

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 21 , 2026
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 AND OATH OF OFFICE

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

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 Dr. Kipp-Newbold and seconded by Mr. Reaves to approve the December 17, 2025 regular session minutes and January 7, 2026 reorganization minutes.

Motion approved

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

VII. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Enrollment -85
- HIB - 0
- Suspension - 0
- Updates:
 - PK & K Registration - 13-14 students for next year
 - 8th Grade HS Orientation & Course Selection
 - Spring Drama Production - Beauty and the Beast
 - Global Day of Play-February 4
 - Thank you from the Open Cupboard, it was the largest donation of food
 - QSAC review went well

VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Policy & Legislation Committee: The committee is revising policies and reviewing new policies.

Finance, Facilities, & Transportation Committee: The tuition rates were reviewed.

Personnel Committee: The committee discussed an upcoming leave of absence.

Negotiations Committee: None.

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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 Dr. Kipp-Newbold and seconded by Mr. Reaves to discuss the Consent Agenda.

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Mr. Sacro 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 January 21, 2026 in the amount of \$300,919.21.
2. Motion to approve and file the Treasurer's and Board Secretary report December 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 filing of a waiver request to exempt the Califon Borough Board of Education's 2026-27 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.
4. Motion to approve the following tuition rates for the 2026-2027 school year:

Preschool/PreK 5 Full Days	\$5,900
Grades K-5	\$7,000
Grades 6-8	\$7,500
5. Motion to accept a donation of \$1000.00 from the Weeks family to support the Califon School Drama Club.

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Facilities:

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

Date of Drill	Type of Drill
1.7.26	Fire
1.15.26	Security

Transportation:

Personnel:

1. Motion to approve a leave of absence under FMLA/NJFLA for Bryce Blondina for 12 weeks beginning on May 2, 2026 and ending September 30, 2026.

Curriculum and Instruction:

1. Motion to accept the Health Report for December 2025.
2. Motion to approve Califon School Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year.
3. Motion to approve the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) submission for reporting period 1.
4. Motion to approve the following field trips:

Destination	Cost	Class/Club/Activity
VHS Pops Concert	\$225	Califon Band
Walking Trip to Califon Island Park for Vietnam Veteran Event	\$0	Grades 5-8

Policy:

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

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P 0142.1	Nepotism (M) (Revised)
P 1220	Employment of Chief School Administrator (M) (Revised)
P & R 1552	Sexual Harassment – Staff (M) (New)
P & R 2530	Resource Materials (Revised)
P & R 2535	Library Material (M) (New)
P & R 9130	Public Complaints (Revised)

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.

Ms. Smith asked how many 8th grade students are enrolled.

Dr. Cone reported that there are 5 students.

The Hoop Daddies have raised money through donations and fundraisers and would like to give back to the school. They would like to help the PTA with projects, with one being the replacement or refurbishment of the basketball backboard.

XIII. BOARD COMMENT

None.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

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XV. RECONVENE

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Sacro and seconded by Dr. Kipp-Newbold to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Motion approved on a unanimous all call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Herzer
Board Secretary