

Town of Hague - School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting Minutes

January 11th, 2024

Town of Hague Community Center

Meeting opened at 10am

Members Present: (in-person) Amanda Peterson, Jack Bast, Beth Barton-Navitsky, Susan Delarm-Sandman, Rolly Allen, Kathe Allen, Linda Fusco, and Josh Patchett.
(on zoom) Peter Carney, Sally Thurston, and Sandy Smith joined later in the meeting.

Members Absent: none.

Jack led the Committee with the Pledge of Allegiance.

We welcomed Supervisor Patchett to our Committee meeting.

Agenda:

- Approved the Minutes from the November 2nd, 2023 meeting. Amanda will post them on the Town's website.
- Review of 2023 and current Status:
- Committee Work Stream Updates: Conference Report: Attendee: Linda

Highlights from the Rural School Association (RSA) Policy Brief:

1. Population Decline in NYS: The RSA Policy Brief discussed the ongoing population decline in New York State (NYS).
2. Pressure for Formula Change: There is growing pressure to change the funding formula for schools in response to the population decline.
3. Aging Population & Shrinking Labor Force: The brief highlighted concerns regarding the aging population and the subsequent impact on the labor force.
4. Mass Exodus in 2008: In 2008, there was a significant mass exodus from upstate New York, which has had implications for local schools.
5. Electric Buses and Power Grid Issues: The conference touched upon the challenges faced by schools with regards to electric buses and their compatibility with the power grid.

Upcoming Event:

- Next BOE Meeting: The next Board of Education (BOE) meeting is scheduled for January 18th, 2024.

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Action:

- Linda encourages Hague to rally together with other surrounding towns to create a stronger collective voice in addressing the issues discussed during the RSA conference.

- Develop Goals and objectives for 2024: the Committee recommends that Beth and Linda (as retired educators) obtain membership for the Rural Schools Association of NY on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee also agreed that we should be making contact with our legislators in 2024.

To have the Town of Hague Assessor David Martucci to speak with the Committee in a future meeting about the assessment process.

Work on assessment averaging as it will help homeowners with the ability to plan ahead. 2024 School & 2025 County taxes, what will they look like?

- Plan for issuing multi-year assessment averaging (MYAA)White Paper: the Committee is working on a white paper to get that moving for the Ti School Board. Peter has made a draft so far. The Committee will collaborate on the document making it readable and understandable. Jack will finalize the final draft. Peter will draft a “roll out plan” for future public release.

Next meeting is February 6th, at 10am

Meeting ended at 11:26am

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Peterson