

**Hague School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting
Thursday, 3 April 2025, 10:00 AM
Town of Hague Community Center and Zoom**

Present: Jack Bast, Josh Patchett, Barbara Booth, in person; Peter Carney, Linda Fusco, John Zamrok, Walt Lender, Beth Barton-Navitsky, Sandy Smith on Zoom

Absent:, Kathe Allen, Mike Gallow, Sally Thurston

Meeting opened at 10:02 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Approved Minutes of 03/05/2025 SAC Meeting

Meeting Notes

March 13 Town Hall Meeting

- Jack thanked the Committee for all their extensive and effective work on the Meeting! Over 75 people attended, including three from Ticonderoga and about 25 on Zoom.
- Shaundra Bartlett Yaw did an excellent job of objectively reporting the Meeting.
- While not specifically acknowledging the Meeting in its March 18 BoE meeting, the Board was certainly conscious of it and was prepared to ignore it.
- Jack noted that “the gauntlet is down” and SAC is now even more obligated to the citizens of Hague for follow-through on the two fronts of improved academic performance and fiscal accountability and equity.

Sole Assessor Report

- David Martucci, Hague’s Sole Assessor, responded to questions which had been submitted to him.
- In review of a set of compiled data provided by SAC, David agreed there is a discrepancy in the Ticonderoga sale to assessed value ratio that needs to be explained. David will investigate this through his Warren and Essex County connections and report to the Committee. It will be mid-July before he and Amanda will be able to devote time to it.
- Josh would like to see a comparison of assessed valued of homes on New Hague Road that are literally across the street from one another in Ticonderoga and in Hague.

- A similar comparison of comparable Ticonderoga and Hague lakefront properties is also of interest.

Parent Survey - 28 were sent

- Sandy Smith reported that five surveys have been completed and returned, covering nine of the 34 students in her records.
- One response is positive, four are negative reports.
- Issues reported, besides academic performance, that we need to look further into include:
 - Bullying
 - Transportation for Hague students – regular, test days, after-school sports
 - Equal treatment of Hague students
 - Special education and BOCES availability for Hague students
- Sandy will prepare a summary report after seeking additional responses.

Dr. Catania Meeting

- Although he couldn't attend the March 13th Town Meeting, Linda Fusco reported that Dr. Roger Catania has been provided with all the relevant information and has been very interested and responsive.
- Dr. Catania plans to attend the May 1st SAC meeting.
- Linda will provide him with a list of questions in advance. Mike has drafted a starting list.

TCSD Academic Performance Plan

- SAC will quiz Dr. Catania extensively on May 1st regarding ways in which SAC and the TCSD community-at-large can be effective in improving academic performance.
- In the meantime, we will actively pose coordinated questions to the BoE, in writing and/or orally at BoE meetings.
- For the **08 April BoE** Special Budget Workshop, Jack will submit/email by 04/04 a list of budget-related questions to Erin Hamel with CC to all BoE members. Such email will come from Jack specifically as a private, concerned citizen since the BoE is tending to limit any responses to inquiries received from SAC and from the Town of Hague.
- Jack will coordinate a plan for the **15 April BoE** regular meeting.
- Jack will continue, at Hague Town Board meetings and in Chronicle articles, to urge Hague resident attendance at all BoE meetings. It was noted that neither Jack nor Josh will be attending the **08 April BoE** meeting because that is the same evening as the regularly scheduled Hague Town Board meeting.

Fiscal and PILOT Accountability Plan

- Increased interest from our March 13th revelations has been aroused in possible changes to our TCSD consolidation arrangement. Several attempts in previous Board-appointed committee efforts have been unsuccessful. A recent statement by the Town Attorney has also identified, in his opinion, the remote likelihood of successful legislative action or in necessary agreement by TCSD. However, the specific results of the official investigations are being sought in town records for their details and to provide direction in potential further reconsolidation consideration.
- Continued SAC effort must and will be undertaken by SAC in resolving the cause of missed opportunities in the negotiation of existing PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreements and the treatment of energy project assessed values in the school tax levy apportionment.

The next Ti BoE meetings are on April 8th and April 15th at 6 PM; see above.

The next SAC meeting will be held Thursday, May 1st, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

Adjournment - 11:47 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Bast