

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2014 7:30 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER – OPENING STATEMENT

This meeting is called to order at 7:31 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
Thomas Johnston, Assistant Business Administrator

Members of the Public

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. A motion to approve the following minutes was made by Ms. Gangemi, seconded by Mr. Ramarge, and approved by a unanimous voice vote:

February 19, 2014 Regular Meeting
February 19, 2014 Executive Session

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March 19, 2014 Regular Meeting
March 19, 2014 Executive Session

Amendment to the December 18, 2013 Regular Minutes

V. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- *1. Special Meeting Notice NHVRHS School District
- *2. Request by Dawn Hup on behalf of the Work-Family Connection to present to the Board highlights of the after-care program in light of their 25th anniversary.

VI. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- *1. Review of District Goals

As for increased communication, Dr. Gamble discussed the use of press releases. Also, he talked about the upcoming meeting (May 2014) of the district/parent advisory. He stated seven to ten people usually attend the meetings which last about one hour. In relation to the goal of increased student achievement, Dr. Gamble discussed the Junior Great Books program, a webinar program thru WinterFall, extending the Rutgers University program, and in-service opportunities at Rutgers.

- *2. District HIB Summary Report

Dr. Gamble reported that there was one HIB incident in September 2013.

- *3. Violence and Vandalism Report

Dr. Gamble reported that there was one incident of vandalism (broken window) in the Fall of 2013.

- *4. Report of Califon's HIB grade.

Dr. Gamble reported that, for the school years of 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, Califon's HIB score was 51. The top score a district can earn is 75. Mr. Turello stated that a score of 51 is unacceptable, and asked Dr. Gamble if such a score can lead to Califon losing funding. Dr. Gamble said "no". Mr. Bell asked what the average score was in New Jersey. Dr. Gamble answered he did not know. Mr. Turello said we can't change yesterday, and that the current administration is focused on improvement. Dr. Gamble stated that School Principal Dan Patton and

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School Nurse Linda Patterson have been working at it well, and that is reflected in having only two incidents in 2013-2014.

***5. Work-Family Connection Update**

Dawn Hup introduced a representative of the Work-Family Connection. She also introduced Jack, who won a picture drawing contest. Mr. Bell stated that Jack also participated in Destination Imagination. The Work-Family Connection representative spoke about the history of the program at Califon.

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 commented on the kid's page of the Hunterdon Democrat and that student entries should be more consistent. Dr. Gamble stated that teachers promote to get entries in. Mr. Beard then asked if the HIB score more reflects readiness and programs. Dr. Gamble said yes, that it is not an occurrence issue. Mr. Turello stated that good things are being done. Mr. Bell asked if there need to be policy changes for HIB. Dr. Gamble said the policy is fine and that all that is required is follow-up documentation.

VIII. *BOARD SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

After review of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports for the month of **February 2014** 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

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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

Ms. Gangemi reviewed the March 25th committee meeting. She stated the goal is to keep the technology plan in line with county goals. Did not enter the PAARC pilot. Visual performing arts plan for 2014-2015. Dr. Gamble talked about initiating the grade book in Genesis next year. He said the subcommittee has been working diligently on assessment indicators and grade scale. Dr. Gamble reviewed the tech subcommittee meeting of April 16. They discussed Governor Christie's comments, goals and objectives, and partnership for 21st century learning. They will meet May 21 to draft a plan that aligns with grant writing. They discussed technology needs for the next three years.

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 to approve the following was made by Mr. Ramarge, seconded by Mr. Schundler, and unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

March/April Bills List

- *1. Motion to approve the payment of invoices from check number 20812 to check number 20850, checks 32814, 41514, and non checks N1140 – N1141, in the amount of \$192,963.04.

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- *2. Motion to approve the Health care adjustment in the amount of \$9,384.00 in the 2014-2015 Budget.

Facilities

Use of Facilities

- *1. A motion to approve the following use of facilities was made by Ms. Gangemi, seconded by Mr. Bell, and approved on a unanimous voice vote.

7th/8th Grade Dance Gym + 8th Grade Room 05/02/2014 7:00PM-9:30PM
(to include High Bridge, Lebanon Twp., Tewksbury, Hampton, & Clinton Public)
- *2. Dr. Gamble mentioned that the work on the back parking lot would be done during spring break.

Transportation (none)

Personnel:

A motion to approve the following personnel items was made by Ms. Gangemi, seconded by Mr. Ramarge, and approved on a unanimous roll call vote.

Maternity Leave Replacement

- *1. Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the appointment of the non-tenured professional staff shown below as maternity leave replacement for the 2013-2014 School Year (April 14 thru June 30, 2014), on the salary guide at the classification and step as indicated, based on the 2012-2015 negotiated agreement between the Califon Board of Education and the Califon Education Association.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>Step/Col</u>	<u>Annual Salary</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Patricia Johnston	5 th Grade Teacher	Rutgers	Step 1/BA	\$47,460 (prorated)	1.0

Dr. Gamble stated that Califon is fortunate to have Mrs. Johnston fill in for Mrs. Charleston. There were eight candidates interviewed, and Mrs. Johnston stood out above all the others. He said that Mrs. Johnston has been working well with Mrs. Charleston, and the transition has been smooth. Dr. Gamble reiterated that Mrs. Charleston intends to return in September 2014.

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Principal

- *2. Motion to approve, under the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the appointment of Daniel Patton to the position of Principal in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in the attached contract, from July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015 at an annual salary of \$105,000, pending approval by the County Office.

Dr. Gamble stated that Mr. Patton wants to be in Califon, and that Califon must keep him here. Mr. Turello said that he is excited to have Mr. Patton back, and that Mr. Patton can be the rock for the school moving forward. Mr. Turello reviewed changes in sick and personal time, bereavement days, and family illness days.

B. Curriculum and Instruction

A motion to approve the following was made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Ms. Gangemi, and unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

Health Report

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

Field Trips

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

The Lion King 7th Grade 05/14/14 8:15AM – 6:00PM
New York City Cost per Student: \$173 Cost to Board: \$0.00
(lunch @ Stardust Diner, visit Toys R Us @ Times Square, Broadway show)

- *3. Sandy Hook, NJ Grades 3 thru 5 05/30/14 8:30AM-3:00PM
Cost to Student: \$29.00 Cost to Board: \$0.00
(coastal exploration, shell classification, lighthouse visit)

- *4. Turtle Back Zoo Grades K thru 2 06/18/2014 9:00AM-3:00PM
Cost to Student: \$20.00 Cost to Board: \$0.00

- *5. Raritan Valley Community College Grades 7&8 05/22/14 8:00AM-1:30PM
Transportation Cost: \$302.50 (a grant for ½ the cost has been applied for)

- *6. Washington DC/Gettysburg 8th Grade May 28-30, 2014 5:00AM-8:00PM
Cost to Student: \$375
Cost to Board: Teacher overnight (2 x 2 nights x \$200/night) \$800 plus meals

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Student Practicum

- *7. Motion to approve the following contract. (TABLED UNTIL THE MAY 2014 MEETING).

To approve the attached agreement for a student for a Student Practicum with Centenary College for the Fall 2014.

C. Policy

- Policy book update
- Second reading of a new Board Policy, File Code: 5141.1, Accidents.
- Second reading of a new Board Policy, File Code: 5141.8, Prevention and Treatment of Sports Related Concussion and Head Injury

A motion was made by Mr. Ramarge and seconded by Ms. Gangemi to approve the new policies. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bell mentioned revisions to the kindergarten policy. Dr. Gamble pointed out the Waiver of Age section of File Code 5111, stating that we don't want to discourage anyone. Ms. Gangemi asked about the test. Dr. Gamble said it is yet to be determined. Mr. Turello discussed the scenario of a child who moves into Califon in the summer and whose 6th birthday is in October. Mr. Bell said testing is expensive, and asked if our CST could do the evaluation. Dr. Gamble suggested that not be written in. He mentioned in-house assessments. Mr. Turello asked about a pre-determined test for a family in Califon by 6/30. Dr. Gamble said one was not outlined in the policy. Ms. Gangemi asked about prerequisites. Dr. Gamble answered there were none and that the matter should not be over-complicated. Mr. Bell asked if the policy was within all state and federal laws. Dr. Gamble said yes.

D. Communications (none)

X. OLD BUSINESS (none)

XI. NEW BUSINESS

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- *1. School Board election to be held in November 2014. Two 3-year seats are up for grabs. Public notice needs to go out in early May. Ballot entries must be submitted by the first week of June 2014.
- *2. The Borough's budget hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 21, 2014 (8:00PM) at the Borough Hall.
- *3. The School Calendar for 2014-2015. The original calendar had a start date after Labor Day. Mr. Turello stated that the high school and other sending districts open prior to Labor Day, and it would make sense to be in synch with the high school. Dr. Gamble met with the CEA, and they preferred more lead time before deciding on a pre-Labor Day opening. Mr. Schundler asked that, since there are much fewer students, can there be two days of parent-teacher conferences as opposed to three. Dr. Gamble said that the 11/21 date could be cut, and that he would get feedback from teachers and administrators. He said we need to get the information to the community sooner than later. He also recommended surveying parents in the Fall 2014 about a start date prior to Labor Day in 2015. Mr. Turello stated we should be in synch with the high school. Mr. Bell said it could be an issue for people planning vacation schedules, and it might be good faith to reach out. Ms. Gangemi, Mr. Ramarge, and Mr. Turello recommended no survey. Mr. Schundler stated we should be in synch, but we may want to wait till next year. The following, which was not recommended by Dr. Gamble, was proposed: Teacher In-Service 8/27/14, School Opens 8/28/14, Graduation 6/17/15, Last Day of School 6/18/15, 5 Snow Days, a Full Day on 11/21/14, 186 Calendar Days. A motion was made by Mr. Schundler and seconded by Mr. Ramarge to approve the new school calendar for 2014-2015. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

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.

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Mrs. Maginnis asked if the four professional development days would have delayed openings. Dr. Gamble replied that the high school is using delayed openings in 2014-2015.

Mr. Beard asked if the process has been started to find a replacement for Dr. Gamble. Mr. Turello responded that Dr. Gamble will be at Califon for 2014-2015. Mr. Beard asked if there is a firm timeline. Dr. Gamble said not yet; that more effort is currently being used on the Business Administrator position. Mr. Turello stated that, with a full-time Principal, we have to look at options based on what we can afford. Mr. Turello also said that given time, we can find someone very good. Mr. Beard asked for regular updates.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 9:03 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 to reconvene to open session at 9:31 p.m. was made by Ms. Gangemi and seconded by Mr. Ramarge

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XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 9:32 p.m. was made by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Ramarge.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Perdomo
Board Secretary