

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday May 7, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER – OPENING STATEMENT

This meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with the following opening statement read by President Galligan:

“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 3, 2012. 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 participate in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Timothy Ayers
Mr. Kim Schundler
Mr. Alfred Turello
Mrs. Carolyn Murin
Ms. Kelly Galligan

Absent: none

Also Present: Dr. Kathleen Prystash, CSA
Ms. Susan Schaffner, BA/BS

Members of the Public

IV. Presentation – Mr. Andrew Schundler – Peace Jam

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. A motion was made by Mrs. Murin and seconded by Mr. Schundler to approve the following minutes:

April 18, 2012 Work Session
April 18, 2012 Executive Sessions A and B

The motion was carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday May 7, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

1. Borough of Califon Minutes April 2, 2012
2. NHVRHS- Board meeting dates
3. Email from Mrs. Allison Jolly
4. Email from Mr. Andy Carr
5. Email from Mr. Mike Medea
6. Email from Mrs. Catherine McVicker
7. Email of Petition from Mr. William Kibler
8. Email from Mr. John Folsom
9. Email from Mrs. Cathy Smith

VII. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Dr. Prystash made a brief statement describing her resume. She has been in education for 35 years. She cited her educational credentials and certifications. She said she plans to continue working in education. She said her family values, education, adding she said she was honored to be the Chief School Administrator at Califon. She commended the teaching staff on their abilities. She addressed the issues involving her contract.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Lisa Waseleski read a statement concerning dyslexia. She expressed concern that her son had not been referred to the Child Study Team. She discussed incidents that had happened to her son at the school.

Mrs. Karen Grieco read a letter concerning her son's education in the middle school. She expressed concerns about a teacher and the grade given to her son. She asked for a copy of a grade book.

Dr. Prystash said the grades, with a cover letter were sent via mail last week. Dr. Prystash asked Mrs. Grieco to call her tomorrow to discuss the issue.

IX. BOARD SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT -NONE

APRIL REPORT TO BE APPROVED AT THE 5/30/12 Meeting

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday May 7, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

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

A. Finance/Facilities/Transportation

A motion was made by Mr. Schundler and seconded by Mr. Turello to approve the following asterisked items:

The motion was carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

1 April/May Bills List-none

Bills List to be presented at the May 30, 2012 meeting

Budget Transfers

- *2 Motion to approve the attached list of budget and 10% transfers from the period of 03/01/12 to 04/29/12 in the amount of \$19,126.70.

NJ CAP Grant

- *3. Motion to approve application for the following grant:

Elementary CAP Program	\$508.90
District Share	\$218.10

Teen Cap Program	\$133.70
District Share	\$ 57.30

2012-13 Transportation Agreement Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission

- *4. Motion to approve participation in coordinated transportation for the 2012-2013 year with the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission at a cost of 5.5% administrative fee.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday May 7, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

B. Curriculum/ Instruction and Technology

A motion was made by Mrs. Murin and seconded by Mr. Turello to approve the following asterisked items:

The motion was carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Health Report

- *1. Motion to approve the attached Health Office Report for April 2012.

Field Trips

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

Planet Walk	3/29/12	5	Weiss
Califon, NJ			Cost to Board \$0.00
VHS Track Field	5/15/12	6,7,8	Cutshaw/Kooger
			Cost to Board \$100.00

C. Legislation and Policy

- Policy book update

Second Reading

- *1. A motion was made by Mrs. Murin and seconded by Mr. Ayers to approve the second reading and adoption of the following policy:

The motion was carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

5118.1. Tuition Policy

Mrs. Murin explained the change in this policy.
Mr. Ayers thanked Mrs. Murin for her work on this policy.

D. Board Ad Hoc Committees

Long Range Planning – Ms. Galligan discussed the North Hunterdon Presidents/BA meeting attended by Ms. Galligan and Ms. Schaffner. She said the Educational Services Consortium would take the lead on shared initiatives. Dr. Prystash said she was part of a committee that was working on shared curriculum development.

E. Personnel - After Executive Session

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday May 7, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

F. Communications

Mr. Ayers said the core curriculum standards would help in standardized development. Mrs. Catherine McVickers said the community college was working on this goal. Mr. Ayers said the NJDOE is moving forward with a model curriculum.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

Board Goals – Mr. Ayers asked when Board Goals would be reviewed. Ms. Galligan said at the next meeting. Mr. Turello asked about the Board Self-Evaluation. Ms. Galligan also said this would be done at the next meeting.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Turello read a statement addressing the concerns expressed in a petition presented by Mr. William Kibler. He said he reviewed the Chief School Administrator contract which he discovered extended beyond the legal limit. He discussed the legal cost for this investigation.

Mr. Turello said the Board Attorney determined there were significant issues with the contract. He said the specific issues with the contract was the length of the contract. He also said New Jersey Department of Education approval was not received prior to the board vote on the contract. He added a letter had been sent to Dr. Prystash's attorney to discuss this issue. He said the district spend \$2900.00 for this issue. The budge for legal fees is \$2,500.00. He said the board was working to resolve this issue.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Allison Jolly asked if there were any pending lawsuits. Dr. Prystash said no civil lawsuits.

Mr. Jim Bell asked for a status update on the Chief School Administrator contract. Mr. Turello said a committee had met with Dr. Prystash to discuss this matter. Mr. Bell asked the Board to move forward with obtaining a contract. He said the children in the school need stability. He commended Dr. Prystash and the Child Study Team on their work with his child.

Mrs. Gloria Winter read a letter signed by 67 Califon residents. The letter expressed support for the Board's investigation of the Chief School Administrator's contract. She reviewed a survey sent out in 2005. She said many school choice students had left the Califon School. She said teacher turnover has become an issue at the school. She also discussed downward trends in state testing.

Mrs. Karen Parsons discussed communication issues at the school. Citing the March 2009 incident, she expressed concern about the lack of communication. She recalled the assets of the Califon School. She read the 6 assets of a successful school board.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday May 7, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

She requested that the Board examine the qualities for a Chief School Administrator in the 2005 survey.

Ms. Jeannette Tagliereni spoke of the good qualities she remembers of the Califon School. She expressed concerns she found as an 8th grader at the school. She cited a bad experience in March 2009. She said she only had 2 good memories from the school (Basketball and the school play).

Ms. Rachel Kozak expressed concerns about the March 2009 incident.

Mr. Bob Beers said he was proud to send his daughter and also his other 3 children to the school. He apologized for the negative comments. He said the asset of the school was its small size. He said his children and his property value was being effected. He asked why negative people were being recruited to speak publicly. He asked for an end to this absurdity.

Mrs. Waseleski objected to Mr. Beers statements.

Mr. Bell said he was embarrassed to read the 2009 Star Ledger article, but said it was 2012.

Koren Baumstark said her children enjoyed the school prior to their middle school years. She said children were embarrassed by a teacher. She said parents have a right to question why their children were subject to this.

Mrs. Leslie Conway said the change in leadership had brought change. She said parents had expressed concern that previous boards had not recognized parent concerns. She said negative comments weren't meant to be nasty.

Mrs. Cathy Smith read a letter supporting moving forward. She discussed negative actions. She said the school may close forever. She said we should get back on track to a vibrant school. She said the board proceedings had not benefited the school.

Mr. Bill Kibler said his concern was about the cost of a legal procedure. He said not to change a personal issue into a legal issue. Ms. Galligan stated this was a legal issue not a personal issue.

Mr. Schundler reviewed said in 2006. LA 8th 100% passed. He read statistics from 08-09 citing Califon student achievement. In 2009-10 many students scored advanced proficient in state testing. He said to state Califon School has gone downhill is ridiculous.

Mrs. Karen Parsons said the statistics cited were for older children who had gone through the system prior to the current leadership.

Mrs. Lisa Waseleski said her son was advised not to take college preparations classes although his 8th grade teacher advised him to do so.

Mrs. MaryJane Medea asked if the statement read by Mr. Turello would be sent to the school community. Mr. Turello said the intent was to communicate that to the community.

Mrs. Ann King said 3 of her 4 children graduated from Califon School. She expressed concern about the persecution of the Chief School Administrator. She commended Dr. Prystash on her leadership. She said her children did well at the High School. She said bullying is not a new issue. She said it is not a perfect world. She said Califon is still a great school. She said students need to learn lessons in life. She asked the Board and the Administrator work together to improve the school.

Mrs. Mary Furnald said the validity of the contact must be determined. She said the Board should hear both sides of the issue.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday May 7, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

Mrs. Jason Beard said the issue at hand is a legal issue. He asked the board to resolve the issue in an expedient manner.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Murin and seconded by Mr. Turello 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 9:28 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.

XV. RECONVENE

The Board reconvened into regular session at 11:35 p.m.

E. Personnel - All resolutions on the recommendation of the Superintendent. A motion was made by Mrs. Murin and seconded by Mr. Turello to approve the following asterisked items:

The motion was carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Staff Development Reports

*1. A motion to approve the following reports:

I Maginnis

Foreign Language Conference

3/30/12

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday May 7, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

2011-2012 Extra Curricular Appointments

*2 Motion to approve the following extra curricular appointments for the 2011-12 year:

K Brown	Dance chaperone	04/20/12	\$50.00
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Tenured Teachers 2012-13

*3 Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the reappointment of the tenured professional staff shown below for the 2012-13 School Year, on the salary guide at the classification and step as indicated, based on the 2009-2012 negotiated agreement between the Califon Board of Education and the Califon Education Association (pending negotiation of new contract).

Name	Position	FTE	11-12 Step/Col
Tenured Teachers			
Bergman Erika	Elementary	FT 1.0	B 6
Brown Kathleen	RR/Enrichment	FT 1.0	B30 9
Caprio Linda	Language Arts	FT 1.0	MA 15
Carruthers Jacklyn	CST/LDTC	PT 0.2	M15
Heuneman Robin	Math	PT 0.50	BA 9
Kooger Lisa	SS/Geog/BSI	FT 1.0	BS 18
Madson Lisa	Art	PT 0.4	BS 8
Maginnis Isabel	Language	PT 0.5	BS30 18
Montesion Loretta	RR/PS	FT 1.0	B45 17
Patterson Linda	Nurse CST/Social	FT 1.0	BA 15
Ryan Melanie	Worker	PT 0.2	M
Torciva Jennifer	Elementary	FT 1.0	B 3
Thompson Deborah	Music	PT 0.6	BS 15
Weiss Leslie	Elementary – Tenure 9/1/2013 Tenured- Special Education	FT 1.0	BS15 9
Edsall Kelly	CST/Psychologist	PT 0.2	M

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday May 7, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

Non-Tenured Teachers

- *4. Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, the reappointment of the non-tenured professional staff shown below for the 2012-13 School Year, on the salary guide at the classification and step as indicated, based on the 2009-2012 negotiated agreement between the Califon Board of Education and the Califon Education Association(pending negotiation of new contract).

Name		Position	FTE	11-12 Step/Col		Tenure Date
Non-Tenured Teachers						
Samela	Susan	Speech	PT	.6		9/1/2012
Weil	Meredith	Media	PT	.5	BA15 1	9/1/2013
King	Carolyn	Media	PT	.5	BA 1	9/1/2014
Cutshaw	Thomas	PE/Health	PT	.9	BA 2	9/1/2013
Wiesel	Allison	Science	PT	.5	MA15 5	9/1/2013 1/1/2013 Elementary 9/1/2014 Special Education
Heyduke	Marie	Math/RR	FT	1.0	BA15 1	9/1/2013
Mershon	Kyle	Elementary	FT	1.0	BA 1	9/1/2013
Orlando	Christine	Elementary	FT	1.0	BA 1	9/1/2013

Change in Assignment

- *5. Motion to approve the following change in assignment:

E. Bergmann Kindergarten to First Grade

Mr. Turello said the Board will continue to work with Dr. Prystash to talk through scenarios.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday May 7, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mrs. Murin and seconded by Mr. Schundler to adjourn at 11:40 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Schaffner
Board Secretary