

# School Advisory Committee – Meeting October 3rd 10am – Minutes

Meeting opened at 3pm

All members present.

## **Agenda:**

Pledge

Work streams changes approval

Work stream reports

David Little, Rural Schools Association of NY

## **Work stream Report:**

Peter Linda and Sandy (Political) attended the September Ticonderoga school board meeting.

Sandy asked at the meeting, what programs had been initiated for the missing education from the gap of learning with COVID. The response from the principal was that they have “ais”, reading and writing workshops.

Linda has an upcoming meeting with John Donahue (Ticonderoga JR/SR High School Principal) and Scott Nephew (TCSD Superintendent).

Sally (Legal) tried to do a bit of digging into the two cases that were cited in the historic materials on the town. One is the Levittown case which was a huge litigation in New York State, and it had to do with whether New York State was in violation of its constitution and the US Constitution, in terms of the education that was being provided to poor kids in cities. When this case got to the Court of Appeals of New York they said no this is not unconstitutional. She felt this case really didn't correspond with our situation with Ticonderoga.

The second case was reference to a group of citizens who got together and hired attorney and tried to overturn the vote that happened after a merger. This case went to the Supreme Court but Sally is still doing more research on this.

## **Conversation with David Little, Rural Schools Association:**

David Little, a native of Ohio, pursued his college and law school education in the same state. However, he spent a decade working in assembly before transitioning to local government and becoming a member of the Home Rule Council for seven years under the leadership of Joe Bruno in the Senate. Concurrently, he served as the school board president at his alma mater. Later on, he departed from his role in the Senate and assumed the position of Director of Government Relations for the State School Boards Association, a role he held for 15 years. He has been working with the Rural School Association of New York for the last nine years.

Altering the boundaries of a school district is a complex undertaking. It requires approval from the State Education Department. Initially, BOCES (Boards of Cooperative Educational Services) must create a comprehensive plan, involving both your local BOCES and the relevant authorities in the area. The plan's development and agreement between these parties are essential steps. Moreover, it's crucial to note that the entire process must adhere to state regulations and should be driven by the need for educational improvement rather than financial considerations.

He noted that Rural New York has very few caucuses in either house.

In neighboring states, regional high schools are more prevalent, which is in contrast to New York. This difference can be attributed to factors such as the influence of the teachers' union and concerns about potential job losses within the state. regional High schools offer a much broader curriculum than you can provide locally.

There's a provision in the New York State Constitution that says every child in the state of New York is do a sound basic education. Okay. The highest court in the state has ruled that that sound basic education is a Regents diploma. They said if a region hit the Regents is the standard that the state sets out for children then that's what a constitutional right is. And the reason that's important is because the state has lots of legitimate spending priorities.

Next Meeting October 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 am with David Martucci Town of Hague Assessor

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Peterson