

**Hague School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting
Friday, 06 September 2024, 10:00AM
Town of Hague Community Center and Zoom**

Present: Joshua Patchett, Jack Bast, Rolly Allen, Kathe Allen, Linda Fusco, Peter Carney, Sandy Smith

On Zoom: Beth Barton-Navitsky

Absent: Amanda Peterson, Sally Thurston, Susan Delarm-Sandman

Meeting opened at 10:03 am

Pledge of Allegiance

Approved Minutes from 07/26 and 08/07/2024 SAC Meetings

Review of August 20th Ti CSD Board of Education (BoE) Meeting

Josh Patchett read a statement.

Eric Leerkes, as BoE Chair, responded to Josh's statement with a number of mistruths.

Peter Carney corrected the misstatements:

1. The PILOT agreements are for 30 yrs. PILOT participants pay no taxes for 15 yrs for Solar PILOT and 30 yrs for Cable PILOT; not as stated by the Town Supervisor that it was only 5 years that they pay no taxes.
2. The Chair of the BoE saying they had nothing to do with the Agreements is untrue because the Ti CSD had to sign the PILOT agreements for them to go into effect.

Mr. Leerke's negative response to Ginger's request to Zoom the BoE Meetings goes against the New York State Open Meeting Law.

Nephew in a phone conversation with Jack Bast said he agreed to a meeting with us and now he says he never agreed to meet.

Linda Fusco suggested that you always send an email to the person you had the conversation with regarding what was said and agreed to.

It was suggested, that because of the cost, we exhaust more avenues before we litigate. There seems to be no reason to talk with the State Commissioner of Education at this time.

Peter Carney will write a White Paper on the Ti PILOT agreements. The residents of Ticonderoga got a bad deal. Ticonderoga is getting \$162,000 while Putnam is getting \$553,061. The Superintendent of the Ti CSD and the Town Supervisor had to agree to these terms and sign the agreements.

It was brought up that Ticonderoga lakefront homes are assessed at half of what similar Hague homes are. It was mentioned that the Lake quality and depth is far worse in Ticonderoga than in Hague parts of the Lake. Also, a good part of Black Point Road is in the Town of Putnam and Washington County.

It was suggested that our attention should be on the quality of education. It was suggested that our tag line should be “Better Education with a Fair and Equitable Tax Policy.”

Enrollment is down in the Ticonderoga school system and yet the cost of running it keeps going up.

Even though we are part of the Ti school system, they did not pick up Hague students to go to the Silver Bay Program this Summer even though they drive through Hague to get there.

Town Board Action Points

1. Nephew should meet with us.
2. Pilot Agreement White Paper be presented
3. The Town of Hague should have a voice in PILOT agreements.
4. Ticonderoga is second to the last out of 8 schools in the District
5. Article in the October issue of the Chronicle

It was brought up by Linda that there are many perks available for Special Ed students. Many of the perks have nothing to do with education. Many parent enroll their children to get these perks even though they don't belong in a Special Ed program.

It was suggested that we invite Roger Catina, the Regent for the 4th District which we are in, to come and speak with us.

We need to have a presence at BOE Meetings. We need to stress our interest in a better education for our students. Josh and Jack should have a meeting with Scott Nephew on how to improve the quality of education for our students.

The question was once again brought up as to why, if we “own the lake” and there are docks and boathouses on the east shore, we can't collect taxes for them.

SAC Meeting Minutes – 09/06/2024

The next meeting is Thursday October 3rd at 10 am

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am

Respectfully submitted,

Kathe Allen