President may terminate the remarks of any individual, when they do not adhere to the rules established above.

Mrs. Medea said she has heard the conversation before about the shrinking school. She suggested looking at surrounding districts for shrinkage. She called it a dip in the curve, and pointed out that Califon has been at this level of enrollment before and survived. Mr. Kornegay explained a clause stating any district can pass a resolution limiting the number of school choice students leaving the district that requires a sign off by the Commissioner of Education. He said none have been signed off. Mrs. Medea said during the first school choice period, the Board voted for a 10% limit, but 40% of one grade left Califon. She stressed there should be clear communication to the public on the ramifications of school choice, and there should be no knee-jerk decisions. Mr. Kaiser suggested not rushing to put out a survey before the November 2016 meeting to avoid an alarmist response. He suggested selling the small classroom rather than painting it as a problem. Mrs. Gangemi said to look at what is best for the students. Mr. Kaiser said a survey now will lead to fiscal talk. Mrs. Medea said a quick survey opens up negativity; information must be given out first. Dr. Furmanski discussed the need to study the problem, gather data, and engage the community. He asked how much can the message be managed. He talked about making the school the best it can be within the constraints. Mr. Suydam asked what is so bad about small class sizes. Mr. Kornegay said the Board needs to communicate they have had this conversation. He said shrinking enrollment is a concern; social and emotional development is important. He pointed out a lot of positive things are happening at Califon. He asked can the programs students need be maintained. Mr. Kornegay pointed out that mergers are almost never a cost savings. Dr. Furmanski stated the relative benefit vs. drawback is very individual, and that school choice is a personal issue. He said the Board must communicate how valuable the school is. Mr. Kornegay pointed out the school choice deadline is December 1. Dr. Furmanski said the school is making progress and is excellent, and that the benefits of Califon must be sold. Mrs. Medea said she appreciates the positivity. She reviewed the school choice open house

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 13, 2016 7:30 p.m.**

night held a few years ago. Mrs. DeCoster said she was a parent who was going to take her children out of Califon then but decided to keep them in Califon school. Mrs. Medea said she likes multi-grade specials, and pointed out that things can be done to foster emotional support. Dr. Furmanski said Califon can't gain choice students. Mrs. Winter pointed out that enrollment was around 95 students in 1985, and that Califon never had multi-age classrooms before. She stressed a \$100 saving for closing the school is not worth it. She said Califon is not tooting its own horn well enough; more should be done to sell Califon. Dr. Furmanski asked if families can un-choice. Mr. Kornegay said yes. Mrs. Gangemi mentioned there are so many baby strollers around. Mr. Kaiser said website restructure is important. Mr. Kornegay stated the Board must be careful approaching families who choiced out in the past. Mrs. Medea suggested using the press more, sending pictures to the newspapers, and touting things like the WinterFall grants.

Mr. Kaiser revisited the basketball issue discussed in September. Mr. Kornegay stated the school belongs to a league with a good amount of small schools in it. Mr. Kaiser asked if a decision was made on a basketball coach. Mr. Kornegay replied no.

**\*XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE**

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**



**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 13, 2016 7:30 p.m.**

**\*XV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Cantagallo and seconded by Dr. Furmanski to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Johnston  
Board Secretary