

# SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY

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Judy Hackett, Ed.D.  
Tim Thomas, Ed.D.  
Co-Interim Superintendent

## Governing Board Meeting Summary Wednesday, December 4, 2024

### **AMENDED BUDGET HEARING**

A public hearing on the FY25 amended budget was held prior to the start of the regular meeting.

### **PLEDGE, OATH, AGENDA, and MINUTES**

Following the Call to Order/Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance by President Osmond, the Board accepted the agenda and approved the minutes.

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

1. The Board received artwork from Rebecca Slye's class at Laremont School and t-shirts from Fairhaven School in appreciation for their service to SEDOL students.
2. Employee of the Year Karen Schreck was recognized and presented on her position as Academic Specialist.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

### **SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)**

Updates to all four goals were presented by each committee. They presented goal items completed, currently working on, and next steps.

1. *Provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of students throughout the SEDOL community* (Dr. Jimenez-Captain/Ms. Carey)
  - a. Completed- weekly meetings, program description updates, curriculum surveys, onboarding data evaluated, and professional development monthly newsletter
  - b. Current- curricular, staff professional development, member district and parent needs being evaluated
  - c. Next Steps- analyze needs of program/building needs, spring and summer professional development planning, and student learner characteristics
2. *Establish an effective, equitable financial structure that best supports students and district needs* (Dr. Thomas)
  - a. Completed- reviewed connected budget development and future financial planning with steering committee and held financial planning meeting with member districts
  - b. Current- advisory committee being created with representation from member districts and keeping steering committee informed of progress
  - c. Next Steps- gather data, advisory committee to meet monthly to develop future financial model, review model with steering committee, and present model to Executive and Governing Boards
3. *Advance high standards and expectations* (Mr. Crowley)
  - a. Completed- new assistive technology procedures for evaluations and tiered service delivery model, IEP procedural manual outline, and building level crisis teams established
  - b. Current- classroom data collection survey, continue work on IEP manual, annual safety meeting
  - c. Next Steps- review classroom data collection survey results, finalize IEP manual and create professional development, and develop ongoing professional development for crisis response teams

4. *Advance effective collaborative team practices* (Dr. Hackett/Dr. Barbini)
  - a. Completed- various communication groups established, revised newsletter format/frequency, and launched new website
  - b. Current- monthly meetings, trainings, and development of program brochures reflecting vision and focus
  - c. Next Steps- continue communication plan to include parents and other stakeholders, and review feedback on communication plan

#### **FY25 AMENDED BUDGET**

The Board approved the FY25 amended budget. Dr. Johns presented contributing factors that lead to the need to amend the FY25 budget.

- For the past 5 years, tuition rates for member districts have been lower than the true costs of programming, contributing to a compounded financial impact;
- Tuition increases have ranged from 1-5% and averaged a 3.4% over the last 10 years, including the years of 8-9% inflation;
- The past few years SEDOL used ESSER funds for normal operating expenses;
- In the original FY25 budget there were several line items that did not include all the expenses in the salary, benefits and purchased services;
- Increased use of contract agencies for hard to fill positions (1.5 to 2 times the cost); and
- Effective recruiting/hiring changes resulted in highest staffing levels (97%) since COVID

Dr. Johns and Dr. Thomas spoke of the need for a 15-17% increase in tuition rates for FY26. This increase would be a one time increase. The Advisory and Steering Committees will work to guide proposed increases based on the tuition restructured model beginning in FY27.

#### **SEDOL 2015B/ MOODY RATING UPDATE**

Dr. Johns spoke on what is required to start the process of reinstating SEDOL's Moody rating.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**

Dr. Lind, SEDOL Executive Board President, discussed the status of the superintendent search and the recommendation to extend the contracts with Dr. Thomas and Dr. Hackett for the 2025-26 school year. The search for a superintendent would then begin in September, 2025.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Suggestions, questions/concerns, and future agenda items recommended by the Board:

- What ways can we rebuild SEDOL's reputation?
- Moving forward, is there a consistent way to make sure the budget is accurate?
- What deadlines should the Governing Board be aware of (i.e. budget, audits)?
- How can Governing Board members be more helpful and fulfill their role on the Board?
- Board members need to tap into their administrators that work with SEDOL for information/updates (superintendents, special ed directors, business managers)
- It was noted that Governing Board members participate on their own school boards and SEDOL is not always the priority when information is shared/mailed. It would be helpful to receive a monthly update including pertinent SEDOL information. This would allow updates and insight prior to SEDOL Governing Board meetings.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other items to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

**2024-25 Executive Board Meeting Schedule**

*SEDOL Office Bay Room*

Thursday, December 19, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, January 23, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, February 27, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, March 20, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, April 3, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.     *Special meeting on tentative budget*  
Thursday, April 24, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, May 22, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, June 26, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, July 24, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.

**2024-25 Governing Board Meeting Schedule**

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 4, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.