

## Panel

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according to a press release from the school district. Slater works for the law firm Harter, Secrest & Emery, while Kennedy works for the law firm Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear. Both law firms are in Buffalo.

Others on the committee:

■ Dan Drake, town of Southport Recreation and Youth Services director.

■ James Gillett, Cornell University ecotoxicology professor.

■ Thomas G. Kump, Chemung County Department of Health environmental health specialist and former school board member.

■ James Palmer, parent and school district employee.

■ Tony LaSorte, Schuyler-Chemung-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services health and safety officer.

■ Dr. Pat Meinhardt, an environmental medicine specialist from Arnot Ogden Medical Center.

■ Julie Patros, parent.

■ Tim Tobin, parent and Elmira teacher.

Southside High School sits on property that was home to manufacturing facilities for more than 100 years. The state began investigating possible environmental hazards in April after parents raised concerns about a seemingly elevated rate of cancer among current and former Southside students.

The state departments of Health and Environmental Conservation took air, soil and water samples at the school in the spring and released findings Aug. 23 that determined that levels of contaminants at the school are not hazardous to students. Also in August, the school board voted to hire an independent contractor to perform a second round of tests for a reassuring second opinion.

Information on the advisory committee's first meeting will be released as soon as possible, Butler said. The public and members of the press will be welcome to attend.

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