

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2025
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 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.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

***V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the following minutes:

Motion by Mr. Reaves and seconded by Dr. Kipp-Newbold to approve the April 30, 2025 regular and executive session minutes.

Motion passed, Ms. Lemley abstained.

***VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

A letter from the Executive County Superintendent was received in regards to the approval of the Business Administrator contract for the 2025-2026 school year.

***VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- HIB Report-0
 - HIB Score
- Suspension Report-0
- Enrollment 93
- Updates
 - Annual HIB grade Report: For 23-24 = 78 out of 78
 - Graduation Dates:
 - PK & K June 13
 - 8th grade June 12
 - Drama Production is June 3 & 4
 - PTA Shout Out for all of the wonderful things in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Califon was #1 in raising funds for Relay for Life

***VIII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Curriculum & Instruction Committee: The committee discussed the upcoming fire truck ride for grade K, the health report, summer curriculum writing and nurse hours.

Policy & Legislation Committee: None.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

Finance, Facilities, & Transportation Committee: None.

Personnel Committee: The committee discussed the reappointments for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Dr. Kipp-Newbold and seconded by Ms. Lemley 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 bills list dated May 1, 2025 through May 14, 2025 in the amount of \$88,497.06
2. Motion to approve a shared Child Study Team service agreement with Tewksbury Township School District for the 2025-2026 school year.
3. Motion to approve a shared World Language teacher agreement with High Bridge School for the 2025-2026 school year.
4. Motion to approve a shared World Language teacher agreement with Hampton

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

Public School for the 2025-2026 school year.

5. Motion to approve Shared Services Agreement with HCESC for Paraprofessional services for the 2025-2026 school year.
6. Motion to approve Hunterdon County ESC to provide Public School Services as needed for the 2025-2026 school year per the 2024-2025 rate sheet.
7. Motion to approve Hunterdon County ESC to provide Technology Support Services for the 2025-2026 school year.

Transportation:

Facilities:

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

Date of Drill	Type of Drill

2. Motion to approve the district's summer hours as follows for administration and administrative staff 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, 4 days per week Monday -Thursday, closed Fridays beginning June 20, 2025 through August 15, 2025.
3. Motion to approve the use of the Califon School Facilities:

Sponsor of Event	Event
Califon 8th Grade	Lock In-June

*adhering to COVID related restrictions. **Based on Custodial availability

Personnel:

1. Motion to approve the resignation of Kelly Baker from the .2 Media teaching position effective June 30, 2025.
2. Motion to approve the following tenured certificated personnel for the 2025-2026 school year:

Name	FTE	Level	Step	Compensation
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**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

Blondina, Bryce	1	MA	12	\$72,460.00
Bruton, Michael	1	BA+45	13	\$74,020.00
Denkovic, Tracy	1	BA	12	\$69,585.00
DeMarco, Alison	1	MA+30	20	\$85,705.00
Heyduke, Marie	1	MA	15	\$75,815.00
Hoitsma, Kyle	1	BA	14	\$71,145.00
Kooger, Lisa	1	BA	20	\$80,830.00
Medea, MaryJane	1	BA	13	\$71,145.00
Mitzak, Kelly	1	BA	13	\$71,145.00
Montesion, Lori	1	BA+45	20	\$82,705.00
Morano, Michele	.56	MA	8	\$38,338.00
O'Brien, Tracey	1	BA	12	\$69,585.00
Sullivan, Christine	.2	MA+30	19	\$16,551.00
Swimmer, Amanda	1	MA+15	6	\$68,960.00

3. Motion to approve the following non-tenured certificated personnel for the 2025-2026 school year:

Name	FTE	Level	Step	Compensation
Baker, Kelly	.2	MA	5	\$13,292.00
Downey, Tristan	1	BA	3	\$61,585.00
Guardigli, Robert	1	BA+30	4	\$64,835.00
Sedlacek, Jen	1	BA	17	\$74,935.00

4. Motion to approve the following non certificated personnel for the 2025-2026 school year:

Name	Position	Compensation
Susan French-Gonzalez	Executive Secretary to the Chief School Administrator and Student Data Manager	\$59,450.00

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

Edwardo Belenguer	Head Custodian	\$58,548.00
Paula Hatch	Treasurer of School Monies	\$2103.00

5. Motion to approve the Business Administrator contract effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 as approved by the Interim County Superintendent.
6. Motion to approve the following Substitute Staff for the 2025-2026 school year at the rate of \$115 per day.

Diana Abrue	Sophia Desire	Mary Scott
Kelly Baker	Lily French-Gonzalez	Anne Simpson
Maria Buniva	Michelle Gervasi	Christine Sullivan
Alana Corradi	Grace Medea	Autumn Walter

7. Motion to approve Nike Brandner as Substitute Nurse for the 2025-2026 school year at the rate of \$130.00 per day.
8. Motion to approve the following stipend positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

Position	Compensation
Yearbook Coordinator (1)	\$600
8th Grade Advisor (1)	\$500
8th Grade Graduation Coordinator (1)	\$250.00
Teacher in Charge	\$80/day (as needed)
Student Council Coordinator (1)	\$500
Webmaster (1)	\$2,000
District Media Coordinators (2)	\$500 per staff member
Art Club Advisor (1)	\$250
Drama Club Advisor (1)	\$800
Dance Chaperones	\$50
Drama Chaperones	\$50
Concert Chaperones	\$50

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

TREP\$ Advisor (2)	\$500 per staff member
Soccer Coach (2)	\$1,500 per staff member
Boys Basketball Coach (1)	\$ 2300
Girls Basketball Coach (1)	\$ 2300

9. Motion to approve the following “Mandated” stipend positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

Position	Compensation
HIB Coordinator	No Compensation
HIB Specialist	\$1,000
Safety Specialist	No Compensation

10. Motion to approve the following employees for the “Mandated” stipend positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

Position	Faculty Member	Compensation
HIB Coordinator	Dr. Michele Cone	No Compensation
Safety Specialist	Dr. Michele Cone	No Compensation

11. Motion to approve the following staff for stipend positions for the 2024-2025 school year:

Name	Position Club/Activity	Compensation
Tristan Downey	8th Grade Overnight Lock-In	\$200.00
Peggy Ippolito	8th Grade Overnight Lock-In	\$200.00

12. Motion to approve the following summer custodians, pending background checks, from June 20-August 15, 2025:

Name	Compensation
Rory French-Gonzalez	\$18.00 not to exceed 20-25 hours per week
Anthony Pessolano	\$18.00 not to exceed 20-25 hours per week

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

Nick Marmorato	\$18.00 not to exceed 20-25 hours per week
Damian Gerock	\$18.00 not to exceed 20-25 hours per week

Curriculum and Instruction

1. Motion to approve Califon Fire Company Fire Truck ride for Kindergarten class.
2. Motion to approve the Health Report for April 2025.
3. Motion to approve summer curriculum writing hours for revisions as per NJDOE for up to 10 hours per staff at the contracted rate.
4. Motion to approve summer nurse hours for 25-26 preparations at the contracted rate not to exceed 25 hours.

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.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

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

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None.

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
- ☐ 9. Deliberations involving imposition of specific civil penalty

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education adjourn 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.

**CALIFON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2025
7:00 p.m. Library**

Motion made by Mr. Keiser and seconded by Dr. Kipp-Newbold to enter Executive Session.

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

***XVI. RECONVENE**

Motion made by Mr. Keiser and seconded by Mr. Reaves to reconvene at 7:55 p.m..

Motion approved on unanimous roll call vote.

***XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mr. Keiser and seconded by Mr. Reaves to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 pm.

Motion approved on a unanimous all call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Herzer
Board Secretary