

School Advisory Committee (SAC) Minutes of December 4, 2025

Present: Jack Bast, Barb Booth, and Josh Patchett in person.
Peter Carney, John Zamrock, and Kathleen Coffman of NLGF via Zoom.

Absent: Beth Barton-Navitsky, Linda Fusco, Mike Gallow, Walt Lender, Sandy Smith, and Sally Thurston.

Meeting opened at 10:02 am

Pledge of Allegiance

New Business – Northern Lake George Foundation contact

Jack introduced Kathleen Coffman and invited her to tell us about NLGF.

It was formed by ex-Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance members. Focus is on youth development, workforce development, scholarships. A workforce program was developed with the Chamber of Commerce, but it did not get the needed grant. College-bound students need help preparing / applying as well as funding. NLGF plans to start giving scholarships this spring, as TRA used to do.

Kathleen's son is a TCSD senior, and she has heavily managed his high school career. The Putnam schools have some community support, but other families are taking their kids out. Administration is not responsive.

Linda Fusco has given Kathleen our White Papers.

Jack expressed hopes that we can work with NLGF / Kathleen on education at Ti schools. We are looking for an additional SAC member, perhaps from NLGF.

Kathleen is interested personally, says that Ken Parlin is overcommitted so not a likely candidate. Kathleen would expand our geographical representation, being from Putnam. She notes a pattern of domineering management in local organizations. She says across all grades there are about 30 students in the Putnam elementary school.

Jack says per one of our FOIL requests, Ti says there are 31 full time Putnam students in Ti grades 7-12. It is unclear if this includes special ed and BOCES (4 students). Peter will do a follow-up FOIL to clarify.

Peter will send our test score data to Kathleen.

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

- The acronym "AAA" should actually be AER (Alternative Equalization Rate)

Ticonderoga Assessments review

Status of FOIL requests, plan

David Martucci has sent 5 FOILs, 3 to state, 2 to Ti. Ti has passed responsibility to Essex County, so David has reissued the FOILs and is waiting for a response from the county.

Plan to oppose NYS A 8332 / S 8012 regarding real property assessments of renewable energy projects

A letter went out yesterday. The Association of Towns also opposes it.

John said he sent emails to our senate and assembly members asking them to oppose it, with no response. It has passed the Assembly (Simpson voted against) and the Senate (Stec voted for).

Academic Performance Improvement (API) mission

Follow-up to 10/03/2025 request to NYSED

We know that the NYSED Deputy Commissioner has received our letter asking for support re academics and “is taking some action,” we don’t know what. Jack will follow up with NYSED. Will also ask Donna if the BoE has heard anything.

TCSD School Board of Education (BoE) Meetings

No one attended the November meeting; minutes unhelpful.

Next meeting is December 16 at 5:30; Jack will attend.

Old Business

Membership plan

The open board seat has not yet been mentioned in the Chronicle; Jack will mention it at the next Town Board meeting again.

FOIL request for 2025-2026 student enrollment

Response was incomplete – didn’t provide Hague student numbers, but did provide Putnam. We need to file an appeal to the incompletely answered FOIL. Appeal needs to be from the Town Board. Peter must approve the Board to represent him in the appeal. Appeal must be filed within 30 school days of November 19.

Rural Schools Issues Forum, 11/24 Saratoga – Linda will report at a future meeting.

Supporting Ti boys soccer

Josh spoke with Tom Jebb about possible Hague support of soccer. Not sure if we should proceed – inconsistent with our focus on academics.

Meeting entered into Executive Session

Next meeting 1/8/26, 10 am.

Adjourned 10:56 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Booth