

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 24, 2015 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 Ramarge:

“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 11, 2015. 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. Robert Beers Mr. James Bell Dr. Jevan Furmanski Mrs. Claudia Gangemi Mr. Matthew Ramarge
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Members Absent:	None
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Also Present:	Dr. James Gamble, Interim Superintendent Mr. Thomas Johnston, Board Secretary
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Members of the Public

***IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

May 20, 2015 Regular Meeting

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May 20, 2015 Executive Session

***V. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Ramarge stated he had received a letter from a Califon resident asking the Board to chip in for the cost of resurfacing the road next to the school. The project has already been started. Mr. Ramarge pointed out that it was not in line with our protocols.

***VI. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*1. HIB Report – no report for June 2015

*2. Recognition of Hunterdon County Historical Essay Winners

First Place: Alex Kibler Second Place: Jack Ford

Dr. Gamble recognized the fourth graders. Certificates will be given to them.

*3. Report on Previous Consolidation Studies – Kim Schundler

Mr. Schundler spoke about the issue of consolidation. He said it was first discussed in 2007 by a Strategic Planning Committee. Various options were considered, including Lebanon Township, Tewksbury, and a three-way combination. The tax aspects were reviewed. Four years later, a study was done by a group of Rutgers MBA's. Mr. Schundler discussed merging tax bases, common costs/common tax base, the number of students from each district, and merging. He pointed out that both districts and both Boards must approve the arrangement, and that both sides must save money. Mr. Schundler said the study showed it is best to close Califon in order to save money. He stated that Lebanon Township has the capacity to take on our students. The study suggested the cheapest teachers would be let go, and the pay scales would be harmonized and all remaining staff would get raises. Other considerations include IEP's, student/teacher ratios, and students involved in sports. Lebanon Township has a nine-member Board; Califon five members. A new Board would have a lower percentage of Califon members. Mr. Schundler emphasized that the most important item is what is best for the children. He mentioned the effect of school choice, as well as morale, uncertainty, and the ability for the district to move on a dime. Mr. Schundler described the math involved in calculating the true savings of consolidation; it comes out to only around 3.5% savings for the taxpayers. Mr. Ramarge asked if there were any changes between the reports. Mr. Schundler replied the savings numbers were

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consistent. Mr. Bell asked what would happen to the building. Mr. Schundler suggested it could be sold and the proceeds used to settle the outstanding debt. Mr. Bell asked if the other district would absorb it. Mr. Schundler replied no.

***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 thanked Dr. Gamble for his great service to Califon Public School. Mrs. Koziol asked about the Board picking up some of the cost of the road resurfacing. Mr. Ramarge repeated his position stated during Written Communications. Mr. Bell asked who owned the road. Mr. Ramarge said the Board needs to see the deed.

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

After review of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports for the months of **May 2015** 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.

*1. The annual financial audit has been scheduled for September 28-29, 2015.

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***IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Gangemi mentioned the Wall of Fame inductees will be in the next Crier. The bell ringing by the retiring Mr. Fox and Mrs. Tiger is on the Borough website.

Dr. Gamble mentioned the summer curriculum work is going well. A unified template is being used, which will have all the enhancements that have been discussed. The Council of Instruction will pick up the work in September. Mrs. Gangemi asked about the steps going forward. Dr. Gamble reviewed them. Mrs. Gangemi asked if the work will be done in two years. Dr. Gamble replied yes.

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. Bell and seconded by Dr. Furmanski to approve the following. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

May/June Bills List

- *1. Motion to approve the payment of invoices from check number 21471 to check number 21519, checks 53015, 61515, 61815 and non check N1160, in the amount of \$300,860.17.

Close Out the Year

- *2. Motion to authorize the Interim Superintendent and the Assistant BA/Board Secretary to pay all invoices needed to close out the June 30, 2015 year providing proper documentation is available.

Budget Transfers

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- *3. Motion to approve the attached list of budget transfers from the period of 06/01/2015 thru 06/15/2015 in the amount of \$13,175.

Facilities:

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

Playground Area Paving

- *1. Motion to accept the sum of \$2,800 from the Califon PTA, which they have raised through fundraising efforts and is earmarked to fund the paving of the blacktop area on the playground at Miller Field, and to approve Stan Zajac as the contractor, pending receipt of a certificate of insurance naming Califon Board of Education as additional insured.

Mr. Ramarge asked for an explanation. It was provided by Mr. Johnston.

Transportation: NONE

Personnel:

A motion was made by Mrs. Gangemi and seconded by Mr. Bell to approve item #1. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

Pre-School Aide:

- *1. As recommended by the Interim Superintendent, motion to approve Dawn Hup for the position of part-time pre-school aide (0.5 FTE) at the annual salary of \$8,669.00

Mr. Ramarge asked about the application process. Dr. Gamble replied that the position was posted internally, and that Mrs. Hup has experience at Califon. Dr. Furmanski asked what is meant by "posted internally". Dr. Gamble explained that the posting was in the school building.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gangemi and seconded by Mr. Bell to approve items # 2 and #3. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

- *2. Motion to approve the attached substitute teacher list for 2015-16.

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- *3. Motion to add the following to the substitute list for 2015-16.

Paula Graham

Monica Scala (pending receipt of substitute certificate)

Mr. Bell asked if the resignation letter from Mrs. Thompson had been received. Dr. Gamble replied yes.

B. Curriculum and Instruction

A motion was made by Mrs. Gangemi and seconded by Mr. Bell to approve item #1. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Health Report

- *1. Motion to approve the attached Health Reports for May and June 2015.

A motion was made by Mr. Beers and seconded by Mr. Bell to approve item #2. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

NCLB Grant

- *2. Motion to approve submission to the State Department of Education the FY16 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Grant in the amount of \$1,791 to be used for teacher training in the area of mathematics.

Dr. Gamble said the grant was categorical, not competitive. Mr. Ramarge asked if the trainings have been earmarked. Dr. Gamble replied yes.

C. Policy

- Policy book update

Mr. Bell said he is working on the AED policy with Mrs. Patterson. Mr. Ramarge asked about AED's and cross-country. Mr. Bell said he will check with other schools, and that the law is vague.

D. Communications: NONE

***X. OLD BUSINESS**

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Mr. Ramarge reiterated his concerns regarding the interpretation of the AED rules concerning cross country. Mr. Bell asked about the progress of the outside light by the sixth grade room. Dr. Gamble replied it's in progress. Mr. Beers asked if coaches for the fall sports have been approved yet. Dr. Gamble said they will be this summer, and stipends will be approved in August.

***XI. NEW BUSINESS**

***1. New Board Committee**

Mr. Ramarge proposed a new Board committee called the Grants and New Initiatives Committee. The new committee would consist of two Board members and parents from the old grants committee. A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mrs. Gangemi to approve Dr. Furmanski and Mr. Ramarge to be on the committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

***2. Change of July 2015 Meeting Date**

A motion was made by Mrs. Gangemi and seconded by Dr. Furmanski to change the July regular Board meeting date to Wednesday, July 1, 2015. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Beers asked about possibly having a work session with Mr. Kornegay in August. Mr. Kornegay said the work session could be used for goal setting. Dr. Gamble suggested a work session in early August where no action is taken. Dr. Furmanski asked if hiring is done in executive session. Dr. Gamble replied it is done in open session. Mr. Ramarge added that discussions can be done in executive session, based on the recommendations of the Superintendent. Mr. Bell asked if there were any open positions. Mr. Ramarge said two, speech and special education. A motion was made by Mr. Beers and seconded by Mrs. Gangemi to hold a work session where no action will be taken on Wednesday, August 12, 2015, and change the regular Board meeting date to Wednesday, August 26, 2015.

Mrs. Gangemi said she was approached by the PTA concerning the Califon Street Fair on October 4, 2015. She stated last year the PTA and the Board shared a table. A motion was made by Mr. Beers and seconded by Mrs. Gangemi to approve the Board sharing a table with the PTA at the Califon Street Fair. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

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***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.

Mr. Beard asked what the new grant committee means for the old committee. Mr. Ramarge said they would be merged.

Mr. Turello asked what Mrs. Beers was trying to accomplish at a town council meeting. Mr. Beers said that Mrs. Beers contacted the mayor about the regionalization issue and it was put on their agenda. Mr. Medea confirmed it was on the agenda. Mr. Turello asked why it was there. Mr. Beers stated the jurisdiction is open to debate. Mr. Medea said the town council can take initiative on a feasibility study. Mr. Turello pointed out it should have been brought up at a school Board meeting. Mr. Ramarge said it was a failure of the mayor and the council. Mr. Medea confirmed the school Board should have been notified. Mr. Turello stressed that everyone needs to work together. Mr. Bell mentioned the meeting was public. Mr. Turello replied it presents a bad perception. Dr. Furmanski suggested the Board meeting is a good venue. Mr. Beers said at a council meeting he is a taxpayer and not a school Board member. He pointed out an incoming class of eight and asked when does Califon pull the plug. Mr. Turello stated these are challenging times in town. Mr. Bell asked if there were reporters. Mr. Turello replied yes. Mr. Medea said it was not a two-way conversation, and that the conversation of quality of education and tax dollars should start at the school Board meetings. Mr. Turello asked if other topics were discussed. Mr. Medea replied statistics and opinions. Dr. Gamble pointed out he spoke once to the reporter, but she did not return any subsequent phone calls. He said that he gave her the Board's side on the topic. Mr. Schundler stated the topic of regionalization has been looked into before, and that new Board members need to be aware of the work done in the past. Mr. Ramarge said it was an unfortunate incident, he wants to build up the school, and that he will speak with the mayor. He also mentioned how Califon students are succeeding

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in high school, and commented on the reporter is not much of one. Mr. Turello stressed that the Board act responsibly in representing the school.

Mr. Ramarge congratulated Dr. Gamble for his service to Califon school. Mr. Bell presented Dr. Gamble with a gift. Dr. Gamble thanked everyone.

***XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mrs. Gangemi to approve the following resolution. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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 9:21 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 Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mr. Bell to reconvene into regular session at 9:40 p.m. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

- A. *Personnel*** - Matters listed within the consent agenda designated by * have 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

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

- Interim Superintendent Evaluation (tabled from the May 2015 regular meeting).

Mr. Ramarge praised the wonderful job done by Dr. Gamble over his two years as Interim Superintendent, and stated that all objective were achieved. Mr. Bell said Dr. Gamble took Califon Public School to a place with a strong foundation.

***XV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Bell and seconded by Dr. Furmanski to adjourn at 9:43 p.m. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Johnston
Board Secretary