

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
July 10, 2019 6:30 p.m.**

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

This meeting is called to order at 6:36 p.m. with the following opening statement read by Mrs. DeCoster:

“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, and the Hunterdon Review. A copy of this notice has also been posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building and filed with the Borough Clerk.

***II. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All in attendance pledged to the flag.

***III. OATH OF OFFICE- MS. REBECCA KIPP-NEWBOLD**

Ms. Kipp-Newbold took the Oath of Office.

***IV. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Jeffrey Dahl	Present
Mrs. Nina DeCoster	Present
Mr. Christopher Keiser	Present
Mr. Michael Reaves	Present
Ms. Rebecca Kipp-Newbold	Present

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Johanna Ruberto - Interim Superintendent
Karin Laraway – Interim Board Secretary
Marc Zitomer – Board Attorney

***V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made by Mrs. DeCoster, seconded by Mr. Keiser, to adjourn to executive session.

Motion approved 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;

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- 1. Attorney/client privilege
- 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-BOE Candidate interviews
- 9. Deliberations involving imposition of specific civil penalty

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session at 6:39 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.

***VI. RECONVENE**

Motion made by Mr. Reaves, seconded by Mrs. DeCoster to return to the special meeting. The time was 7:38 PM.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

***VII. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Motion made by Mrs. DeCoster, seconded by Mr. Reaves, to open nominations for Vice President.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Mr. Reaves to nominate Mr. Keiser for Vice President.

Motion made by Mrs. DeCoster to nominate Mr. Dahl for Vice President.

Motion made by Mrs. DeCoster, seconded by Mr. Reaves to close the nominations for Vice President.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Roll call vote for Mr. Keiser for Vice President – 4-1-0 vote with Mrs. DeCoster voting no.

***VIII. LONG RANGE PLANNING-SCHOOL CHOICE**

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The Board discussed leaving the School Choice Program. The District will have 4 Choice Students in the 2019-20 school year and the State is not approving any increases in the number of choice students a district may receive. If the BOE terminates its participation in the School Choice Program, the district can open its doors to tuition students to increase enrollment. This will not affect the status of the four choice students currently enrolled. They will be able to continue enrollment at Califon. Once the district leaves the School Choice Program, they cannot get back in.

Tuition for incoming out of district students would be \$9,500 for the first child and \$6,500 for siblings. The tuition would not exceed an increase of 5% in subsequent school years. The district is also looking into securing a food service co to provide lunch to the district's students.

The district will pass a policy regarding non-resident tuition criteria and application process. There will be an application review based on guidelines established in the policy and a recommendation of the Principal and the Superintendent's approval.

Mr. Warren Cooper of Ever green Partners spoke to the BOE about his services as a Public Relations firm and what his company could provide in "getting the word out" about Califon being a tuition school and accepting students.

***IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (all school-related topics; 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.

Public-Will students with IEP's be admitted?

Dr. Ruberto-each child is treated as an individual and their needs assessed and to determine if these needs can be provided in the district.

Public-what is the size of classes, how many students can the school fit?

Mr. Keiser-class sizes are attractive in Califon.

Public-in prior years, there were average class sizes of between 10-17.

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Dr. Ruberto-district policy dictates class sizes.

Mrs. Laraway-at one time the district had an enrollment of 157 students.

Public-in the past when the district charges tuition, there were only one or two students.

Dr. Ruberto-people can't pay for private tuition, but may be willing to pay for a public school education

Public-how would second grade be handled

Dr. Ruberto-have to see if there are any 2nd grade tuition students, it would be up to the parents whose students are attending Lebanon Twp as to whether they would want their students to come back to Califon

Public-question about the food service

Mr. Zitomer-the BOE is going to solicit bids from food service management co to test the waters and see if a satellite type of arrangement is feasible due to the fact that Califon does not have a kitchen.

Dr. Ruberto-will be reaching out to the PTA to discuss the food service because of their fundraising activities with lunches

Public-we just are receiving information on this, would like time to look at it

Mrs. DeCoster-the BOE has been working on this and why wait for another year.

Dr. Ruberto-there are 7 Choice students on the waiting list and the district has received 2 calls regarding tuition.

Public-has the Administration reached out to the 7 on the waiting list

Dr. Ruberto-will be reaching out

Public-seems like the right decision to make

Dr. Ruberto-Califon students do well at Voorhees, gr 3-8 are on target with assessments. Negative comments about Califon are the low enrollment numbers and the financial aspects of the district

Motion made by Mrs. DeCoster, seconded by Mr. Reaves to approve resolution to terminate participation in the School Choice Program for the 2019-20 school year.

Motion approved on a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Mr. Keiser, seconded by Mr. Reaves, to approve the Non-Resident Tuition Criteria & Application Policy.

Motion approved on a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Mrs. DeCoster, seconded by Mr. Reaves, to approve the Resolution for the Business Administrator to proposals for food services for the 2019-20 school year.

Motion approved on a unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Mrs. DeCoster, seconded by Mr. Keiser, to adjourn to executive session for attorney-client privilege and negotiations. The time was 8:50 PM.

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Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Mrs. DeCoster, seconded by Ms. Kipp-Newbold to adjourn. The time was 9:10 PM.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

***X. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mrs. DeCoster, seconded by Ms. Kipp-Newbold to adjourn. The time was 9:10 PM.

Motion approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Laraway
Board Secretary