

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2026

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

Guest: Maureen Streeter

Absent: Beth Barton-Navitsky, Walt Lender, and Sally Thurston.

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

The Minutes from the April 13 meeting were approved.

Discussion

Ti Assessments Review

Dan Vincelette reports nothing new.

CHPE PILOT-to-Host Agreement:

Bruce will proceed to draft a communique opposing a CHPE host agreement to share with relevant towns / other entities.

Academic Performance Improvement (API) mission

Discussion of lack of apparent interest from parents of students. Low attendance at board meetings. Students and current teachers don't even come to planetarium programs. However Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) proposal is getting attention; a public hearing is planned.

Superintendent has stated a goal of community engagement, but the last time someone from the schools came to a Hague meeting was 2019. Their legal counsel advises them not to engage with us

Peter noted that the BoE just hired a non-certified music teacher for next year, and Ti has one of the highest rates of teachers not certified in the subject they are teaching of the 20 nearby schools we follow.

Dr. Catania says Ti has access to \$100,000 to start a Community Schools project to support most vulnerable students. If they are doing this, there should be a district liaison. Laurie Cossey might know. There would also be a Curriculum Coordinator.

Some districts are using the CS model to work up a Portrait of a Graduate (PG) plan. The Ti principal is waiting for the state to dictate PG requirements.

TCSD School Board of Education (BoE) Meetings, budget

On the 4th Josh met with the Superintendent and HS Principal. They want to get info out about the over-tax-cap budget.

Jack noted that the “extras” in the budget may be a response to our pressure re academic achievement. The “electives” teacher role is totally undefined.

Need to define and measure objectives. Money may improve outcomes. We don’t object to money well spent. Need to connect expenses to academic objectives for accountability.

Linda noted that Ti has a 50% failure rate on the Regents exams required for graduation. Maureen said “extra credit” work can be used to qualify for graduation despite Regents failures.

Josh noted that in a time of rising prices, rising school costs will stress household budgets even further.

Peter pointed out that the audit report for last year says there are \$4 million in reserve funds. Which could be used toward the strategic plan.

Plan for May 12 BoE meeting:

- This is the budget public hearing
- CS, PG – what are they doing and who is involved?

Old Business

Barb reported on contact with Evan Mack. Will draft a response and run it by committee before sending.

New Business

Beth will be resigning from the committee but will stay on as a consultant.

Maureen Streeter introduced herself: Ti resident, retired in 2016 from teaching art in Ti schools, experience developing children’s programs.

Said there was a PTA in Ti elementary, but it is not now active.

Next meeting Thursday 6/4/26, 10:00 am.

Adjourned 11:46 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Booth