

**Hague School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 07 August 2024, 10:00AM**  
**Town of Hague Community Center and Zoom**

**Present:** Jack Bast, Linda Fusco, Susan Delarm-Sandman, Rolly Allen, Peter Carney, Kathe Allen, Jeff Sandman. Esq.

**Absent:** Amanda Peterson, Beth Barton-Navitsky, Sandy Smith, Sally Thurston

Pledge of Allegiance led by Jack Bast

**Meeting Notes**

**1. Introduction:**

- Susan introduced her son Jeff Sandman, Esq. Jeff is a practicing attorney experienced in federal prosecution and litigation. Jeff currently lives in New Orleans, LA. He grew up in Hague, returns to Hague frequently with his family, and has deep interests in Hague.

**2. Background:**

- Jeff has been briefed on the ongoing SAC activities with the Ticonderoga CSD Board of Education (BoE) by Susan.
- Peter also provided Jeff with background information in a prior telephone conversation.
- Basically, we consider we're not getting our school tax money's worth; the product needs improvement and we have no say with the BoE.
- The purpose of the meeting with Jeff was to initially consider the potential of filing a suit in order to obtain any positive action on Hague's behalf by the BoE.

**3. Discussion:**

- Jeff related that he will need to become better informed about the mechanics of state government. However, our situation is typical of that where one party has the power to tax another party that has no power. "Divorce" is a classic example.
- In such situations, questions of exploitation or oppression can be meaningful. In our local scene, are the issues political or legal? Do we want a "divorce" from Ti CSD or are we just seeking "fairness?" If fairness, how long would fairness last without legal definition? Can we expect to negotiate a "post-nuptial agreement" instead of divorce to alter the current apportionment arrangement?

- In every case, filing a lawsuit changes everything and always gets attention!
- In our case, we would need to determine who the defendant is – BoE, Ti CSD, Commissioner of NYS Department of Education, Commissioner of NYS BOCES? Who is the litigant – Town of Hague or individual resident or class action? Two counties being involved further complicates our case. All this would need to be determined.
- Potential estimate of a lawsuit:
  - Draft Complaint and Motion to Dismiss action       \$100K
  - Discovery   \$150K
  - Summary of Judgment Decisions                       \$100K
  - Trial   \$100K
- Jeff stated that he can and he will help! He will develop a vocabulary to describe what we want to do.
- Linda noted that SAC must be thinking outside the box, seeking potential paths for education improvement such as charter or regionalized schools.
- Rolly noted that our next steps need to include a major education campaign for our Hague residents, especially including our “blue cheese” population.

**Action Item**

- **Linda:** Get a copy of the archive record to Jeff.

**Meeting concluded** at 11:25 am with a big thanks to Susan and Jeff.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Bast