

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2010 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:

“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 annual notice dated May 4, 2009. 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

III. ROLL CALL

The following roll call was taken by the Board Secretary:

Members Present: Ms. Kelly Galligan
 Mrs. Cathy Smith
 Mrs. Lavinia Trimmer – (Arrives at 9:00 p.m.)
 Mr. Daniel Hemberger
 Mr. Kim Schundler

Others Present: Dr. Kathleen Prystash, C.S.A., Ms. Schaffner, B.A./B.S.
Members of the public

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

January 11, 2010 Regular Meeting
January 11, 2010 Executive Session
January 19, 2010 Special Meeting

The motion was carried unanimously on a voice vote.

V. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

1. NH-VRHS meeting Schedule
2. Letter from Mr. Michael Riccio
3. Letters (2) from Mrs. Alicia Dalpe
4. Letter from Dr. Shannon Ayers

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5. Election Calendar
6. Public Notice of Annual School Election
7. Letter from Mr. Michael Bohm

VI. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Dr. Prystash reported on the following events:

- A. Games: Dr. Prystash described this fund raiser which will benefit the Haitian earthquake victims. This will be a family game night.
- B. Bread Making: The article was in the newspaper.
- C. Dance: 1/22/10 and 2/12/10 Valentines Dance.
- D. Footprints for Life: A grant which is a science based program.
- E. DARE: This program is for grades 1-4 continues.
- F. Staff Meetings: staff meetings have been dealing with staff development.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT (resolutions only)

President Schundler reviewed the 2010-11 School Budget, and discussed regionalization. He discussed keeping the full day kindergarten program and adding an integrated preschool disabled program. He also reviewed other budget adjustments that would help the district obtain the needed cuts. Ms. Galligan expressed concern about hiring part-time staff. She suggested departmentalizing grades 5-8.

Mr. Ayers asked if differentiated instruction was a professional goal. He asked about tracking students. Dr. Prystash discussed that scenario in the math class. Mrs. Baker said that 8th grade students need a strong role model. She suggested a strong manager. Dr. Prystash said an 8th grade advisor may be that role model.

Mrs. Murin asked about the length of the preschool disabled program. President Schundler said it would be a half day program, but may be coordinated with an outside agency.

Mr. Hemberger asked about next year's 6th and 8th grade, and whether another room could be used for them.

Dr. Ayers asked for comments on the letter she sent to the Board of Education. Mr. Schundler discussed the reasons for starting the preschool program. Dr. Ayers asked about the funding of the preschool disabled program. Dr. Prystash discussed funding and staffing. She also discussed the student population. Dr. Ayers offered to consult with Administration on starting the program. Dr. Prystash said she would welcome her expertise on this program. Mrs. Anderson said differentiated instruction has many different aspects. She said it was very difficult to start this process. Mrs. Mahon identified herself as a mother of a preschool disabled student. She asked if she could choose not to send her child to the Califon preschool program. Dr. Prystash said she would have the option of keeping her child in the current program. Mrs. Murin asked about the

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economic feasibility if the parents will not send their children. Mr. Schundler said new students would be added into the program. Mr. Hemberger asked about the attendance in the program. Mr. Ayers asked about possible changes to be put in place by the new Governor's administration. He also discussed the shortages in certain areas of teaching certifications. Mrs. Anderson also said full time moms may also be interested in getting back into teaching. Ms. Galligan discussed data points on scheduling and class time. Mr. Schundler said prep time was a part of negotiations. He said above adequacy classes contribute to the success of Califon students at the high school. Mrs. Smith said the Finance committee reviewed many options. She also said some board members had been excluded from information about negotiations due to their union affiliations. Mrs. Smith and Mr. Schundler said they felt the financial difficulties may lead to some positive improvements. Mrs. Smith said attention should be focused on the best interest of the student's of Califon School.

Mrs. Owens commented on the schedule presented by Ms. Galligan. Mr. Marcus asked about the amount of prep time. Mr. Schundler said additional duties were not listed on that schedule. Mrs. Smith said teachers are always meeting with students. Dr. Ayers said the prep time does not include time for regular students. Mrs. Gunther said most teachers had 2-3 duties. She said the worksheets were misleading.

Mrs. Trimmer enters the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Mrs. Conway said in the community jobs are being lost. She said the idea of a raise for educational staff is hard to grasp. She asks for transparency in contract discussions. She also discussed cuts in administrative cost. Mrs. Anderson said students were being hurt when the budget doesn't pass.

Mr. Schundler then addressed regionalization. He reviewed the findings of the panel that convened in 2007.

Mr. Cutri-French discussed the NJ ASK test scores published in the Star Ledger. He discussed diversity of opportunity for students in consolidation. Mr. Schundler discussed the cost increase for sending the middle school to Lebanon Township. Mr. Hemberger asked about the cost if the districts regionalized. Mrs. Smith said regionalizing the towns would be the fastest route to regionalization. Mrs. Murin said municipalities can only regionalize within their congressional districts.

Mr. Ayers asked about science textbooks. Mr. Schundler said the new staff person would choose the textbook. Dr. Ayers asked about the educational value of regionalization versus small schools. Mr. Schundler read from an article concerning small schools.

Mrs. Smith suggested looking into regionalization and other options for the school.

Mrs. Anderson said middle school students need 21st century skills.

Mrs. Conway said a small school with great education is best. She reviewed some statistics from the 9th graders attending the High School. She reviewed some areas of concern for High School preparations.

Dr. Ayers discussed the Seaside Heights/Toms River school share. Mrs. Mahon discussed unsafe traffic patterns in the parking lot. Mrs. Trimmer said those who complain should register to vote.

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VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Matters listed within the consent agenda (designated by *) 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 motion was made by Mr. Hemberger and seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the consent items as indicated by an asterisk.

The motion was carried by unanimously on a roll call vote.

VIII. *BOARD SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion to approve the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the month of **September, October, November, December 2009**, as attached and to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to NJAC 6A:23-2.12(c) 4, the Califon Board of Education certifies that as of August 30, 2009, after review of the secretary's monthly financial report and upon consultation with appropriate district officials, to the best of its knowledge, no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of NJAC 6A:23-2.12(a) 1, and sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. (Major funds are Current Expense, Capital Outlay, and Debt Service.)

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance/Facilities/Transportation

- Discussion Letter of Interest to other Districts concerning Regionalization:

Mr. Hemberger suggested sending letters to Lebanon and Tewksbury to discuss possible sharing, regionalization, etc. Mr. Schundler instructed the Board Secretary to draft a letter.

- *1. Motion to approve the payment of January/February 2010 invoices (1/12/10-2/8/10) from check number 18396 to check number 18433, non check # 008 and payroll checks number 0115 and 0129 in the amount of \$196,416.68.
- *2. Approved the following dates related to the 2010 Annual School Election:

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1. Election to be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (N.J.S.A. 19:60-1).
2. Deadline for the filing of the nominating petitions with the Califon School Board of Education is Monday, March 1, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.
3. Drawing for position on the ballot will be held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in the office of the Board Secretary (N.J.S.A.19:60-8).
4. Authorize the Board Secretary to advertise the election and budget notices as required by law in the Districts official paper or alternates as timelines allow.

B. Curriculum and Instruction

*1 Motion to approve the attached health report for the month of January 2010.

*2 Motion to approve the following request for field trips:

Mammoth Follies	2 nd grade	4/13/10
Morristown, NJ		

Click, Clock, Moo	K & 1	3/15/10
Morristown, NJ		

C. Legislation and Policy:

D. Board Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:

Friends of the Library Mrs. Smith said a meeting took place. She said participants were very interested in helping the library

E. Personnel – All resolutions on the recommendation of the Superintendent.

*1 Motion to approve the following extracurricular stipends:

K. Brown	5-8 Concert	\$40.00
L. Montesion	5-8 Concert	\$40.00
K. Brown	Dance	\$40.00

F. Communications:

Mr. Hemberger said the survey have gone out, and they are waiting for surveys to return.

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XI. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Hemberger discussed a chain of command for parents with issues to discuss. Mrs. Smith asked about web page maintenance. Mr. Hemberger also discussed morning drop off procedures.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Galligan discussed an on-line training for CSA evaluation. The Board Secretary will call to schedule a training. Mr. Schundler discussed the Borough's negotiations with Comcast. He also discussed the next Board of Education meeting. Dr. Prystash asked if summer camp should be done this summer. The Board of Education was in agreement to do move forward with a summer camp program.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Mahon asked if the Board was affiliated with a Child Find Program. Dr. Prystash will check into it if Mrs. Mahon passes along the information. Mrs. Folsom commented on the procedure for morning drop off. Mike Medea asked about the recess policy when there is inclement weather. Dr. Prystash said the students go out as much as possible.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)

Motion was made by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Trimmer 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.
- 10. And another matter.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session at 10:21 p.m. to discuss the above-mentioned matters to the exclusion

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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.

Mr. Hemberger and Ms. Galligan recused themselves at 11:00 p.m.

XV. RECONVENE

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mrs. Trimmer and seconded by Mrs. Smith to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Susan Schaffner
Business Administrator/Board Secretary