



**Judy Hackett, Ed.D.**  
**Tim Thomas, Ed.D.**  
Co-Interim Superintendents

**Executive Board Meeting Summary**  
**Thursday, January 23, 2025**

**PLEDGE AND AGENDA**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- ~ Request for Contracts for 5 educational support personnel (ESP) and 2 licensed staff
- ~ Resignations/retirements by 7 ESP and 2 licensed staff
- ~ 2 contract staff

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

**STARS January Student of the Month**

The Board recognized a student from Ms. Willkomm's classroom at John Powers Center, as the January STARS student. This student has recently started an internship with the SEDOL operations team at Laremont School and takes his job very seriously. He asks questions, listens to directions, and is eager to learn. This student takes great pride in his work and feels this type of occupation is in his future.

**Employee of the Month**

The Board recognized Ms. Lisa Winston, Social Worker and Social Work Liaison as January's Employee of the Month. Ms. Winston is an incredible asset to the social work department. She goes above and beyond and goes out of her way to make herself available to students and staff alike. She is always willing to assist where needed and inspires her so-workers to be the best that they can be.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

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

Ms. Sarah Carey, John Powers Center (JPC) Principal, shared how identified objectives of the CIP are guiding the program at John Powers Center, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Itinerants, and the Community Transition focus areas.

**CIP Goal Alignment:** SEDOL CIP Goal 1- Provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of students throughout the SEDOL community; JPC Goal 2- Improve curriculum and instruction through review and implementation; SEDOL CIP Goal 3- Advance high standards and expectations

1. Hearing Itinerant Teachers
  - a. 5 teachers work with students with hearing loss in their home schools
  - b. Provide service to 35 schools across Lake County
  - c. Work with students on advocacy, understanding their hearing loss, auditory skill development, vocabulary development, and more.
2. Community Transition

- a. Two classrooms with 25 total students
- b. Working on independence, daily life skills, and community integration
- c. Work crews
- d. Build weekly budgets, grocery shop, and cook
- e. Mentoring program with CLC and their students
  - i. Work on developing self-confidence
  - ii. Verbal, motor, and problem-solving skills

Ms. Pam Evans, Sector Supervisor and Vision Supervisor, shared how identified objectives of the CIP are guiding the program focus areas.

CIP Goal Alignment: SEDOL CIP Goal 1- Provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of students throughout the SEDOL community.

1. Vision Department

- a. 5 Teachers and 1 Orientation & Mobility professional provide services to students with mild to severe vision difficulties
- b. 115 students served throughout Lake County
- c. Enable students to function effectively in the classroom
- d. Develop skills necessary for independence
- e. Services include direct instruction, consultation, and/or curricular modifications or adaptations
- f. SEDOL hosts a vision clinic which provides other services and resources for our families
- g. Staff participated in Vision State Leaders

2. Sector Programs

- a. Programs consist of: LASSO1 (Learning Opportunity and Social Skills Opportunity), LASSO 2, TAB (Teaching Appropriate Behaviors), ELS (Educational Life Skills), and LASSO EC (Early Childhood).
- b. 85 staff members
- c. 137 students with 7 transitioning back to district programs in FY25 and 15 in FY26
- d. 70 students mainstreaming with hosting districts
- e. 9 member district buildings currently hosting SEDOL sector programs

**OLD BUSINESS**

FY23 Audit

Ms. Allard provided an update to the Board regarding the status of the FY23 audit. SEDOL should be receiving the audit review by next week and will be able to finalize soon after, the FY24 audit would then begin.

D75/120 Update

Dr. Hackett and Dr. Thomas discussed that with ongoing collaboration with member districts and the expansion of the financial/tuition committees, and the positive steps to address SEDOL's fiscal structures, D75/120 rescinded their letter of withdrawal from the SEDOL cooperative in December, 2024.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Business Office Financial Status Update

Ms. Allard discussed that she is evaluating costs on health insurance to lower the cost without reducing the benefits. She also discussed timelines for Skyward implementation. Financial applications would begin July 1, 2025 and payroll and human resources would begin January 1, 2026. With the decision to use manual implementation, the timelines have shifted from the original schedule and will provide a smoother transition.

Fairhaven School Bid Contracts

Dr. Johns provided details to the January 17th bid opening for the Fairhaven School projects. The four bids received for roof, window, and rooftop unit replacement were opened and reviewed. Efraim Carlson Construction Company, Inc. came in the lowest at \$1,466,800.00. The Board approved this contract.

Cybersecurity Contract

Dr. Barbini provided the Board with an update on the increasing phishing SEDOL has been experiencing since October, 2024. KnowBe4 will provide cybersecurity training for staff and phishing defense. The Board approved the 3-year contract (2025-2027) in the amount of \$36,047.94 (\$12,015.98 per year).

March Governing Board Meeting

The Board reviewed the agenda for the March 5, 2025 meeting.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board entered into closed session to discuss:

The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Possible Termination

The Board approved the termination of Holly Reimann for job abandonment effective January 6, 2025.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports

**INFORMATIONAL**

1. SEDOL Foundation Events

- Ping Pong for the Kids- February 2 at Mickey Finn's in Libertyville
- Laremont Trivia Night- March 15 at Lehmann Mansion in Lake Villa
- Dinner Dance- April 26 with a Kentucky Derby theme
- Pucks for Autism- June 20-22

2. Upcoming Events

**January:**

Community Blood Drive- GLS Community Rm 1.29. 1-5 pm

**February:**

SEDOL Foundation Ping Pong for Kids- 2.1

**March:**

Laremont/Foundation Trivia Night - Lehmann Mansion 3.15

**April:**

Miles of Smiles Dentist- FH, JPC 4.14

Miles of Smiles Dentist- GLS 4.15

Healthy Kids Week- John Powers 4.21 - 4.25

SEDOL Foundation Dinner Dance- TBD 4.26

3. Program Highlights

- SEDOL Parent Forum "An Introduction to Federal and State Benefits for People with IDD in Illinois" was very successful and well attended.
- ISBE Listening Session w/Executive Director Dr. Nakia Douglas was hosted by Dr. Kelly Hartweg in D128.

- Tuition Restructuring Advisory Committee met January 7th with discussion on roles and processes for decision making. This committee will meet again February 4, 2025.
- The Tuition Restructuring Steering Committee will meet January 23rd and review the Advisory Committee notes and discuss
- PA 103-0644- SEDOL completing the application process for each program to submit to ISBE. Most SEDOL day programs qualify for reimbursement. Discussion and updates will be provided at the IAASE conference February 25th.
- Dr. Hackett and Dr. Thomas met with staff at Fairhaven School on January 22nd. They provided an update on SEDOL with a question/answer session.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. McHugh shared that Superintendent Wilm from D118 will be retiring at the end of this school year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**2024-25 Executive Board Meeting Schedule**

*SEDOL Office Bay Room*

- Thursday, February 27, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, March 20, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, April 3, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.      *Special meeting on tentative budget*
- Thursday, April 24, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, May 22, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, June 26, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, July 24, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.

**2024-25 Governing Board Meeting Schedule**

*Gages Lake School Community Room*

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