

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MINUTES OF JULY 2, 2026

Present: Jack Bast, Barb Booth, Peter Carney, Linda Fusco, Mike Galow, Bruce MacPherson, Josh Patchett, Sandy Smith, and John Zamrok in person.

Zoom not available due to internet problems.

Absent: Walt Lender and Sally Thurston.

Meeting opened at 10:02 am with the pledge of allegiance.

The Minutes from the June meeting were approved.

Discussion

Ti Assessments Review

Status of Equalization Rate Application

Our application received a staff denial. We will send a rebuttal today. It is in progress. Deadline is tomorrow. We believe they considered the wrong point in deciding to deny our application. (We are arguing that Ti and Hague assess differently, thus that an equalization rate is needed. They have denied based on deciding that Ti assesses Ti properties well.)

Status of CHPE PILOT-to-Host Agreement

CHPE tried to energize this morning and blew up, out of service for the day.

Bruce will draft a letter to IDA board and town boards. Maybe we should send a monthly letter explaining what they should know about CHPE and its progress or lack thereof.

Bruce will draft an article explaining the legal risks of a host agreement vs. a PILOT agreement and that the risk of default is very real.

Status of Complaint to Controller

No response as yet.

Academic Performance Improvement (API) mission

Plan for meeting with Dr. Evan Mack

Waiting to hear back re proposed dates of August 19 or 20. Dr. Mack is speaking at SB community breakfast tomorrow.

Plan for response to Lake George Mirror article / Tony Hall

Tony Hall has called Linda back. He suggests we write him a letter to the editor about academics, emphasizing 2-3 points.

TCSD School Board of Education (BoE) Meetings

Review of 6/16 meeting

Jack asked about performance metrics for the Ti strategic plan but answer was about waiting for the state to clarify what Portrait of a Graduate is all about.

In an agenda item not pre-circulated, the board renewed the Superintendent's contract.

7 teachers have been hired to teach in areas they are not certified in. The district is supposed to be searching for certified teachers until the last minute, but the OLAS website only lists the music teacher position.

Hague student Maya Savage will be the student rep on the board this year.

Plan for July 7 BoE meeting:

Ask again about strategic plan progress, metrics.

Ask about Portrait of a Graduate – what progress is being made toward operationalizing the concept.

There will be a new board member, Katie Alexander.

New Business

Sandy has shared our White Paper with Margaret Polyhronakis (sp?) who writes about BESS and the schools on Facebook.

RSA summer conference is July 12-14. Linda and Mike will go. New RSA head knows about "community schools".

The Moriah Channel – have we seen it?

The BESS proposal in Ticonderoga is well underway, with ISO, APA, and ECIDA.

The financial aspects affect us, via school taxes, so we have reason to be involved.

We should write a letter to the Board reminding them of their fiduciary responsibility to protect us, of the 60 day window to opt out, asking to be included. From our attorney to theirs. Dan will write the letter; Jack will take it to the Town Board.

Next meeting Thursday 9/3/26, 10:00 am.

Adjourned 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Booth