

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

Present: Jack Bast, Barb Booth, Bruce McPherson, and Josh Patchett in person; Peter Carney, Walt Lender, Sandy Smith, and John Zamrock via Zoom.

Absent: Beth Barton-Navitsky, Linda Fusco, Mike Galow, and Sally Thurston.

Meeting opened at 2:32 pm

The Minutes from the February 5 meeting were presented for approval and were approved.

Discussion

Ti Assessments Review

Dan Vincelletti sent our appeal out Friday, based on Peter's work. He feels we have a legitimate claim regarding apportionment. We must not discuss this outside the extant written statement. Discussion of posting the statement on town website. No decision.

Dan Vincelletti will look at the change from PILOT to Host Agreement and by Monday will give us an opinion on what if anything we can do. We will take no action pending this opinion.

Academic Performance Improvement (API) mission

Looking for input from Beth and Linda.

Meantime, here are some comments based on Linda's recent conversation with Dr. Catania:

- Ti only tests grades 3-8 in order to get federal aid; ignores the results.
- Ti is waiting to be told how to implement Portrait of a Graduate, also what to do about AI.
- Lake Placid uses Go Fund Me to help equalize the experience of the haves and have nots.

Linda also mentioned that:

- Recent Planetarium show included many current and ex teachers in the audience
- Dr. Davey of CVES BOCES has not returned her calls.
- Lisa Sheehan(?) of Ti is active in the schools.

NLGF is fundraising for post-secondary education and the Early Learning Center.

Josh: should there be a Hague fund?

Barb presented a line chart illustrating that 3rd grade math scores are higher than all other scores in grades 3-8 math. They are also higher than English scores in all grades. Barb will follow up with 3rd grade teachers in hopes of finding that there is a path to replicating this success.

TCSD School Board of Education (BoE) Meetings

At the Feb Board of Education meeting, we were shut down re the PILOT-to-Host Agreement change, as the Board was going into executive session right when we brought that up.

The Essex County IDA meeting did not discuss this change.

The towns of Ticonderoga, Moriah, and Crown Point have not approved the change, but most school districts have.

Plan for March 17 BoE meeting:

- Plan for getting to academic goals – are there interim goals?
- Mention something about PILOT-to-Host Agreement change, depending on advice from Vincelette.

Peter reported that:

- 4 of 5 projects have now paid their PILOTs, but only one was on time. Peter will draft a letter re late payment of taxes to be sent to each Board member.
- TCSD must report exemptions to the State Controller each year. More than 25% of exemptions are related to the solar PILOTs. If there is a penalty the details are unclear.

Discussion of changing from PILOT to Host Agreement with CHPE

- There must be unanimous approval by the 13 entities involved. Six have approved so far.
- Whatever income is lost in the change from PILOT to Host Agreement must be made up by other ratepayers.
- Our statement about Equalization Rates will be in the Town Meeting Notes, and the Hague Chronicle.

Consider Hague candidates to run for the Board of Education.

Next meeting Thursday 4/2/26, 2:30 pm.

Adjourned 3:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Booth