

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 17, 2024  
7:00 p.m. Library**

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

This meeting is called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following opening statement read by Mr. Reaves:

“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. 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**

Roll call was taken by Matthew Herzer as follows:

|                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Mr. Christopher Keiser - President  | Present |
| Mr. Michael Reaves - Vice President | Present |
| Dr. Rebecca Kipp-Newbold            | Absent  |
| Ms. Rita Lemley                     | Absent  |
| Mr. Netz Sacro                      | Arrived |

Also present:

|                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Dr. Michele Cone, Superintendent    | Present |
| Mr. Matthew Herzer, Board Secretary | Present |

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

AT THIS TIME, COMMENT IS INVITED ON RESOLUTIONS ON TONIGHT’S AGENDA ONLY. PLEASE STATE ALL OF YOUR COMMENTS IN SUCCESSION TO THE BOARD DURING YOUR SPEAKING TURN. BE AWARE THAT YOU MAY NOT RECEIVE AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO YOUR COMMENT. ALL COMMENTS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE BOARD AND IF APPLICABLE, WILL BE ANSWERED DURING THE BOARD COMMENT SECTION OF THE MEETING. PLEASE RESPECT THE 3 MINUTE SPEAKING RULE AS PER BOARD OF EDUCATION BYLAW #0167 AND BOARD MEETING PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES POSTED ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE SO

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THAT BUSINESS OF THE BOARD MAY PROCEED IN A TIMELY MANNER.

Mr. Mohr thanked the administration for a speedy response and visiting his property to view the damage from a tree limb. Mr. Mohr has also stated that there have been several incidents involving trees in the 18 years that he has lived on the property. Multiple tree limbs have fallen over the years and he wanted to know if there will be a proactive plan in place.

Mr. Pickens stated that he was grateful that the administration came out to inspect the damage. He also stated that there are two trees to be looked at and that it is unfortunate that it took an incident for action. He will be looking forward to coordinating with the district in the future to resolve tree issues.

Ms. Smith asked what kind of trees are on the property and will insurance cover the damage. She also asked about the plans for spending the ARP ESSER Grant.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Reaves and seconded by Mr. Keiser to approve the December 13, 2023 regular and session minutes and the January 3, 2024 Reorganization Minutes.

Motion approved on all call vote

**VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

The board had received a letter from the county regarding the approval of Dr. Cone's contract. There were also emails from Mr. Pickens and Mr. Mohr regarding the trees on district property.

**VII. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- Enrollment 83
- HIB 0
- Suspension 0
- Updates:
  - PK & K Registration - Mar 20 Grade K roundup
  - TREP\$ Event
  - ARP Grant Amendment - Expansion of the categories
  - Spring Musical-*Frozen* on May 22, 2024 - Roles to be announced

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**VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Curriculum & Instruction Committee: Grant reallocations to buy new math curriculum, staff development, draft calendar and MOU approval were discussed.

Policy & Legislation Committee: Second reading of food service and first reading of resident/nonresident policies were discussed

Finance, Facilities, & Transportation Committee: The committee discussed tuition rates for 24-25, advertising for tuition slots available and the SEMI waiver.

Personnel Committee: The committee discussed the updated comprehensive equity team and the CSA contract.

Negotiations Committee: None.

**IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

Matters listed within the consent agenda have 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.

Motion made by Mr. Reaves and seconded by Mr. Sacro to approve adding the addendum items to the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Mr. Reaves and seconded by Mr. Keiser to discuss the Consent Agenda.

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Mr. Keiser and seconded by Mr. Reaves to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

***Finance/Facilities/Transportation/Personnel/Curriculum and Instruction/Policy***

**Finance:**

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1. Motion to approve the bill list dated January 17, 2023 in the amount of \$260,240.96.
2. Motion to approve and file the Treasurer’s and Board Secretary report for November and December 2023 and note that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligation and that no major account has been over-expended in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A:16.20.
3. Motion to approve the transfers for December 2023.
4. Motion to approve the filing of a waiver request to exempt the Califon Borough Board of Education’s 2024-25 participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) based on the fact that the DOE projects an enrollment of less than 40 students for the district.
5. Motion to approve the following tuition rates for the 2024-2025 school year:

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Preschool/PreK 5 Full Days | \$5,700 |
| Grades K-5                 | \$7,000 |
| Grades 6-8                 | \$7,500 |

6. Motion to approve amendment application for the ARP ESSER III Grant.

**Facilities:**

1. Motion to approve documentation of mandated Security/Fire/Emergency and Evacuation Drills

| Date of Drill     | Type of Drill |
|-------------------|---------------|
| December 12, 2024 | Fire          |
| December 20, 2023 | Security      |
| January 8, 2024   | Security      |
|                   |               |

2. Invoke NJSA 18A:18A-7 for Emergency Contracts for Tree Limb/Tree Removal

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent to invoke NJSA 18A:18A-7 to approve emergency contracts relating to the tree limb/tree removal in the amount of \$9,000.00.

**Transportation:**

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**Personnel:**

1. Motion to approve the following staff members to the Affirmative Action committee at no compensation:

|                  |                 |                |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Alison DeMarco   | Michele Morano  | Peggy Ippolito |
| Dr. Michele Cone | Linda Patterson |                |

2. Motion to approve the amended contract for the superintendent

**WHEREAS**, the Board and Dr. Cone are parties to an employment contract dated July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties have agreed to mutually rescind that contract and enter into a new employment contract from January 4, 2024 through June 30, 2028; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, with the consent of Dr. Cone, the Board of Education hereby rescinds Dr. Cone's current employment contract and with the approval of the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1, the Board of Education approves a new employment contract for Dr. Cone at initial annual salary of \$165,000.00; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Board President is authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the Board.

**Curriculum and Instruction:**

1. Motion to accept the Health Report for December 2023.
2. Motion to approve Califon School Calendar for the 2024-2025 school year.
3. Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the 2023-2024 school year between the Califon Board of Education and the Washington Township Police Department.
4. Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) allowing video surveillance access for the 2023-2024 school year between the Califon Board of

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Education and the Washington Township Police Department.

5. Motion to approve the Poet-in-Residence, Luray Gross, for grades 3-5 at a cost of \$1050.00 funded via the ARP grant..
6. Motion to approve the Magic of Science assemblies for grades PreK - 8 at a cost of \$495.00 funded via the ARP grant.
7. Motion to approve the Hunterdon County Parks assembly series for grades K-3 at a cost of 210.00 funded via the ARP grant.

8. Motion to approve the following field trips:

| Destination                   | Cost | Class/Club/Activity |
|-------------------------------|------|---------------------|
| Columbia Trail/Califon Island | \$0  | Grades 3-5          |

9. Motion to approve the submission of Reporting Period 1 data to the Student Safety Data System (SSDS).
10. Motion to approve Professional Development provider, Bobbie Felip, in the amount of \$1000.00/day to provide staff professional development for Personalized Student Learning funded via the ARP grant.
11. Motion to approve the Forensic Workshop with Prime Suspect Inc for grades 6-8 at a cost of \$500.00 funded via the ARP grant.
12. Motion to approve the summer forensics camp for a total of 20 students with Prime Suspect Inc at a cost of \$3000.00 at no cost to students funded via the ARP grant.
13. CPR Training for staff via Washington Twp Police/St. Clare’s Hospital at a cost of \$20.00/staff member.
14. Motion to approved graduate course tuition request:

| Name           | Institution   | Dates               | Compensation |
|----------------|---|---------------------|--------------|
| Amanda Swimmer | Rowan University Global Learning & Partnerships - Correction of Learning Disabilities-LDTC18505 | January-May<br>2024 | \$1,176.00   |

**Policy:**

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1. Motion to approve Califon Public School District first reading for the following policies and regulations:

P&R 5111                      Eligibility Of Resident/Nonresident Students (M)

2. Motion to approve Califon Public School District abolishment for the following Policies:

P 8500                              Food Services (M)

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

The board discussed updates to the facility use fee schedule due to costs incurred for allowing outside groups to use the facility.

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENT** (all school-related topics; time limits: 3 min. /person)

AT THIS TIME, COMMENT IS INVITED ON ALL SCHOOL-RELATED TOPICS. PLEASE STATE ALL OF YOUR COMMENTS IN SUCCESSION TO THE BOARD DURING YOUR SPEAKING TURN. BE AWARE THAT YOU MAY NOT RECEIVE AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO YOUR COMMENT. ALL COMMENTS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE BOARD AND IF APPLICABLE, WILL BE ANSWERED DURING THE BOARD COMMENT SECTION OF THE MEETING. PLEASE RESPECT THE 3 MINUTE SPEAKING RULE AS PER BOARD OF EDUCATION BYLAW #0167 AND BOARD MEETING PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES POSTED ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE SO THAT BUSINESS OF THE BOARD MAY PROCEED IN A TIMELY MANNER.

Mrs. Smith asked about the district's SEMI eligibility and what the MOA is for. She also asked what ARP is.

**XIII. BOARD COMMENT**

Dr. Cone responded to Mrs. Smith the State identifies students who are eligible for SEMI, the MOA is a collaborative document with the police and ARP the title of a federal grant that we can utilize to fund certain educational costs.

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**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mr. Reaves and seconded by Mr. Sacro to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm.

Motion approved on a unanimous all call vote.

Respectfully submitted

Matthew Herzer  
Board Secretary