

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2026

Present: Jack Bast, Barb Booth, Bruce McPherson, and Josh Patchett in person;
Peter Carney, Linda Fusco, Mike Galow, Walt Lender, and John Zamrock via Zoom.
Absent: Sandy Smith and Sally Thurston.

Meeting opened at 10:00 am with the pledge of allegiance.

Discussion

Ti Assessments Review

Equalization Rate Application: the parties have acknowledged receipt.

CHPE PILOT-to-Host Agreement: We have sent reminders to the entities that haven't yet decided. There is disagreement about whether unanimity is required in order to change to a Host Agreement.

Complaint to Comptroller: is getting finalized.

Dan Vincelette, Jack, Bruce are working on final edits.

Sally is drafting a resolution for the Hague Board to act on at June 9 meeting, then issue on June 10.

This complaint is a major step and will not help our relationship with the BoE.

Academic Performance Improvement (API) mission

Dr. Evan Mack meeting: Barb is working on agenda and notes. Small SAC presence: Jack, Barb, Mike. Barb will invite Evan to speak with us, with a list of dates we are available. Bruce noted that Evan will be addressing the June Community Breakfast at Silver Bay in early June.

5/22 Mirror article re education financing:

Peter described it as not untrue but missing the bigger picture.

Linda noted that the article was unsigned, and that the Mirror doesn't do confrontation. Will call Tony Hall.

John noted that on a previous occasion when asked to correct an article the Mirror response was "we've already addressed that subject".

Jack reported that a personal contact who substitute teaches in the Ti schools says there is much use of substitutes in Ti schools, that no lesson plans are left, and so it is just babysitting.

TCSD School Board of Education (BoE) Meetings, budget

Discussion of budget vote:

The over-tax-cap budget passed with less than 62% of the vote (60% required).

Josh noted that just 111 Hague voters voted, with none (except SAC members) noticed at the budget meeting. The required notice of the election reached several of us 1 day before the vote. Jack said there were 84 Hague votes last year.

Plan for June 16 BoE meeting:

Jack will attend.

Possible questions:

- What performance metrics do they use?
- How to volunteer in the schools? (policy posted on website is very old.)

Notes from last BoE meeting:

New music teacher salary is \$47k. With benefits the cost is \$95k.

What does “electives” teacher teach? Nephew says we’ll see what we get, hoping for business.

Old Business

Jack reported that Maureen Streeter will not be joining SAC, citing health issues. She could still be a resource for us, though 10 years out of the schools.

New Business

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) moratorium discussion:

BESS’s relevance to SAC appears to be largely financial. If they don’t pay the full tax rate then Hague and Ti property owners pay more. If the project value is not included in the apportionment calculation then Hague property owners pay more.

Peter noted that the state is pushing BESS developments. 39 such projects have gone to the regulatory body, ORES, and all have been approved. In the law there are short windows of time to influence the project, e.g. “notice of provision” for opting out of PILOT – 60 day window. We need to get on the list for notification. There are provisions besides the PILOT. Need to get Dan Vincelette on it after the Comptroller complain. Hague needs to get educated about BESSes right now, pass an opt out.

Mike pointed out that the Essex County IDA can refuse to accept the project as a PILOT. This is the pressure point, as the BoE won’t take separate action (though they have the right to). It’s for the good of all to get the best terms possible.

Josh observed that we shouldn’t talk about this until it’s moving forward, as it just feeds the narrative that “all Hague cares about is money”.

Linda said maybe the Property Owners of Silver Bay should do a seminar on BESSes.

Next meeting Thursday 7/2/26, 10:00 am.

Adjourned 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Booth