

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2025
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

Mr. Christopher Keiser - President	Present
Mr. Michael Reaves - Vice President	Present
Dr. Rebecca Kipp-Newbold	Present
Ms. Rita Lemley	Arrived at 7:18 p.m.
Mr. Netz Sacro	Absent

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

None.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Dr. Kipp-Newbold and seconded by Mr. Reaves to approve the September 17, 2025 regular and executive session minutes.

Motion approved

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

An email was received from Ms.

VII. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Enrollment: 84
- HIB Report: 0
- Suspension Report- (1) 2-Day Out of School Suspension
- **HIB Self Assessment Review & Submission Score: 78 out of possible 78**
- **QSAC DPR Submission**-Review categories and visit dates
 - November: Facilities & January for all other areas for document review
- Upcoming events:
 - School Violence Awareness: October 20-24, 2025
 - Red Ribbon Week: October 23-31, 2025
 - Fire Safety & Visit from the Califon Fire Company
 - Halloween Dance
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences: November 3-5, 2025 (early dismissal)

1. Motion to accept the Chief School Administrator's report.

Motion by Mr. Reaves and seconded by Mr. Keiser to accept the Chief School Administrator's report.

Motion Approved

- **NJSLA Student Achievement Presentation**

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum & Instruction Committee: The committee went over the nursing services report, there is a new format and discussed the 8th grade events for 25-26.

Policy & Legislation Committee: None.

Finance, Facilities, & Transportation Committee: The committee met and discussed the 8th grade trips and events, facility use and the preliminary results of the audit.

Personnel Committee: The committee discussed new hires

Negotiations Committee: None.

Long Range Planning, Shared Services: 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. Keiser and seconded by Ms. Lemley to discuss the Consent Agenda.

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Dr. Kipp-Newbold and seconded by Mr. Reaves to add the addendum items to the agenda.

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Mr. Reaves and seconded by Dr. Kipp-Newbold to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

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

Finance:

1. Motion to approve the bill list dated September 18, 2025 through October 15, 2025 in the amount of \$258,393.37.
2. Motion to approve and file the Treasurer's and Board Secretary report for August 2025 and September 2025 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 August and September 2025.
4. Motion to accept an anonymous donation of \$3,000 for the 8th grade trip fund.

Facilities:

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

Date of Drill	Type of Drill
	Security
	Fire
9/29/25	Annual Bus Evacuation

2. Motion to approve the submission of the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M-1 for the 2026-2027 school year.
3. Motion to approve the use of Califon School Facilities:

Sponsor of Event	Dates	Event
Lebanon Twp Athletic Association	8:00 am to 11:00 am 1/10/26, 1/17/26, 1/24/26, 1/31/26, 2/7/26, 2/21/26, 2/28/26, 3/7/26, 3/14/26	Basketball Practices and Games

**Based on Custodial Availability.

Transportation:

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

Personnel:

1. Motion to approve Nora Cubberly as a substitute teacher for the 25-26 school year pending criminal history clearance.
2. Motion to approve Kathryn Dunkerton as a substitute teacher for the 25-26 school year pending criminal history clearance.
3. Motion to approve Marie Heyduke and Lori Montesion as Home Instructors as needed for the 2025-2026 school year at the CBA hourly rate.
4. Motion to approve Thais Arizmendi as a substitute pending a substitute certification.

Curriculum and Instruction:

1. Motion to accept the Health Report for September 2025.
2. Motion to approve the Califon School Nursing Services Plan for the 2025-2026 school year.
3. Motion to approve the Annual HIB Self Assessment Report for certification to the NJDOE by October 31, 2025.
4. Motion to approve mandated 30 weeks of mentoring as per NJDOE regulation for the following staff:

Name	Mentor	Period	Fee
Lindsay Stout	Lisa Kooger	October 2025-June 2026	\$550.00

5. Motion to approve the following field trips:

Destination	Cost	Class/Activity
Lunch Cruise on the Hudson	\$2000.00 (Via Funds Raised/Donated)	8th Grade Class
Gateway National Recreation Area	\$885	Grades 3-5
8th Grade trip to VHS	\$100	8th Grade Class

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

Policy:

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

X. OLD BUSINESS

None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Califon Borough Board of Education has convened at a public meeting on October 15, 2025 to review the proposed responses to the District Performance Review (DPR's) and Declaration Page for NJQSAC, and approves submission of the DPR's and Declaration Page to the State of New Jersey State Department of Education as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2.

Motion by Mr. Keiser, seconded by Mr. Reaves

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

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.

Mr. Vreeland asked about the cost of a feasibility study and who pays for it. He also stated that there is a State grant for a study and that it is worth doing.

Mr. Keiser thanked Mr. Vreeland for his comment.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

Ms. Smith stated that in the past multiple districts would be involved in a feasibility study.

Ms. Pinto asked if parents could be involved in playground maintenance or add something new. She also asked about possible grants and stated that she loves the school.

Mr. Keiser responded that there are PTA grants to add new items to the playground.

Ms. Meiser asked what is the real time commitment to be a member of the Board.

The Board responded that there are Board meetings once a month, each member serves on two committees that meet once a month, sometimes just on paper as needed. If you serve on the negotiations committee, more meetings per month will be required. There are also mandated training, the option of the annual convents. Board members also evaluate the CSA and serve as delegates to the State and the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission.

XIII. BOARD COMMENT

The Board thanked the public for their comments.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XV. RECONVENE

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Keiser and seconded by Dr. Kipp-Newbold to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Motion approved on a unanimous all call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Herzer
Board Secretary