

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – OPENING STATEMENT

This meeting is called to order at 7:30 p.m. with the following opening statement read by Vice-President Schundler:

“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 June 24, 2014. 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
 Mrs. Claudia Gangemi
 Mr. Matthew Ramarge
 Mr. Kim Schundler

Members Absent: Mr. Alfred Turello

Also Present: Dr. James Gamble, Interim Superintendent
 Mr. Thomas Johnston, Asst BA/Board Secretary

Members of the Public

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Motion to approve the following minutes:

June 18, 2014 Regular Meeting
June 18, 2014 Executive Session

The June minutes were tabled to the August 2014 meeting since they were not received from Karen Perdomo.

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V. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- *1. Resignation Letter from Vicki Marcine
- *2. Resignation Letter from Allison Wiesel
- *3. Thank You note from Kevin Smith

VI. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- *1. HIB Report – no HIB incidents to report
- *2. Discussion of the 2014-2015 District Goals.

Dr. Gamble stated that all goals for 2013-2014 were met. He highlighted various achievements, including press releases, Council of Instruction, parent surveys, Fast ForWord, Rutgers professional development program, Junior Great Books, parent advisory council, and steps to improve technology.

Dr. Gamble presented his ideas for goals for 2014-2015: 1) effective integration of technology, 2) ELA and Math CCSS/PARCC curriculum shifts, and 3) perception/communication further enhance our efforts.

Dr. Gamble said technology should be part of the daily lesson plan and that Califon needs to integrate technology more. Mrs. Gangemi asked if there will be any different methods of communication. Dr. Gamble replied we will continue what we did and add to it. Mr. Bell asked in regards to technology about students bringing their own devices. Dr. Gamble said that could be looked into for the upper grades. Dr. Gamble mentioned the old XP computers were being replaced and we were getting a new server. He talked about how Califon needs to integrate technology into lesson goals and objectives. We need to determine how our students will learn: books, lectures, technology, or some combination.

Mrs. Gangemi asked if math resources are being looked at. Dr. Gamble replied there will be a sub-committee set up within the Council of Instruction, with an eye on aligning with the Common Core in 2015-2016. Mr. Bell asked if there is a goal to add foreign languages, as well as the utilization of the Rosetta Stone software. Dr. Gamble replied it could be do-able, but there are limited resources. The goal would be to synch with the high school. Mr. Schundler asked if there was anyone on staff fluent in other languages. Dr. Gamble said we could make it a goal, utilizing technology and instructors.

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Dr. Gamble said we will continue to build our positive image. He mentioned he and Mr. Patton attended a consortium at Montclair State University where they presented some of the positive things happening at Califon. Mr. Schundler said we need to enhance the unique strengths Califon already has as a small school. He discussed summer acceleration programs and field trips. Mr. Ramarge suggested two goals, one of communication within the school, and a second of perception outside of the school. Dr. Gamble replied it would be easier to design an action plan with two goals, and there needs to be more specifics in the action plan.

Dr. Gamble said we need to articulate our vision for the district. We can use focus groups to discuss issues. By the end of 2014, he wants a written vision statement that would carry over to the next administration.

***3. Update on Professional Development for 2014-2015**

There will be PAARC training and discussion of Common Core shifts when the teachers arrive on August 27. Dr. Gamble mentioned improving Student Growth Objectives. There will be 2 ½ days of Rutgers professional development seminars. Faculty meetings will be held twice per month. Dr. Gamble stated that there will be forty hours of professional development in-house.

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.

Dr. Gamble stated that the schedule is just about the same as last year. Geography will be covered three times per week for grades 6 thru 8, leaving more time for science instruction. Dr. Gamble discussed the proposed change to the math program: for grades 6 and 7, one section where two teachers work together. Eighth grade would remain two

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sections for math. Mrs. Gangemi asked how the 6th and 7th grades were set up last year. Dr. Gamble replied that there were two sections.

Mrs. Beard asked that the Board consider not changing the math structure for grades six and seven. She said there is a perception of more rigorous math programs at other schools. She said there needs to be a leveling of math students with their peers so that slower-paced students are not intimidated.

Mrs. Smith also expressed concerns over the proposed plan to move to one math section for grades six and seven. She felt more advanced students would be weighed down by slower-paced students, and that slower-paced students would be more comfortable with other slower-paced students. She stated we need to hammer home our uniqueness.

Mrs. Beard reiterated her feeling that the split program works better for faster-paced and slower-paced students.

Dr. Gamble said he would set up a meeting with himself, Mr. Patton, and parents to further discuss the issue. He stressed that he felt it was important to get the proposal out there so he could hear the viewpoints of others.

Mrs. Bergmann expressed similar concerns about the proposed structure change.

Dr. Gamble noted that in Common Core, “persuasive writing” is now called “argumentative writing”.

Mr. Ramarge expressed his support for the two-track structure for math for grades 6 thru 8. Mr. Schundler stated there was a third track for eighth grade where the students went to the high school for math classes. Dr. Gamble said the new arrangement would not deter a 3rd track and that all this would be discussed further.

Mr. Schundler asked if the 9th grade math in 8th grade program is still happening? Dr. Gamble replied that it is, and that he would check if there are any students in it this year. Mr. Schundler asked if, under the proposed structure, 7th graders would be able to get to doing 9th grade math in 8th grade. Mr. Bell asked how the program kicks in. Mr. Schundler said by testing in all districts. Mrs. Smith stated eighth graders need to test higher. Mr. Schundler stated if there is a financial issue, let’s find a way to get the money. Dr. Gamble said that discussions would continue.

Mr. Bell asked what the primary reason was. Dr. Gamble replied Common Core standards, which include rigor, fluency, speed, conceptualization, and applications to real life situations. Mr. Ramarge said we should make sure the 9th grade math is a viable option.

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VIII. *BOARD SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

The June 2014 Treasurer's Report will be presented at the August 2014 Board meeting.

Mr. Schundler asked when the audit is scheduled. Mr. Johnston stated it is scheduled for September 29-30, 2014.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 was made by Mrs. Gangemi and seconded by Mr. Bell to approve all of the following. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

June/July Bills List

- *1. Motion to approve the payment of invoices from check number 20943 to check number 21009, checks 62014, 63014, and non check N1144 in the amount of \$141,170.10.

2014-2015 Grants

- *2. Motion to approve the 2014-2015 NCLB Grant in the amount of \$1,900. Dr. Gamble stated this grant is earmarked for tech training.

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- *3. Motion to approve submission of the 2014-2015 IDEA Grant. Dr. Gamble stated the amount of the grant being allocated to Califon is around \$7,700 higher than what was budgeted for.

Facilities: (none)

Transportation:

A motion was made by Mr. Ramarge and seconded by Mrs. Gangemi to approve a transportation jointure agreement with Lebanon Township School District for the 2014-2015 school year, route CBS1, for a total annual cost of \$14,176. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Personnel:

A motion was made by Mr. Ramarge and seconded by Mr. Bell to approve all of the following. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

Staff Resignations

- *1. Motion to approve the resignation of full-time first grade teacher Vicki Marcine effective June 30, 2014.
- *2. Motion to approve the resignation of part-time science teacher Allison Wiesel effective June 30, 2014.

Mr. Schundler spoke on behalf of the Board and thanked both Miss Marcine and Mrs. Wiesel for their service to the Califon School District.

Board Secretary

- *3. Motion to approve naming Assistant Business Administrator Thomas Johnston the additional title of Board Secretary effective July 1, 2014. As Board Secretary, Mr. Johnston will work the Board meetings for a stipend of \$80.00 per meeting.

Dr. Gamble mentioned that Califon is very fortunate to have Mr. Johnston handling the Business Office.

Shared Services Agreement – Child Study Team

- *4. Motion to approve the attached proposal for Child Study Team service with the Lebanon Township School District for the 2014-2015 school year at a cost of \$61,500.

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Dr. Gamble stated that this amount was budgeted for, and that the wording of the contract is exactly the same as 2013-2014 except for the dates and the dollar amount.

Non-Tenured Teachers

- *5. Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the appointment of the non-tenured professional staff shown below for the 2014-2015 school year, 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.

Name	Position	College	14-15 Step/Col	Annual Salary	FTE	Tenure Date
	1 st Grade					
J. Parisella	Teacher	Penn State	MA/Step1	\$50,724	1.0	09/01/2018
	MS Science					
P. Johnston	Teacher	Rutgers	BA+15, Step 4-5	\$25,242	0.5	09/01/2018

Non-CEA Staff

- *6. Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, the appointment of the staff shown below for the 2014-2015 school year.

S. Wagner	Instructional Aide	Rowan University		\$17,338/year		FTE 1.0
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Mr. Ramarge asked how many applications were received for each position. Dr. Gamble replied there were around 200 for the first grade position, six for the science position, and eight to ten for the aide position. Dr. Gamble stated that Mrs. Parisella was the overwhelming choice for the first grade position given her credentials and that she is a known commodity, having worked as an aide in first grade in 2013-2014. Dr. Gamble said that Mrs. Johnston's qualifications were far above the other candidates, and that she had done an excellent job filling in for Mrs. Charleston in fifth grade during Mrs. Charleston's maternity leave.

Mrs. Gangemi asked how many aides we have. Dr. Gamble said we have five. He also stated there are three interviews scheduled for July 17, 2014 for a Special Education Aide.

Mr. Schundler thanked Dr. Gamble for his fast work in getting the positions filled.

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B. Curriculum and Instruction

A motion was made by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Gangemi to approve the following. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Health Report

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

C. Policy

- Policy book update

Mr. Bell discussed adding a “bike to school” policy stressing that helmets are mandatory.

- A motion was made by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Gangemi to approve the job description for School Board Secretary. Dr. Gamble stated the job description had approval from the County Superintendent, and that it used the existing Policy, File Code 9123. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

D. Communications

Mr. Schundler mentioned utilizing the Califon Crier to publicize high achieving students.

X. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bell asked about the grant for the septic system repair. Dr. Gamble said we have 1.5 years to decide. He stated that we would need to put \$90,000 up front, and the ROD grant would cover 38%. Septic pumping costs us currently around \$6,000 per year.

Mr. Schundler discussed the Board evaluation of Dr. Gamble scheduled for the end of September. Dr. Gamble said it can be done either electronically or manually. Mr. Schundler said he would take the lead on this.

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XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ramarge stated that the sports program at Califon has become disheartening for students who have expressed their concerns there is little chance to win. Mrs. Gangemi expressed a similar sentiment. Mr. Bell said that winning is not the only thing. Mr. Ramarge mentioned the obstacles include the school size and the scheduling.

Mr. Schundler mentioned the deadline for the nominee petitions for the November School Board elections. At the time, there was still one Califon seat with no nominee, and that there were many open spots county-wide. Mr. Schundler suggested sending an email blast.

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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XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (*none*)

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

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- ___ 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 ___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

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Ramarge and seconded by Mrs. Gangemi to adjourn at 9:23PM. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Johnston