

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 17, 2026
7:00 p.m. Library**

I. CALL TO ORDER – OPENING STATEMENT

This meeting is called to order at 7:01 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	Absent
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.

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V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Dr. Kipp-Newbold and seconded by Ms. Lemley to approve the February 18, 2026 regular and executive session minutes

Motion approved

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

VII. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Enrollment 85
- HIB - 0
- Suspension - (1) .5 Out of School Suspension

- Updates: Mark Your Calendars!
 - March 31 Creative Arts Night
 - April 21 Spring Music Concert
 - May 19 Band Recital
 - June 2 & 3 Drama Club Production
 - Read Across America
 - March 10 Bingo Event
 - March 12 SEL Day

1. Motion by Ms. Lemley and seconded by Mr. Reaves to accept the HIB and suspension report.

Moton approved

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum & Instruction Committee: The committee discussed the health report and upcoming field trips.

Policy & Legislation Committee: None.

Finance, Facilities, & Transportation Committee: The committee went over the budget.

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Personnel Committee: The committee discussed the retirement of legendary staff members.

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 Ms. Lemley and seconded by Dr. Kipp-Newbold to add the revised budget motion.

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Mr. Reaves 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 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 March 17, 2026 in the amount of \$245,363.87.
2. Motion to approve and file the Treasurer's and Board Secretary report for February 2026 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 February 2026

BE IT RESOLVED that the Califon Board of Education tentative budget be approved for the 2026-2027 School Year using the 2026-2027 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education is authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County

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Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:7F-5 and 18A:7F-6:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2026-2027 Total Expenditures	\$3,217,595	\$ 41,544	\$0	\$3,259,139
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$ 432,093	\$ 41,544	\$0	\$ 473,637
Taxes to be raised	\$2,785,502	\$ 0	\$0	\$2,785,502

AND to advertise said tentative budget on the Califon Board of Education Website in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law;

AND a public hearing on the budget for the 2026-2027 school year will be held at the Califon School, Califon, NJ on April 29, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Califon Board of Education will withdraw \$3,000 from Capital Reserve in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2 for the purpose of required of funding the Main Office/Nurse’s Suite floor replacement capital projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Califon Board of Education includes in the tentative budget a maximum travel expenditure in the amount of \$10,000 for the 2026-2027 school year for all staff and BOE members in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 and the maximum regular business travel amount shall not exceed \$1,500 per employee. The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2026-2027 school year is \$4,100.

Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement
2026-2027

WHEREAS, the Califon Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a board of education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

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WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, to a maximum expenditure of \$15,000 for all staff and board members for the 2026-2027 school year.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

Facilities:

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

Date of Drill	Type of Drill
2.26.26	Security
3.11.2026	Security
3.13.2026	Fire

Transportation:

Personnel:

1. Motion to approve with regret the resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2026 from Lisa Kooger.
2. Motion to approve with regret the resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2026 from Lori Montesion.

Curriculum and Instruction:

1. Motion to accept the Health Report for February 2026.

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2. Motion to approve the following field trips:

Destination	Cost	Class/Club/Activity
Columbia Trail Califon Park	No cost	Grades K-2
Lincoln Harbor Marina	Transportation \$700	Grades 8

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 and regulations:

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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XIII. BOARD COMMENT

None.

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 - Superintendent Evaluation
- 9. Deliberations involving imposition of specific civil penalty

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education adjourns to executive session at 7:16 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 Dr. Kipp-Newbold and seconded by Mr. Reaves to enter Executive Session.

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

XV. RECONVENE

Motion made by Dr. Kipp-Newbold and seconded by Mr. Reaves to reconvene at 7:36 p.m..

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

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XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Reaves and seconded by Ms. Lemley to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 pm.

Motion approved on a unanimous all call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Herzer
Board Secretary