

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 7:30 p.m.**

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

This meeting is called to order at 7:38 p.m. with the following opening statement read by Vice-President Furmanski:

“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 19, 2017. 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 participated in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**\*III. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mrs. Nina DeCoster  
Dr. Jevan Furmanski  
Mr. Christopher Keiser

Members Absent: Mr. Mark Cantagallo

Also Present: Mr. Thomas Johnston, Board Secretary  
Members of the Public  
Guest Presenters

**\*IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

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**\*V. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board reviewed the Board Vacancy Letter from Mr. Jeffrey Dahl. Mr. Dahl explained why he wanted to become a member of the Califon Board of Education. A motion was made by Mr. Keiser and seconded by Mrs. DeCoster to approve the appointment of Jeffrey Dahl to the vacant Board seat. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**\*VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: NONE**

**\*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 August 2017, 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.

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Mr. Johnston discussed the letter he received stating the premiums for the NJ State Health Benefits Plan would rise 13% come January 1, 2018. He explained one of his responsibilities as Business Administrator is to find cost savings for the district wherever possible. Given the news about the State plan, he began research into an alternative option for health, dental, and prescription coverage. He explained that the options were severely limited, given the fact that the district has fewer than fifty employees. The one possible option is the Schools Health Insurance Fund (SHIF). Mr. Johnston stressed his view that, while saving premium dollars is important, the district is contractually bound to the "equal or better" clause. He explained the option would not be voted on at this meeting because another presentation needs to be set up for the staff.

The guests for the presentation were: Shannon Balken of Balken Risk Management Services, LLC (the district's insurance broker for the insurances other than health), Joseph Colombo and Julie Ann Kuczynski of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., and Sean Critchley of PERMA, the management company of the Schools Health Insurance Fund.

Mr. Critchley gave the presentation on SHIF. He explained that SHIF is government regulated, and it provides pools for smaller districts. He stated there is a 60-day notice to the State when entering or exiting the State Health Plan. He mentioned the SHIF operates on conservative underwriting, and that the SHIF policy period is July 1 thru June 30. Mr. Critchley pointed out the proposed plan included Aetna for health insurance, Delta Dental for dental insurance, and Express Scripts for prescription insurance. He stated the SHIF provides districts with a letter stating the coverage of the SHIF plan is equal to or better than the State plan. He added the initial membership is three years, and that the average length of stay is twelve years. The SHIF is owned by its members, currently includes forty-seven districts, and has a surplus of \$53 million. He explained the earliest the switch can happen is December 1, 2017, and that there is no penalty for rescinding. During the first two years, the district is in a community pool, and there is a collar on rate increases or decreases. Mr. Critchley provided materials to the Board.

**\*IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Curriculum & Instruction Committee: NONE

Policy & Legislation Committee: NONE

Finance, Facilities, & Transportation Committee:

Mr. Keiser said he had not yet met with Mr. Weber to discuss Mr. Weber's concerns about the Adult Volleyball program. It was agreed that the participants should remain aware of when the end time is approaching, and not play beyond that time. It was also agreed the program can start Monday, October 2, 2017.

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Personnel Committee: NONE

Negotiations Committee: NONE

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

Mrs. DeCoster said the meeting about the feasibility study with Califon, Lebanon Township, and Tewksbury needs to be rescheduled. She added they are waiting for quotes from outside vendors.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Keiser and seconded by Mrs. DeCoster to review the Consent Agenda items. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

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

***Finance:***

Aug-Sep Bills List

- \*1. A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mr. Keiser to approve the payment of invoices from check number 22781 thru check number 22858, and checks 83017 and 91517, and non-check N1208, in the amount of \$196,244.93. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

***Facilities:***

Facilities Usage:

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

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- \*1. PTA Make It-Take It    Gym    Friday, December 8, 2017    5:00PM-9:00PM
- \*2. Class of 2018 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Gr. Halloween Dance    Gym    Friday, October 27, 2017    5PM-10PM
- \*3. Califon Adult Volleyball    Gym    Monday Nights During School Year    7:00PM-9:00PM
- \*4. Califon PTA Meetings    8<sup>th</sup> Grade Room    09/27/17, 01/10/18, 04/11/18    7:00PM-8:30PM
- \*5. Califon Recreation Basketball    Gym    Sundays During School Year    8:30AM-10:30AM

Donation

- \*6.    A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mr. Keiser to accept the donation of an electric stove from the Califon PTA. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

***Transportation: NONE***

***Personnel:***

Substitute List

- \*1.    A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mr. Keiser to add the following to the Substitute Teacher List: Christopher Neighbor. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.
- \*2.    A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mr. Keiser to add the following to the Substitute Nurse List: Dunia Phelan. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

***B. Curriculum and Instruction***

Field Trips

- \*1.    A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mr. Keiser to approve the following field trips. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

Enrichment Consortium Trips (see attached)    Transportation Cost: \$1,200 (approx.)

Michael Fowlin    8<sup>th</sup> Grade    Clinton Twp MS    Fri. 10/6/17    9:00AM-11:30AM    Cost: \$110

Tour of Trenton    Gr. 3-5    Thur. Nov. 30, 2017    7:45AM-4:00PM    Transport Cost: \$488.50

A motion was made by Mr. Keiser and seconded by Mrs. DeCoster to discuss the following field trip separately from the other items on the Consent Agenda.

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Alstede Farm, Chester NJ K-3 Fri. Sept, 22, 2017 9:00AM-1:45PM Transport Cost: \$260

Mrs. DeCoster brought up a concern for safety in light of an incident that happened at Alstede Farm a few years ago. She stated her son was going on the trip, but she has concerns and feels it is not the best choice for a field trip. Mr. Keiser called it a poor choice. Mrs. Weiss stated she was there a year and a half ago and it was OK. Dr. Furmanski agreed there is a safety concern. Mrs. DeCoster suggested looking for a better choice in the future. Mrs. Kooger stated field trips are usually not scheduled this early in the school year. Mr. Keiser pointed out that he has driven by the farm many times, and the parking area has certainly been improved. The Board took no action with regards to the trip.

Course Reimbursement

- \*2. A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mr. Keiser to approve the following course reimbursement in accordance with Article XIII (2015-2018 Negotiated Contract). The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

M. Zimmerman GED-560-N Seminal in Instructional Leadership \$1,326

Professional Development

- \*3. A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by to approve the following professional development. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

R. Heuneman AMTNJ Annual Conference October 26-27, 2017 Cost: \$295

Tuition Contracts

- \*4. A motion was made by Dr. Furmanski and seconded by Mr. Keiser to approve an adjustment to the Special Education Tuition Contract with Lebanon Township School District from \$60,200 to \$63,300. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

**\*X. OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**\*XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Keiser stated the PTA is offering to contribute money to the purchase of new basketball uniforms. The cost would be approximately \$2,000 for 20 uniforms. Mr. Keiser suggested the Board pick up some of that cost. Mr. Johnston said he would have to check the budget. It was decided the matter would be discussed again at the October 2017 meeting. Mrs. DeCoster asked if there is a general homework policy in Califon, or is homework left up the individual teachers. Mr. Keiser said that can be investigated by the Curriculum Committee. Dr. Furmanski talked about policies for outside recess. He suggested Mr. Kornegay make a clear policy for the parameters dictating no outside recess, and what happens when the policy is not

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adhered to. Mrs. DeCoster asked if there are temperature guidelines. Dr. Furmanski stated it is a matter of practice rather than a matter of law. He added the Board sets risk tolerance versus litigation, and that there should be clear guidelines, policies, and rationale from the Board. Mr. Keiser suggested including gym classes. Dr. Furmanski stated the committee should meet with Mr. Kornegay before Board action.

**\*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. Weiss stated the teachers are concerned about the proposed health insurance plan option. Dr. Furmanski stated the matter needs to come to a vote by October 31, 2017. Mrs. Weiss asked about the start of negotiations for the new contract between the Board and the teachers. Dr. Furmanski replied the negotiating committee for the Board has just been set.

**\*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

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- 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**

**\*XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Being there no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Mrs. DeCoster and seconded by Mr. Dahl to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.