

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, March 5, 2025

PLEDGE, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR GOVERNING BOARD OFFICERS

Information was presented regarding the need to appoint three Governing Board members to a nominating committee to develop recommendations for the offices of Governing Board President and Secretary. The committee should make its recommendations known to Governing Board members 30 days prior to the June meeting. Governing Board members were asked to consider serving on the nominating committee.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD

Information was presented regarding the need to establish a nominating committee to recommend appointments to the Executive Board. The committee is composed of one Governing Board member, two Executive Board members and the Regional Superintendent of Schools. The committee should make its recommendations known to Governing Board members 30 days prior to the June meeting. Governing Board members were asked to consider serving on the nominating committee.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Jimenez-Captain shared that two weeks ago, Mr. Brian Sonders, Cyd Lash Academy Art Therapist, hosted a student art show where visitors were able to come and vote on their favorite pieces. The top ten pieces were then entered into the CAAEL art show. Five students placed and three students took first place in their respective categories.

SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

Dr. Hackett discussed the Mid-Year Report which has been presented to staff and shared with member districts. This report was included in Board members agenda packets and includes updates to each of the four goals. [View report here.](#)

Administration then presented current updates to all four goals:

Goal 1: Provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of the students throughout the SEDOL community. (Dr. Jimenez-Captain)

- Gages Lake School (GLS): Implementation of the Data Den where staff take data daily & meet every 6 weeks. Their focus is on problem solving based on the student's tier. Each tier is determined by the type of referrals, where interventions are implemented based on the observed behavior.
- Cyd Lash Academy (CLA): There has been a drop in middle school behaviors from 2nd to 3rd quarter. This is due in part to the implementation of a block schedule where students rotate classes, additional paraprofessionals, certifies OI staffing, and an additional administrative support.
- Laremont School: Revamped Unique curriculum and is an alternate assessment used quarterly now instead of monthly for EC-12 based on student needs. Teachers also implemented a benchmarking tool to assist in measuring student progress. With these changes, 86% of students in the 2nd quarter made progress.met benchmark.

- John Powers Center (JPC): Implemented new Bridges math program. Students are showing consistent growth in a short amount of time across MAP math scores.
- Fairhaven School (FH): Implemented Data Dens and meets 2-3 times a week. Student data is reviewed quarterly across academics and behaviors. Interventions based on the data are implemented and trialed. The addition of the Nest has assisted in decreased behaviors.
- Sector Programs: The goal is to return students to their home school districts as soon as they are ready.
- Regional Safe School Program (RSSP): Interventions using positive reinforcements and incentives demonstrate improvement in behavior and academic gains.
- Prevocational Program: The goal is to have all high school and older students participate in vocational services. Data shows most programs increasing.

Goal 2: Establish an effective equitable financial structure that best supports students and district needs. (Dr. Thomas) The current focus of this committee is tuition restructuring with the implementation of an advisory committee and a steering committee.

- The Tuition Advisory Committee consists of twenty-five individuals from our member districts and include business officials and special ed coordinators. This committee meets monthly and has the task of creating a draft of a new tuition billing structure. This draft will be shared with the Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee consists of nine member district superintendents. This committee meets every other month and their task is to review the progress of the advisory committee. They will review the recommended draft tuition plan from the Advisory Committee, make changes or adjustments, and forward to the Executive Board.
- Executive and Governing Boards: the Executive Board will review the plan and if in agreement, recommend forwarding to the Governing Board for approval.

The goal for SEDOL administration is to have two-thirds of our member districts in agreement with the new plan.

Goal 3: Advance high standards and expectations. (Mr. Crowley)

- Committee recently shared the first draft version of the IEP Procedural Manual with SEDOL administrators and is welcoming feedback.
- Currently analyzing survey data collected on “data collection tools at SEDOL”.
- Data shows SEDOL has provided 186 professional development sessions so far between August - December.

Goal 4: Advance effective collaborative team practices. (Dr. Hackett) The current focus of this committee is to advance SEDOL Communication.

- Dr. Barbini guides the SEDOL Communication Committee. New members are continually added as needed to address specific communication needs.
- Currently in the process of developing a comprehensive SEDOL communication plan.
- Implemented a new SEDOL website.
- Rebranding SEDOL to share growth, goals, and accomplishments aligned to SEDOL’s mission/vision.

All goal steps will most likely not be completed by the end of the school year, however, they will continue to be worked on moving into next school year. A final update on these four goals will be shared in June.

D75/120 UPDATE

Last spring, Mundelein Districts 75 and 120 shared their intent to withdraw from SEDOL. In December, the SEDOL administration received a letter from D75 and D120 rescinding their notice to withdraw acknowledging that there is still work to be done, however, SEDOL is moving in the right direction.

FINANCE UPDATE

Dr. Johns updated the Board on the following:

- FY23 SEDOL audit is near completion. Once ISBE replies with ESSER requirements, the audit will be complete.
- SEDOL anticipates a positive resolution regarding ESSER expenditures in collaboration with ISBE representatives and is expecting to have to repay some of the funds back.
- SEDOL anticipates an accurate FY23 Fund Balance.

- Anticipated FY24 audit completion by the end of current fiscal year.
- Financial system changes will provide greater assurance and transparencies.

POST- ISSUANCE TAX COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR THE SERIES 2015-B BONDS

Dr. Johns shared that the post-issuance tax compliance report is a report that must be made every year in order to remain in compliance with reporting requirements for the Series 2015 Bonds.

FILING FINANCIAL INFORMATION WITH EMMA FOR THE SERIES 2015-B

Dr. Johns shared that the filing of financial information with the Electronic Municipal Marketing Access (EMMA) is a report that must be made every year in order to remain in compliance with reporting requirements for the Series 2015 Bonds.

CO-INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACTS

The SEDOL Executive Board recommended the Board approve 1-year contracts for SEDOL Interim Superintendents Dr. Judy Hackett and Dr. Tim Thomas effective July 1, 2025. The Board approved their contracts.

OPEN FORUM

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

- What is the process for hiring a new superintendent?
Dr. Lind replied that search firms would be reviewed and one selected to start the process. They would collect information from SEDOL focus groups. A survey would be created and shared with these focus groups and collaboration would occur to discuss desired qualifications for the new superintendent. The search firm would then interview candidates and narrow down the field. Interviews would then begin with members from the focus groups and SEDOL stakeholders. The Executive Board would then recommend a candidate to the Governing Board for approval. At this time, search firms have not yet been reviewed.
- What about the CSBO position?
Dr. Lind replied that Dr. Johns and Ms. Allard will be asked to continue next year unless a qualified business official is secured. This is a difficult position to fill as the pool of qualified applicants is limited.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

:sm 3/6/2025

2024-25 Executive Board Meeting Schedule

SEDOL Office Bay Room

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, June 4, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.