

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

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

This meeting is called to order at 7:40 p.m. with the following opening statement read by Mr. Cantagallo:

“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 to 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 pledged to the flag.

**\*III. ROLL CALL**

Present:        Mr. Jeffrey Dahl  
                     Mrs. Nina DeCoster  
                     Dr. Jevan Furmanski  
                     Mr. Christopher Keiser  
                     Mr. Mark Cantagallo

Also present: Mr. Jason Kornegay-Superintendent  
                     Ms. Karin Laraway-Interim Board Secretary

**\*IV. 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.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

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

MaryJane Medea (teacher at Califon)-Voorhees' Destination Imagination team with 5 girls from Califon, attended the Global Competition and tied for 29 place. There were 67 teams competing.

MaryJane Medea-Califon School District was acknowledged in the book Breaking Through the Language Arts Block-Organizing and Managing the Exemplary Literacy Day. There are pictures of the district's teachers and students, also.

Public-Congratulations to the graduating class. This is a special group of students in a special school.

Public-concern about closing the school. Do not have children in the school, a teacher in another school. Has taught in Vermont in a school with low enrollment. There are viable options such as multi-age classes.

Mr. Cantagallo-The BOE has discussed multi-age classes and other options, combined grade levels present social, emotional and educational challenges.

Public-In Bridgewater, students move among levels.

Public-does the district has a Business Administrator? Why is the district hiring a Treasurer.

Ms. Laraway responded that this is not a new position, the prior Treasurer retired and a replacement had not been hired.

Public-Will the first grade teacher be rehired?

Mr. Cantagallo-Frist grade is a small class and a decision has not been made.

Public-I don't see any resolutions on the agenda.

Mr. Kornegay-The motions (resolutions) begin on page 3.

Public-when will the BOE make a decision about September?

Mr. Cantagallo-School will be in session.

Public-Will school be in session in September? In this building?

Mr. Cantagallo-Yes and yes.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

Mr. Kornegay-the Board has not taken any action to change the structure of the school. The BOE will put a steering committee together. The committee will be stakeholders-Township committee, parents, community organizations, students, non-parent taxpayers. Information will be sent out to all community members via the district website and mail. Once the full committee is formed, they can decided how communications with the community will occur.

Public-where can BOE committee reports be found and can the public comment during the committee reports?

Mr. Cantagallo-The minutes reflect the reporting of the committee meetings. The period to comment on the agenda is before the committee reports. The BOE will also open public comments after the committee reports.

**\*V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Motion made aby Mr. Cantagallo, seconded by Dr, Furmanski, to approve the following minutes:  
May 23, 2018                      Regular and executive session

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

**\*VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Letter of resignation from Kelly Edsall, School Psychologist-Mr. Kornegary stated that Ms. Edsall was an employee of the Califon School District for 5 years.

**\*VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- \*1. Superintendent Update:

Facilities: No report

Personnel: No report

Curriculum and Instruction: No report

Technology: No report

HIB Report: No HIB reports

**\*VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

Curriculum & Instruction Committee: Not met but will schedule a meeting to discuss the change in leadership.

Policy & Legislation Committee: Not met

Finance, Facilities, & Transportation Committee: Not met

Personnel: Mr. Cantagallo -Lebanon Twp BOE passed a motion not to share the superintendent. The shared superintendent contract expires June 30, 2018. There is a 180 day clause. A letter was sent to parents only to let them know of the situation. There are different structures for district superintendents. Personnel committee has to meet to discuss qualifications of a superintendent for Califon. I would like someone who is extremely dedicated, knowledgeable and intelligent. The 180 days is around December 15

Public-Is there a state requirement to have a Superintendent and a Principal?

Mr. Kornegay-No, a district can have both a Superintendent and Principal, a shared superintendent, and a CSA which a combined Superintendent/Principal-one person doing both jobs.

Negotiations Committee: Met with the Califon teachers' association this evening., exchanged proposals, a very amicable meeting. Will meet again on June 27.

Long Range Planning, Shared Services, & School Choice Committee:

Met last Monday, things have changed and the committee now has to focus on leadership of the district. There are companies that will assist with superintendent searches. They meet with all stakeholders to discuss qualifications they would like in a superintendent. Mr. Cantagallo believes the BOE should bring in a professional to assist and slow down with the process of the steering committee until new leadership is in place.

Public-If an outside facilitator is used for the steering committee, will the outside person be an expert on education, laws and facilities?

Mr. Kornegay-No matter who leads the process, there is overwhelming data that needs to be reviewed.

Mr Cantagallo-If the BOE hires an outside facilitator, goals and objectives have to be set for the district and a pathway to meet the goals and actions put in place to achieve the goals.

Public-will there be a mass advertising for members of the steering committee by the Facilitator?

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

Dr. Furmanski-Has the BOE hired a facilitator?

Mr. Cantagallo-No we have not.

Public-The Dodge Foundation in Morristown is a resource that the BOE can use. The consult on the Arts, Community Involvement, Environmental and Education.

Public-Are you proposing slowing down the process until leadership is in place?

Mr. Cantagallo-Yes. It is hard to make recommendations when there is no leadership.

Public-How long do we have to put it off before we have to decide what happens in coming years?

Mr. Cantagallo-we have to solidify the leadership, make it a seamless transition. We have 180 days to find a superintendent.

Public-it's not a quick process to hire a superintendent.

Mr. Cantagallo-we need leadership to be here for planning.

Dr. Furmanski-Jason has been a resource to the district. The BOE, as elected, are the leaders of the district, the BOE are the strategic planners. Takes issue with calling the superintendent leadership.

Mr. Cantagallo-the leadership needs to be part of the process, to be the face of the school, the BOE does not run the school.

Mrs. DeCoster-the BOE needs to look at the position and decide what is best for the district.

Mr. Dahl-we need to do a parallel search-steering committee and leadership.

Mr. Keiser-BOE committees should meet and the decisions of the committees should determine what type of leader is needed.

Public-It won't be a secret to any prospective superintendent about the steering committee and the future of the school.

Dr. Furmanski-google "Califon School" and what comes up is "Califon School closing".

Public-thank you for slowing down, like the way you are going, hiring someone who

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

knows how to take the district forward. Will the consultant advise on experts?

Mr. Cantagallo-BOE is not hiring a consultant at this time.

Public-with the South Hunterdon consolidation, there were experts used in all fields. Who determines who is on the steering committee-would like the mayor or town council to make the decision on who the steering committee members are.

Public-when is the next BOE meeting?

Mr. Cantagallo-Usually there is no July meeting but will be requesting that the BOE meet in July to discuss in the New Business part of the agenda.

Public-why hasn't a decision been made about first grade?

Mr. Cantagallo- there are four first graders, all boys, who possibly can be together for 9 years. The BOE needs to look at the social, emotional and educational aspects of this.

Mr. Kornegay-has had conversations with parents of the students. Parents are concerned about the immediate and future of this class. The BOE has talked at various times about multi-grade classes. There is research that supports multi-grade classes but it has to be purposeful. Creating opportunities across grade level, i.e. guided reading, has to be well engineered and constantly monitored. Califon is fortunate that the district has talented teachers who have the ability to have a multi-grade class.

Dr. Furmanski-The community has asked to look at innovative solutions, but now that we are looking for a new superintendent, we need to look for a superintendent who can support innovation.

Public-are there studies that small, single gender classes have a negative effect on students?

Dr. Furmanski-this is a continuing discussion in the curriculum committee. Have looked at test scores, but have not been able to discuss non-test score data.

Mr. Kornegay-there have been studies regarding class size, there is an optimal size. The research solely looks at academics but the BOE is also concerned about the social and emotional well-being of the student.

Public- there is a multiclass school in Morristown-Normandy Park. Perhaps the BOE can reach out for information from them.

Mr. Kornegay-did cursory research on multiage class, needs to be a purposeful design and not for convenience purposes. In speaking with the staff, they have tremendous

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

ideas but needs to have this monitored closely.

Public-what is the current enrollment if the first and second grade is combined?

Mr. Kornegay-14

Public-what is the reading curriculum?

MaryJane Medea (teacher) –Reading Writing Workshop model and the ELA in middle grades is modified Lucy Caulkins

Mrs. DeCoster-curriculum follows grade level. Level readers are always with the same group of students. One thing that sticks out is the parent that stated that she did not want her child to be a science experiment. Need to look at all students, not just the particular grade level and how multi-grade level students will interact.

Public-like the way the conversation is going, support the idea to bring in a consultant for strategic planning process. What is the timeline for forming the steering committee? When will there be a motion to form a steering committee?

Mr. Cantagallo-a motion was made to have a committee by the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, did not happen. BOE needs to decide what comes first, hiring a superintendent or a steering committee.

Public-have not heard a teacher yet say it was not a good thing to have a multiage class. If it can work well, it certainly can work here in Califon. To the parents of the incoming first grade, not taking anything away from you but stick with the district and we can get through it. Hope parents can keep their students here. If keeping the class in district, there is an urgency to reengaging the teacher.

Mr. Cantagallo-there is an urgency to this, all sentiments have been expressed, but majority have expressed it is not a good idea for multiage class. Teachers train for differentiation, what we are talking about is not well planned, no professional development. Personal opinion-Would like to see traditional class instead of multiage class.

Public-if the BOE has a multiage class, it will be successful. Seek help, there are people who can help.

Public-has there been a creative way to bring students here, possibly free?

Mr. Kornegay-only mechanism to do that is school choice. The school could petition the state for a waiver for additional seats, the state is very picky about waivers, and the district would not receive state aid for those students.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

Public-as a parent of one of the first graders, I can give it one year but would like to know the future plan. If the school closes, I want my child to move with his class. Comfortable with combining grade but now cautious with the new superintendent who doesn't know the school climate.

Public-how many students enrolled for kindergarten?

Mr. Kornegay-6

Public-research shows single sex classrooms are successful. There are already shared opportunities in the school-lunch, recess, lots of activities across grade levels.

Mr. Kornegay-we are talking about direct instruction.

Public- what is the real cost of additional students?

Mr. Kornegay-as long as the district is a choice district, we cannot accept parent paid tuition. Additional costs are probably minimal.

Public-School choice not working. Under what circumstances can district accept other students?

Mr. Kornegay-I will look into it.

Dr. Furmanski-if we let students in tuition free, do we have to let everyone in?

Mr. Kornegay-can limit seats available.

Public-why was first grade teacher let go?

Mr. Kornegay-can't talk about personnel, a non-tenured employee must be notified by May 15 if not being rehired, if unsure about needing a position, usually notify the non-tenured teacher.

Public-the fifth grade teacher was rehired.

Mr. Kornegay-a decision about 5<sup>th</sup> grade was made.

Public-can you rehire the teacher?

Mr. Kornegay-when a decision is made.



**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

**\*IX. 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.

Motion made by Mr. Cantagallo, seconded by Mrs. DeCoster, to discuss the consent agenda.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Mr. Keiser, seconded by Dr. Furmanski, to remove Personnel item #1.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

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

***Finance:***

1. Motion to approve the list of bills dated May 24, 2018 through June 11, 2018 in the amount of \$17,828.45.
2. Motion to approve the submission of the FY 2019 IDEA and ESEA grant applications.

***Facilities:***

1. Motion to approve the following facilities usage request:

a. Califon Rec Committee	Monday evenings	Gym
Adult Volleyball	2018-19 school year	7-9 PM
b. Califon Rec Committee	2-3 days/week	Gym
Basketball 5-8 grade	June-October 2018	

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

***Transportation:***

***Personnel:***

1. REMOVED - Motion to approve the following stipend requests:

Cyndy Behrens	Califon Kids Care Advisor	\$ 125
Linda Patterson	Califon Kids Care Advisor	\$ 125
Linda Patterson	HIB-School Specialist	\$ 1,000
Leslie Weiss	Milk Coordinator	\$ 1,000
Matthew Zimmerman	Webmaster	\$ 2,000

2. Motion to accept the resignation of Kelly Edsall, School Psychologist, effective July 1, 2018.
3. Motion to approve Edward Newhauser and Mallory Bartow as temporary summer custodians beginning July 2, 2018 through August 23, 2018, 3 ½ hrs/day, \$12.50 per/hr.
4. Motion to approve Paula Hatch, School Treasurer, for the 2018-19 school year at a salary of \$1,958.00.
5. Motion to approve the following stipend payments for the 2017-18 school year:

Kyle Hoitsma	Yearbook	\$900
Kelly Hubiak	Yearbook	\$900
Robin Heuneman	8 <sup>th</sup> grade advisor	\$550
Leslie Weiss	8 <sup>th</sup> grade advisor	\$550

***B. Curriculum and Instruction***

1. Motion to approve the health report for May 2018.
2. Motion to approve entering into a contract with Lebanon Twp Board of Education for 2018-19 Extended Year Services tuition for three (3) special education students in the amount of \$11,400.
3. Motion to approve entering into a contract with Lebanon Twp Board of Education for the 2018-19 school year tuition for three (3) special education students in the amount of \$64,300.

Motion made by Mr. Cantagallo, seconded by Dr. Furmanski, to approve the consent agenda.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

Motion approved on a unanimous roll call vote.

**\*X. OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. DeCoster asked about field trips for next year. Mr. Kornegay stated that they will be done before the September meeting.

**\*XI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Motion made by Mr. Cantagallo, seconded by Dr. Furmanski, to approve the NJDOE School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018.

Mr. Kornegay stated that this is an assessment of how well the district is doing. The score increased by one from last year. The scoring is 0-3. Full credit (3) is given if the district exceeds the requirements not just meets the requirements. The district's overall score was 70 out of a possible 78. Mrs. DeCoster asked what type of training is done for employees. Mrs. Patterson answered SafeSchools and turnkey training.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Cantagallo suggested that the BOE have a July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Only three BOE members will be able to attend. Dr. Furmanski asked why does the BOE have to have a meeting in July. Mr. Cantagallo responded for personnel. Dr. Furmanski said that if there are only three members in attendance, it is not the best time to make personnel decisions. It was agreed that there would be a meeting on July 18.

There was a resolution made by Dr. Furmanski to create an ad hoc committee. The BOE and public had a very lengthy discussion of the intent and the wording of the resolution:

Motion made by Dr. Furmanski, seconded by Mr. Cantagallo, to create an ad-hoc committee for the purpose of studying and reporting back to the board with analysis and recommendation regarding at minimum the following:

- Viability and efficacy of very small class sizes
- Cost of declining enrollment to the community
- The impact of any recommendations regarding the above on the community as a whole.

This committee will initially have two board members and five community members appointed by motion of the full board. The committee can then interview and appoint 2-4 additional members as they see fit. They may also elect to request the BOE hire a

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

facilitator of their recommendation to aid in the study and organization as they see fit.

The BOE considers the minimum qualifications to be the same as those to be on the BOE. The board intends for the committee to be representative of the community as a whole.

Communications and business of this committee will not be considered confidential or otherwise dependent on the BOE.

Motion made by Dr. Furmanski, seconded by Mr. Cantagallo, to amend the motion: the chair of the committee be one of the two BOE members.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Dr. Furmanski, seconded by Mr. Keiser, to bring the amended motion to a vote.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

The amended motion:

To create an ad-hoc committee for the purpose of studying and reporting back to the board with analysis and recommendation regarding at minimum the following:

- Viability and efficacy of very small class sizes
- Cost of declining enrollment to the community
- The impact of any recommendations regarding the above on the community as a whole.

This committee will initially have two board members and five community members appointed by motion of the full board. The committee can then interview and appoint 2-4 additional members as they see fit. They may also elect to request the BOE hire a facilitator of their recommendation to aid in the study and organization as they see fit.

The BOE considers the minimum qualifications to be the same as those to be on the BOE. The board intends for the committee to be representative of the community as a whole. The chair of the committee will be one of the two BOE members.

Communications and business of this committee will not be considered confidential or otherwise dependent on the BOE.

Motion approved on a unanimous roll call vote.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2018 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.

**\*XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Mr. Cantagallo, seconded by Mr. Keiser, and approved by 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/Contract negotiation
- 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 11:20 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  
June 20, 2018 7:30 p.m.**

**\*XIV. RECONVENE**

Motion made by Mrs. DeCoster, seconded by Mr. Cantagallo, to return to the regular meeting. The time was 12:49 AM.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Mr. Keiser, seconded by Mr. Cantagallo, to approve the following stipends requests:

Cyndy Behrens	Califon Kids Care Advisor	\$ 125
Linda Patterson	Califon Kids Care Advisor	\$ 125
Linda Patterson	HIB-School Specialist	\$1,000
Leslie Weiss	Milk Coordinator	\$1,000
Matthew Zimmerman	Webmaster	\$2,000

Motion approved on a unanimous roll call vote.

**\*XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mr. Cantagallo, seconded by Dr. Furmanski to adjourn the meeting. The time was 12:50 AM.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Laraway  
Interim Board Secretary