

## **Hague School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting**

**Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**10:00AM**

**Town of Hague Community Center**

Present: Joshua Patchett - Supervisor, Desiree LaPointe – Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor, Jack Bast - Chair, Peter Carney Linda Fusco, Kathe Allen, Rolly Allen, Sally Thurston (via zoom), Beth Barton-Navitsky (via zoom), Sandy Smith (via zoom), Susan Delarm-Sandman (via zoom)

Absent: Amanda Peterson

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jack Bast

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 were reviewed and approved without amendments or corrections.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the Power Point presentation (PPT) for the March 19<sup>th</sup> School Board of Education (BOE) meeting. Josh will be highlighting the Town of Hague’s school tax cost and explaining Hague’s Resolution requesting that the BOE implement Multi-Year Assessment Averaging (MYAA) in the 2024-2025 school tax levy.

Josh introduced to the Committee a local citizen’s story as a strong example of the current situation in Hague. The citizen owns an 800 square foot cottage on the lake and is greatly concerned with his school tax bill of \$8,900. He is seriously facing having to sell his multi-generational home in Hague because of this. His situation is not unique. Many Hague residents are grappling with similar tax challenges, and it's incumbent upon us to address these concerns.

Josh stressed that “we are one school district, but Hague is losing a sense of community. Generational homes are being pushed out.”

## SAC 03/07/2024 Meeting Minutes

Beth suggested looking into Voucher program options. Hague children could potentially choose where to go to school. The vouchers would pay for this. Voucher programs typically provide families with public funds that they can use to offset the costs of sending their children to private or alternative schools, including schools outside of their residential district. But we would need to conduct thorough research on vouchers.

Ongoing education and tax concerns were discussed by the Committee. Hague has a much higher school tax percentage compared to Ticonderoga. Hague taxpayers are paying 56% of the TCSD Tax Levy with only 3.5% of the enrollment. In 2024 Hague is sending 27 students to Ticonderoga compared to the total TCSD enrollment of 769.

Sally suggested handing out packets to the BOE with the appropriate data that supports using multi-year assessment averaging. Beth will obtain folders with name labels. Jack will formalize the contents.

Jack emphasized the importance of giving Hague and Josh as much support as possible at the BOE meeting. The word will be spread on Facebook, the Town website and our new email mailchimp to get as many locals/taxpayers to the meeting in support.

Josh will follow a Power Point presentation in the BOE March 19th meeting, keeping it to five minutes. Hague's objective is to establish an ongoing dialog between Ticonderoga and Hague about using MYAA in the determination of the school taxes paid by each town.

Next SAC meeting: Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM

Respectfully submitted,

Desiree LaPointe