

**Hague School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting
Thursday, 5 June 2025, 10:00 AM
Town of Hague Community Center and Zoom**

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

Absent:, Kathe Allen, Walt Lender, Sandy Smith, Sally Thurston

Meeting opened at 10:02 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Approved Minutes of 05/01/2025 SAC Meeting

Budget and BoE Voting Results

The Budget passed easily. Mark Russell was reelected, James Wells, Sr. and John Dreimiller were elected, Tracey Cross-Baker lost. The Hague Chronicle gave it some nice coverage regarding the Superintendent's non-answers to questions posed by a Private Citizen about Budget actions related to improving academic performance.

Academic Performance Improvement (API) Initiative

Next steps in our API initiative were discussed.

Elementary School Meeting - Linda suggested requesting a two-hour sit-down meeting with Superintendent and Elementary Principal – not with Donahue. Get a tour of the Elementary School, preferably in session. Make very specific requests. We have a model from Linda's LGV EI School visit:

- What programs are you using?
- How are you training teachers?
- What is your plan for helping the poorer students?

Beth: ask who is the curriculum development person? Include them in the meeting. Tell them topics and questions in advance. They should have 1-year, 5-year plans. Mike noted they won't want to share the curriculum; there is probably little documentation.

Mike noted that we need to include the parent(s) of a school child in such a meeting. This will be challenge. Perhaps a parent who attended our March 13th Meeting would step up. We know some names of Hague parents from the Chronicle list of Honor students. Can we get any Ti parents? How about Walt Lender!

We can ask about achievement goals. We need to stay in their face – what are they doing to help kids? Likely to be a long slog – we saw no energy for change in the candidate statements and the budget shows no indication of effort in this area.

It was agreed that an Elementary meeting will be requested. Invite them to include any parents they wish. If refused, we have grounds to go to the Education Department. Letter asking for a meeting needs to come from a private citizen. **Linda, Beth, Mike will proceed to set it up; Linda will draft meeting request.** We should recruit parents to attend; check Honor Roll students as listed in the Chronicle; Josh can attend in his role as a future parent! Too late in this school year to accomplish a meeting in session; perhaps administrators would meet with us during summer. Josh suggested that perhaps BoE members Donna Wotton and Donna Wotton will help in our efforts.

Board of Education (BoE) Persistence regarding API – It was agreed we need to be persistent in our efforts to get BoE attention on improving academic performance. Questions must be submitted, written in advance and/or orally at meetings, strategically, and they need to be laser-focused. The Board needs to have the mindset that things can get better – and to be held accountable. Ask individual Board Members to take the challenge of improving achievement in specific areas. Is there even one Instructional Specialist? **A set of API questions will be developed for the June 17th BoE meeting.** Consider followup from the previous questions Nephew lamely answered.

PILOT Followup

The Essex County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) is scheduled to be at the June 17 BoE meeting. Questions need to be answered as to how it determined the terms and conditions of the PILOT agreements that now impact our school taxes. We also need to figure out how to get consideration by the BoE of Full Market Values being included in the 2025 assessments of energy projects that determine the apportionment of the school tax levy. That levy will be set in August! The Committee went into Executive Session to discuss legal aspects.

Executive Session

The next Ti BoE meeting is on June 17th at 6 PM.

The next SAC meeting will be held Thursday, July 10th, 2025 at 1:00 PM.

Adjournment - 11:24 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Bast