

**Hague School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting
Thursday, 1 May 2025, 10:00AM
Town of Hague Community Center and Zoom**

Present: Jack Bast, Linda Fusco, Mike Gallow, Barbara Booth, Sandy Smith, Kathe Allen, in person; Peter Carney, John Zamrok, Beth Barton-Navitsky, Walt Lender, Sally Thurston on Zoom

Absent: Josh Patchett

Guest: Dr. Roger Catania, NYS Education Dept, Regent, 4th Judicial District

Meeting opened at 10:01 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Approved Minutes of 04/03/2025 SAC Meeting

Candidates for Board of Education (BoE)

Mark Russell, Tracy Cross-Baker, Eric Rich, James Wells, Sr., John Dreimiller. The Ticonderoga CSD BoE has not responded to our request(s) for the BoE to give a 2025-2026 budget presentation to the voters of Hague before the vote date.

Parent Survey Results

Sandy Smith announced that no further Parent Surveys have been submitted so she will write up her report.

Dr. Roger Catania

Dr. Catania noted that today, May 1, in Lake Placid is Kate Smith Day. Kate Smith was a resident of Lake Placid but also has a connection to Hague, visiting many times with the owner of what was once the Ruah before it was the Ruah B&B.

An hour and a half discussion and question followed. Here are some of the points made:

1. Academic Performance ratings: the NYS Education Department (NYSED) evaluations of CSDs use - test scores 3-8, attendance records, student growth rate, college preparedness.
2. Identification by NYSED of need for additional work at a district, three levels – Local Support Intervention (LSI), Targeted (TSI) and Comprehensive CSI). Ticonderoga CSD is not currently on any of these lists, but Dr. Catania knows it has been in the past.
3. School Improvement Grants - Ticonderoga got one to see if they are undergoing improvement through SAT, ACT and state Regents exams.
4. Principals are required go into classes at least two times per year to observe and evaluate teacher performance.
5. Ticonderoga has a high number of teachers who teach classes they are not certified to teach.
6. Exams show reading illiteracy in the 7th grade.
7. School Boards have the responsibility to have a respectful relationship with, communicate well with, be responsive to and to be accountable to members of the District.
8. The School Board is an elected body to oversee the District and is responsible to the voters within the District to represent them. It must state its mission for the District and its regulatory boundaries.
9. We get a voice in what happens in the District by voting on Board members and the budget.
10. Open Meeting Law - must let those in the District know when the BoE meeting will be well in advance of the meeting. It has a legal requirement to do this for the public in its District.
11. NYSED cannot help enforce the Open Meeting Law. The State Commission for the Open Meeting Law advocates for the public.
12. The New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) is a source of good support for the BoE. Is TCSD a member?
13. Academic Data - how to help. Special Ed for economically disadvantaged students, Universal Pre Kindergarten Groups went from half day to full day effective in the 2024/2025 school year, child care groups, libraries.
14. Family income backgrounds- access to books, museums use Ed op Fund.org (???) for resources - gives 10 free books to students to keep.
15. Other groups that help - Backpack programs, Farm to School, free lunches for all, Essex Prevention Team for Substance abuse, Essex Mental

Health goes to schools, CFES Brilliant Pathways for college or trades,
Upward Bound 9-12, 1st generation low income, Sweethearts & Heros.

The next SAC meeting will be held Thursday, June 5th, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

Adjournment - 11:56 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathe Allen