

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2026

Present: Jack Bast, Barb Booth, Linda Fusco, Bruce McPherson, and Josh Patchett in person;
Beth Barton-Navitsky, Peter Carney, Kathleen Coffman, Mike Galow, and John Zamrock via Zoom;
Guest David Martucci, in person.

Absent: Walt Lender, Sandy Smith, and Sally Thurston.

Meeting opened at 2:30 pm

The Minutes from the previous two meetings (12/04/2025 and 01/08/2026) were presented for approval and were passed.

Discussion

Academic Performance Improvement (API) mission

Jack reviewed his letter to the Town Board of 1/28. TCSD uses no metrics to assess academic achievement. How are we to pursue our mission?

Josh – At least they are now talking about academics some. Jebb is pushing for metrics.. Who would they listen to? Parents?

Barb argued for the importance of language skills mastery in the early grades, as all subsequent classes depend on written material. Is there a role for community tutors? Teachers, including some from Ti elementary, ask for funding for their classrooms on sites like Donors-Choose and AdoptAClassroom. Do we want to do funding?

Linda – PTAs are typically who funds extras for the schools. We don't know if there is one – haven't heard of it.

Linda will talk to Roger Catania with Jack's summary in hand. Can he help others to succeed in the kind of environment where he succeeded? Also, does Dr. Davey of BOCES agree that Ti is not in trouble? Donna will pursue metrics with Donahue.

TCSD School Board of Education (BoE) Meetings

Plan for Tuesday, 24 February BoE meeting:

- Plan for getting to academic goals

Maybe we should talk to individual Board members? Donna, Tom Jebb, Seanna Porter. Then, when we are ready to act, come in with proposals.

Kathleen – the NLGF is not yet talking to schools about their needs. Will get to it. Need a liaison with the schools. A new committee / task force, to present our ideas.

Linda – Rural Schools Association (RSA) supports NYS's new "Portrait of a Graduate" program. But we don't know what it looks like.

Mike – a parent asking how to get their student help is hard to turn down.

Do we just assist parents of Hague's 30 kids? Show parents how to be engaged?

12 of our kids are on the honor roll, so presumably happy with what the schools are doing.

Possible resources - Newly retired Lake George CSD principal.

Possible partners - Lakeside Regional Church, Silver Bay / ELC

Next BOE meeting is 2/24 - Ask for an update on progress toward academic goals. Peter will submit a FOIL for the metrics on which Superintendent Nephew is evaluated. Peter already has his contract.

Josh will congratulate O'Brien on winning his election.

Consider inviting Laura Kearns, new Ti councilmember, to join Walt in representing Ti on SAC.

Executive Session with Dave Martucci. (no decisions)

Discussion of changing from PILOT to Host Agreement with CHPE

- PILOTs have faster / better legal rights, if things go badly
- State controller strongly opposes the change
- Clinton County and Saratoga are not changing.
- Essex IDA is wrong that CHPE is not within the Ti border
- Specifics of the agreement are unavailable (like \$s)
- A 30-year project has a realistic chance of bankruptcy. Utility companies wouldn't risk it, so it is being done by a private equity firm.

Need to file comments with the Essex IDA before they vote. Any help from Stec and Simpson?

Hague has passed a resolution opposing it. Ti BoE has already agreed to it. Ti town and Essex IDA have not yet acted.

Next meeting Thursday 3/5/26, 2:30 pm.

Adjourned 3:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Booth