

## SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY

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**Valerie M. Donnan, M.Ed.**

*Superintendent*

### Executive Board Meeting Summary

Thursday, January 24, 2019

#### Consent Agenda

Minutes, financial matters and minor policy changes were approved, along with the following personnel items:

- 👤 Requests for contracts for 2 educational support personnel (ESP) and 1 licensed staff
- 👤 Resignations/retirements by 8 ESPs and 2 licensed staff
- 👤 Request by 1 ESP to rescind resignation
- 👤 See last page of summary for list of professional vacancies

#### Recognitions

##### Student Recognition – Students Taking Academic Responsibility Seriously (STARS)

The Board recognized Tavaris Alexander, a student from Woodland District #50, who was selected as December's STARS student, but he could not attend the December meeting. Tavaris attends the SAB Program at Gages Lake School. *Pictured with Tavaris (l-r) are: Principal Kris Bacci; Teacher Amanda Lewis; and Superintendent Val Donnan.*



Employee of the Month: Special Needs Paraprofessional Rebecca Kuperman was recognized as January's employee of the month. Rebecca works in the ELS class at Meadowview School. Pictured with Rebecca are Teacher Cheryl Dalin and Superintendent Val Donnan.



### **Old Business**

- A. Request to Bid addition to Lift System: The Board authorized Administration to seek bids on a lift/transport system at the north end of Laremont School.
- B. Request to Seek Bids for Fire Alarm System at Admin Building: The Board authorized Administration to seek bids on a replacement fire alarm system at the admin building.
- C. Planning for SEDOL Future Growth: Mrs. Donnan reviewed the steps Administration has taken to explore all options to support the future growth of SEDOL programs as directed by the Board. Based on available information, Administration plans to utilize SEDOL buildings and leased space as follows for the coming school year:
  - Cyd Lash Academy: Will continue to house the high school ED Alternate Program and some vocational programs will relocate to Cyd Lash
  - Gages Lake School: Will continue to house Early Childhood through 5<sup>th</sup> grade for the ED Alternate Program, along with the entire SAB Program
  - Transition Center South: Will house the ED Alternate Program for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - John Powers Center: Will continue to house the DHH Program (ED thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade) on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor; students from Transition Center South will occupy classrooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
  - Atkinson Transition Site: Students will move to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at John Powers Center or to the Seymour Transition site, and the Atkinson lease will be terminated
  - Seymour Transition Site: Will continue to house transition students
  - Laremont School: Will continue to house ELP and LASSO-3 students. This continues to be a major concern for quality programming.

Mrs. Donnan reported that more time is needed before a recommendation can be made on Fairhaven School.

- D. Update on New Procedures for Distribution of IDEA Funds: Mrs. Donnan reported that ISBE has extended the deadline for implementation to July 1, 2020. This will provide the time needed to plan for procedural changes, training and amending the Articles of Joint Agreement. The next large group meeting of superintendents, business managers and special education directors is February 4. Mrs. Donnan noted that discussion by the audiology subcommittee continues to center on philosophical issues, and a recommendation will be sought from the large group. The subcommittee on housing is considering a base reimbursement of \$20,000 to member districts for each classroom and then a tiered system of fees based on the amount of time students are integrated into member district classes. This does change the cost, but it will make it much more fiscally accurate as far as what it really costs a member district to host a SEDOL class.
- E. O&M Assessment Update: The Board reviewed a spreadsheet Ms. Watson developed comparing the current method of determining each district's O&M assessment (50% EAV and 50% enrollment) to a possible alternate method using 1/3 EAV, 1/3 district enrollment and 1/3 SEDOL enrollment. She noted that this is not a recommendation, but is presented for discussion purposes only.

**Public Comments:** Two people addressed the Board during Public Comment. The first visitor was Mrs. Alana Stephens, a parent of a student who attends John Powers Center. Mrs. Stephens thanked the Board and Administration for listening to everyone who expressed concern about the possibility of moving the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program from John Powers Center. The second visitor was Ms. Rebecca Slye, President of the SEDOL Teachers' Union. Ms. Slye thanked the Board negotiating team for their patience and understanding and the many long and tireless hours they spent problem solving in order to reach a tentative agreement.

**Executive Board Comments:** Dr. Sefcik commended Mrs. Donnan for the additional communication she has been sending the Executive Board and Governing Board.

### **New Business**

- A. March Governing Board Meeting: The Board reviewed a draft agenda for the next Governing Board meeting tentatively scheduled for March 6. Mrs. Donnan noted that IASB is hosting its Lake Division meeting on March 13 at Wauconda High School, and she wondered if it might help attain a quorum if the Governing Board would also meet that night at Wauconda High School. Board members liked the idea. Mrs. Donnan said she would talk to Governing Board President Carey McHugh.
- B. Lakeside Renewal: The Board approved the renewal agreement with Lakeside Transportation to provide bus service for vocational work runs and mobility field trips for the 2019-20 school year at a cost increase of 3.75%. The annual amount paid to Lakeside is about \$1 million.
- C. Fund Transfer: Ms. Watson reported that a public hearing must be held on the need to transfer money from the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund. This is done annually as ISBE does not fully reimburse transportation costs. Administration plans to hold the hearing immediately prior to the February 28 Executive Board meeting.
- D. Tentative Agreement with STU: The Board reviewed a summary of the tentative agreement reached with the SEDOL Teachers' Union. The STU ratified the agreement on January 23. The Board approved the tentative agreement and recommended approval by the Governing Board at the March meeting.

**Committee Reports:** There were no committee reports. Dr. Lynch noted that a joint meeting of the Personnel and Finance Committees would be scheduled for 9:30 am on February 14.

### **Program/School Reports**

- A. Announcements / Wins
- Students at Gages Lake School participated in end of the year celebration and watched Wreck It Ralph or Cars. Level 3, 4 and 5 students participated in this special event, which is about 67% of the school population.
  - Student transition success - Three Gages Lake Students transitioned full time to their homeschool after winter break. Student from LASSO 3 transitioned to LASSO 2 full time. One Transition student is transitioning one day a week to Zion High School's Transition Program.

- Transition Classroom coaches participated in sensitivity training. The training focused on learning more about living with a disability and accommodations/modifications required.
- SAB students sang songs with their music teacher for the rest of the student body.
- The Gurnee Rotary Club Santa visited Laremont School, and each classroom received a gift.
- Active Supervision was presented to the John Powers Center paraprofessional staff by Assistant Principal Sarah Carey.
- Karen Martin's ELS class at Vernon Hills High School used QR Codes to be able to follow a pancake in a cup recipe.
- The SEDOL Foundation partnered with Warren High School and gathered over 1,500 pounds of food for the SEDOL Weekend Backpack Program.
- The following staff received \$250 *Agriculture in the Classroom* grants from the Lake County Farm Bureau: Tina Borges - Appealing to the Senses: A Garden for Students with Sensory Disorders; Deb Thomas - Growing and Cooking with Fresh Ingredients; Robin Wantoch and Sandra Halevy – Plant of the Month: Houseplants, Bamboo, Succulents and Flowering Spring Bulbs; and Mary Beth Hutting – Making a Better Place for Myself and Others: From Seed to Gift Giving.

**Closed Session:** The Board entered into closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees and the purchase/lease of property.

#### **Other Business**

- A. **Conflict of Interest Waiver:** The Board authorized Administration to enter into a Conflict of Interest Waiver Agreement with Diamond Lake District #76 as both districts are represented by Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick and Kohn and legal counsel would be needed with respect to SEDOL's possible use of Fairhaven School.

With no other business to be considered, the meeting was adjourned.

:dm – 2/6/19

#### **Professional Vacancies for 2018-19**

- 1 School Psychologist
- 1 School Psychologist Intern
- 1 School Social Worker (LASSO-3/Laremont School)
- 1 School Social Worker Intern
- 1 Certified School Nurse (Gages Lake School)
- 1 DHH Itinerant Teacher

#### **Executive Board Meeting Schedule** *SEDOL Office Bay Room unless noted otherwise*

Thursday, February 28, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 21, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 11, 2019 – 9:30 a.m. *Special Meeting to Review Tentative Budget*

Thursday, April 25, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 23, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 27, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 25, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.

#### **Governing Board Meeting Schedule** *Laremont School Gym unless noted otherwise*

~~Wednesday, March 6, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.~~ *Rescheduled for March 13 – 5:30 pm at Wauconda High School*

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.