

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 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	Present
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.

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V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Reaves and seconded by Dr. Kipp-Newbold to approve the September 3, 2025 regular session minutes.

Motion approved, Ms. Lemley abstained.

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

VII. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Enrollment: As of today, 84
- HIB - 0
- Suspension - 0

- NJSLA
 - Field Test Grades 4-8 will take place Oct 27-Nov 14
 - Spring Testing Dates:
 - Grades 3-8 ELA & Math & Grade 5 & 8 Science:
April 27-May 22, 2026 (Make Ups May 26-29, 2026)
- Week of Respect October 6-10, 2025
- Fire Prevention is coming up and we are excited about the Califon Fire Department visit
- Updates from Dr. Cone:
 - 2025 Spring NJSLA Data to be mailed home October 1
 - 2025 Spring NJSLA presentation at October BOE meeting
 - District Literacy Goal 1 progress:
 - Professional development on the LinkIt Intervention Manager continued into mid-October
 - Dragon Tree PD on Literacy will take place on October 13
 - Literacy Dyslexia Screenings are scheduled for October

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum & Instruction Committee: The committee discussed topics of literacy for ages 3-5, the school safety plan, QSAC committee and the code of conduct.

Policy & Legislation Committee: The committee reviewed the second readings of policies.

Finance, Facilities, & Transportation Committee: The committee discussed the transportation contracts.

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Personnel Committee: The committee reviewed the shared art teacher contract and discussed newly hired substitute teachers.

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 Mr. Reaves and seconded by Dr. Kipp-Newbold to add the addendum items to the 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:

1. Motion to approve the bill list dated 8/28/2025 through 9/17/2025 in the amount of \$234,597.67
2. Motion to approve and file the Treasurer's and Board Secretary report for July 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 July 2025.

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4. Motion to accept a donation of a wheelchair from an anonymous donor. Value \$250.
5. Motion to approve a shared Art Teacher agreement with Lebanon Borough School for the 2025-2026 school year.

Facilities:

1. Motion to approve the use of Califon School Facilities:

Sponsor of Event	Dates	Event*-
8th Grade Class	October	MS Halloween Dance

**Based on Custodial availability

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

Date of Drill	Type of Drill
9.10.25	Security
9.12.25	Fire

Transportation:

1. Motion to approve entering into a contract with the Lebanon Township School Board of Education - 2025-26 Joint Transportation Agreement, to transport school choice students residing in Califon for an annual fee of \$10,500.
2. Motion to approve entering into a contract with the Tewksbury Township School Board of Education - 2025-26 Joint Transportation Agreement, to transport school choice students residing in Califon for an annual fee of \$1,177 per student and to transport various field and athletic trips for \$100 per hour.

Personnel:

1. Motion to approve Lindsay Stout as a .4 Art Teacher (shared between Califon @ .2 & Lebanon Borough School @ .2) for the 25-26 school year at Step 1 BA, pro-rated \$59,585.00 on October 1, 2025 pending criminal history clearance.

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2. Motion to approve Lindsay Stout as a substitute teacher for the 25-26 school year pending criminal history clearance.

3. Motion to approve the following staff in stipend positions:

Position	Staff
Service Learning Advisors	Lisa Kooger & MaryJane Medea
Art Club Advisor	Lindsay Stout

4. Motion to accept the resignation of K 1:1 Instructional Aide, Thais Arizmendi, effective October 16, 2025.

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Curriculum and Instruction:

1. Motion to approve the following field trips:

Destination	Cost	Class
Columbia Trail	No cost	Grades 3-5

2. Motion to approve the Califon School Safety and Security Plan for the 2025-26 school year.

3. Motion to approve participation in the NORWESCAP program for the 25-26 school year.

4. Motion to approve Rebecca Kipp-Newbold, Board of Education member, to the previously approved 2025-2026 QSAC committee list at no compensation.

5. Motion to approve the 25-26 Code of Conduct.

Policy:

1. Motion to approve Califon Public School District first reading for the following

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policies and regulations:

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

P 0143	Board Member Election and Appointment (Revised)
P 0173	Duties of Public School Accountant (Revised)
P 0174	Legal Services (M) (Revised)
P 0177	Professional Services (M) (Revised)
P & R 1570	Internal Controls (M) (Revised)
P 1620	Administrative Employment Contracts (M) (Revised)
P 1636.01	Notification of Promotion, New Job, and Transfer Opportunities (New)
P 2422	Statutory Curricular Requirements (M) (Revised)
P 5339.01	Student Sun Protection (M) (New)
P 6220	Budget Preparation (M) (Revised)
R 6220	Budget Preparation (Revised)
P & R 6111	Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program (M) (Revised)
P 8601	Student Supervision After School Dismissal

X. OLD BUSINESS

None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None.

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.

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Mr. Folsom asked how many preschool students are from in town, and how many of them from last year moved up to kindergarten. Mr. Folsom also stated that the district does not make money on the preschool program.

Ms. Vreeland noted that there has been an increase in taxes. She asked why the special education numbers are up and state aid is down.

Ms. Andrews asked who pays the health benefits and asked what combined classes are.

Mr. Vreeland asked if the increases the district faces are sustainable and what happened to the feasibility study.

Ms. Smith asked how the feasibility study was commissioned.

Ms. Whitlocker stated that there is an open board seat for the North Hunterdon-Voorhees district. She also asked what if the Department of Education dissolves.

XIII. BOARD COMMENT

The Board thanked the public for their comments and encouraged members of the public to attend future meetings. The Board also addressed the concerns brought up by members of the public.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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/Contract negotiation
- ☐ 8. Terms and conditions of employment
- ☐ 9. Deliberations involving imposition of specific civil penalty

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education adjourns to executive session at 8:07 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.

Motion made by Mr. Keiser and seconded by Mr. Reaves to enter Executive Session.

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

XV. RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Keiser and seconded by Mr. Reaves to reconvene at 9:50 p.m..

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Keiser and seconded by Dr. Kipp-Newbold to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 pm.

Motion approved on a unanimous all call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Herzer
Board Secretary