

## **School Advisory Committee (SAC) Minutes of January 8, 2026**

Present: Jack Bast, Barb Booth, Linda Fusco, and Josh Patchett in person;  
Peter Carney and John Zamrock via Zoom;  
Guests Kathleen Coffman of NLGF, David Martucci, and Bruce McPherson in person.

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

Meeting opened at about 1 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

The **Minutes** from the 12/04/2025 meeting were presented for review.

**FOIL request / appeal for 2025-26 student enrollment** – additional information is needed.

### **Ticonderoga Assessments review**

#### **Status of FOIL requests**

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.

NYS FOIL responses were due 12/24 – they are delayed to 1/28.

Dan Vincelette, Esq. will make out a retainer agreement, send to Josh.

Ti's Level of Assessment (LOA) number last year was about 91%. The allowed margin is +/- 5%. They declared 100%. This is a discrepancy.

The Pre Decisional Collaboration (PDC) report from Essex County is usable. Ti has no relevant information.

It was reported that NYS A 8332 / S 8012 regarding real property assessments of renewable energy projects has been signed into law by Gov. Hochul.

It was reported that the PIVOT projects have not yet paid their school taxes. Peter will FOIL about the status and consequences of non-payment.

Regarding the change of the CHPE PILOT to a Host Agreement, Legal Counsel says the Town has limited standing. We must figure out how to pursue this.

### **Academic Performance Improvement (API) mission**

Follow-up to NYSED 12/23 response to our request for support - Per Deputy Commissioner Angelique Johnson-Dingle, NYSED has no concerns about Ti academic performance. Rankings are not considered meaningful. We have no legal grounds to act. She chided us on our attitude.

We need to change tactics. See Saranac Lake Principal article re actions. Need support within Ti.

State now has "Portrait of a Graduate" goals. Could bring the community in.

Need to decouple the tax concerns from the education concerns to get anyone to listen. However, both are indicative of poor management.

Need to get Ti parents involved, have Ti be the face of the pressure. Need a communications strategy.

Jack will talk to Walt Lender about forming a new committee re education, with Ti parents. Consider inviting Laura Kerns.

### **TCSD School Board of Education (BoE) Meetings**

Review of 16 December BoE meeting - mentioned updating goals, vaguely.

Plan for Thursday January 22 meeting - ask for an update on goals.

Peter will FOIL the metrics on which the Superintendent is evaluated.

### **Old Business**

RSA / Rural Schools Association conference in Saratoga 11/24, report

Linda reported on the RSA conference. She found some of the content useful. She also went to a presentation on using AI in the schools in Glens Falls. Schools need to have a policy and a plan for AI.

### **New Business**

Meeting entered into Executive Session. In Exec Session, moved and passed Kathleen Coffman and Bruce McPherson as new members of SAC.

**Next Meeting** Thursday 2/5/26, 2:30 pm.

Adjourned 2:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Booth