

**Hague School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting
Thursday, September 11, 2025, 10 am
Town of Hague Community Center and Zoom**

Present: Jack Bast, Josh Patchett, Barbara Booth, Peter Carney, Linda Fusco, and Sandy Smith in person; Beth Barton-Navitsky, Sally Thurston and Walt Lender via Zoom.

Absent: Mike Galow and John Zamrok.

Meeting opened at 10:02 am

Pledge of Allegiance

Approved minutes of 08/07/2025 meeting

Opening remarks

Jack began by saying that SAC has three clear objectives:

1. Academics
 - a. We can seek NYS Dept of Ed help
 - b. Continuing BofE efforts
2. Understanding issues with assessments
3. Seek council on standing to challenge assessments

Peter, Josh, Jack, Amanda and Mike Maxwell, Appraiser, met 09/10/2025. Peter's analysis is that there is a 20% difference between Ti and Hague assessments (which is huge for such measures) and Mike confirmed this. Suggested that we approach the State for clarification re high value properties, then approach the assessor. File FOIL to State right away re equalization, especially for the mill and National Grid. FOIL also to Ti Assessor, re how PILOTs are assessed this year. David Martucci is drafting FOILs; will potentially have legal counsel review.

Linda reported spending 45 minutes with Dr. Catania re the academic issues. He will review our letter re same. Critiqued the BoE's strategic plan as vague, with no interim goals, no process. Linda will draft a letter to NYSED P-12 Deputy about our concerns and the lack of accountability to taxpayers. The Deputy will distribute the letter and attachments (school ranking data, communications from the superintendent) to the relevant people in the Dept of Ed.

Linda sent a link re iReady to Donna Wotton, who had asked a question about it at the last meeting. Wonders if they have lexile scores to guide instruction. Linda suggested the Ti BoE visit Lake George CSD and talk to administrators about how to run it.

Discussion of educational attainment:

- Reading skills have gone down in the Ti schools over 15 years

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- There is a free book program for Title 1 schools (but eBooks aren't useful in homes without internet)
- 30% take an AP course (but few pass). Simple enrollment in AP counts for US News school ratings.
- Terrible scores on Bio regents
- AAUW supports literacy through Backpack programs

Discussion of participation in BoE meetings:

- Since questions won't be answered, try making statements / suggestions
- Coordinate our comments
- Make a persistent effort to get information
- Whether to submit questions in advance, to clerk or entire BoE
- For 09/17 BoE we should ask / talk about
 - goals for 2026 and 2027
 - teacher certification
 - lack of a real librarian
 - how taxes are calculated and costs shifted to Hague (Jack)
 - Collaboration with community, starting with clearer communication at BoE meetings (readability, audibility) (Sandy)

Next meeting 10/2/26, 10 am, later changed to 1:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Booth