

SAC Minutes October 2 2025

Present: Jack Bast and Josh Patchett in person; Barb Booth, Peter Carney, Linda Fusco, Mike Galow, and Walt Lender, via Zoom.

Absent: Beth Barton-Navitsky, Sandy Smith, Sally Thurston, and John Zamrok.

Also present in person: Hague Assessor David Martucci

Meeting opened at 1:35 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

The Minutes from the previous meeting were presented for approval and were passed with the following corrections from Peter Carney:

- The meeting with appraiser Mike Maxwell included Amanda Peterson
- The AP reference - "30% take an AP course (but few pass)" - is incorrect. More correctly: The most recent senior class size was 67 students. History and Calculus APs are offered in alternate years. 12 of 67 took the history AP exam and 6 passed; 8 of 67 took the calculus AP (note, AB level) and 8 passed (100%).

Rural Schools Association – Linda and Mike are to check that they are both paid up for 2025, and determine if they need reimbursement. The next conference is to be December 3 and 4. Linda plans to attend, but Mike will be away.

Jack thanked Josh for his attendance and support of the SAC and its dual efforts re assessments and academics.

David reported on the assessment review.

- Karen Quinn (the Northern Region Director for Real Property Taxation) responded to the FOIL request process. Open NY, NY Clearinghouse, NY data warehouse info sources. Consumer Relations Managers will help with FOIL requests.
- The State will not share PDC reports except with the subject towns; so any information we want on Ti must come from the Ti assessor, if he can be persuaded to share.
- Talked with attorney met through assessor association. He understands our issues, and will research Ti, Putnam, and Hague tax rolls.
- Article 78 vs. the State – it's too late for 2025

Next steps:

- David – will file papers with the State for reconciliation.
- Peter – the State has two options. Change the equalization rate for:
 - The town of Ti and the school district
 - Just the school district

Discussion of PILOTs:

- Jack – The Essex IDA has been severely criticized already
- Mike – there are 2 issues:
 - Did the town value the PILOTs appropriately?
 - Decision not to include full market value in apportionment.

- Peter:
 - The State's method of valuation has been deemed unconstitutional. Will be in court for another year.
 - Ti appears to under-assessed compared to Hague, and the underassessment varies systematically by property value, and \$150 million in PILOT projects are not counted.
 - Ti hits 100% equalization every year, which isn't likely.

To recap the meeting with Mike Maxwell, Mike agrees that something appears wrong with the assessments in Hague vs. Ti. David will submit two FOIL requests.

- Overall assessment values
- Treatment of PILOT projects

(David departs meeting)

Academics

Linda – during the Special Ed presentation at last BoE meeting, noticed that they are using a 40-year-old program, i.e., Saxon, for math instruction.

Linda:

- The Backpack Program will be sending home reading material with elementary kids
- Linda will be doing science at the Early Learning Center once she passes the security clearance
- Jack -our draft letter to NYSED looks good to Dr. Catania, we will refer in the letter to his review of it. We will attach the ranking tables and the White Paper. Letter will be from SAC and Supervisor. Is expected to be issued 10/03/2025.

Board of Ed meetings:

- Next one is Oct 21
- For recent special meeting we got 15 hours' notice; none of us attended
- Linda has not responded to Evan Mack's letter to her

Budget:

- Josh - SAC used \$5k of \$75k in last year's budget
- Jack - will ask for \$100k in next town budget workshop

The justification for our SAC funding from the town budget is the expectation of a very significant ROI. A \$50k one-time investment could result in \$700k annual benefit

Next meeting 11/6, 10 am.

Adjourned 2:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Booth