

SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY

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Judy Hackett, Ed.D.
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Co-Interim Superintendents

SEDOL GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

December 4, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET

It should be noted that a public hearing on the amended budget for the 2024-2025 school year was held prior to the Governing Board meeting. The hearing was called to order at 6:50 p.m. and closed at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:01 p.m., a quorum being present, President Osmond called the meeting of the SEDOL Governing Board to order on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at Gages Lake School in Gages Lake, Illinois. The following Executive Board members were in attendance: Ms. Joanne Osmond, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Odie Pahl, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Dr. Lynn Glickman, and Dr. Michael Karner.

ROLL CALL

Governing Board Members Present

Mr. Alberto Segura, D1	Mr. Michael Engle, D73
Mr. Fred Skeppstrom, D24	Mr. David Becker, D76
Mr. Josh Cornwell, D34	Mr. Shawn Killackey, D79
Ms. Denise Quezada, D36	Mr. Justin Parker, D102
Ms. Sarah Ives-Brezinski, D37	Mr. Scott Jewitt, D116
Ms. Vivian Kueter, D38	Ms. Carey McHugh, D118
Ms. Joanne Osmond, D41	Ms. Laura Mellon, D120
Dr. Stephen Mack, D46	Mr. Tony DeMonte, D121
Ms. Odie Pahl, D56	Ms. Kathy Kusiak, D124
Ms. Emily Savino, D68	Ms. Liz Wiczer, D127
Mr. Stephen Sticklen, D70	Ms. Cara Benjamin, D128

Governing Board Members Absent

Ms. Anne Fuson, D3	Mr. Eric Billittier, D75
Ms. Denise Lear, D6	Ms. Cynthia Collins, D117
Ms. Heather Devine, D33	Ms. Patricia Stephen, D126
Ms. Gari Matsey, D50	Open Seat, D187
Ms. Rita Benavides, D72	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Osmond asked everyone to stand and join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Motion to Accept Agenda

Mr. Shawn Killackey, D79 moved the agenda be accepted as presented; seconded by Mr. David Becker, D76.

<u>VOICE VOTE:</u>	Ayes:	Districts 1, 24, 34, 37, 38, 41, 46, 56, 68, 70, 73, 76, 79, 102, 116, 118, 120, 121, 124, 127, 128
	Nays:	None
	Absent:	Districts 3, 6, 33, 36, 50, 56, 72, 75, 117, 126, 187

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to Approve Minutes

Mr. Scott Jewitt D116, moved the public session minutes from the August 7, 2024 meeting be approved as presented; seconded by Mr. Mike Engle, D73.

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u>	Ayes:	Districts 1, 24, 34, 37, 38, 41, 46, 56, 68, 70, 73, 76, 79, 102, 116, 118, 120, 121, 124, 127, 128
	Nays:	None
	Absent:	Districts 3, 6, 33, 36, 50, 56, 72, 75, 117, 126, 187

MOTION CARRIED

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.

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u> Ayes:	Districts 1, 24, 34, 37, 38, 41, 46, 56, 68, 70, 73, 76, 79, 102, 116, 118, 120, 121, 124, 127, 128
Nays:	None
Absent:	Districts 3, 6, 33, 36, 50, 56, 72, 75, 117, 126, 187

MOTION CARRIED

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/emailed. 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 at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sara Martinez
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

_____, Ms. Joanne Osmond, President of the Board

_____, Dr. Stephen Mack, Secretary of the Board