

**SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY**  
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**Judy Hackett, EdD**  
**Tim Thomas, EdD**  
Co-Interim Superintendents

**Executive Board Meeting Summary**  
**Thursday, May 22, 2025**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing on the interfund transfers was held prior to the start of the regular meeting.

**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 matters, and closed session minutes/recordings were approved along with the following personnel items:

- ~ Request for Contracts for 1 educational support personnel (ESP) and 4 licensed staff
- ~ Resignations/Retirements by 8 ESP and 4 licensed staff
- ~ Increase/Decrease in Contract for 1 ESP staff
- ~ Amended Employment Recommendations for 2025-26

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

**STARS Student of the Month**

The Board recognized a student from Ms. O'Rourke's classroom at John Powers Center as the May STARS student. This student has made incredible progress this school year. He loves to learn new things and is kind and respectful. He is a great role model and is always patient and encouraging when working with other students.

**Employee of the Month**

The Board recognized Ms. Sammie Magid, John Powers Center Teacher, as May's Employee of the Month. Ms. Magid demonstrates excellence in teaching, especially in her work with students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Students are empowered to grow as confident, independent learners. Ms. Magid has also taught sign language classes to help bridge communication gaps. She goes above and beyond to help staff and students and her dedication is felt throughout the building.

**Introduction of New Director of Human Resources**

Ms. Sarah Carey was welcomed as the new Director of Human Resources for the 2025-26 school year.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

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

Dr. Matthew Barbini, Director of Innovation and Technology, along with Lyn Edwards, Speech/Language Pathologist, and Sandra Callahan, Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant, shared the work of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Pilot Committee and the uses of AI in education.

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

Dr. Barbini presented examples of how AI can assist educators in the following areas: lesson/therapy planning, personalized learning, behavioral, social, and other supports, and communication assistance. He stated that AI is not a replacement for educators and that before using AI-generated materials, educators must verify accuracy, check for bias, and assess appropriateness. Dr. Barbini and the committee, who represented multiple disciplines throughout SEDOL, piloted three AI tools (Magic School, Drift, and Gemini). Of the three, Magic School was selected as the preferred tool and will be accessible by staff for use in the 2025-26 school year. Gemini, which is a Google based AI tool, will also be available for the 2025-26 school year. Professional development and how to support student use of AI trainings will be available for staff.

Ms. Edwards shared how AI has helped her to adapt lesson plans to support all students. The efficiency at which creative, customizable instructional materials can be created, allows more relevant and engaging lessons than what was previously possible. This allows students more options to interact and participate.

Ms. Callahan shared how AI has helped her department create individual and group activities. AI has also helped provide specific IEP goal material, staff/student device support, and individualized student social interaction plans.

The pilot committee all agreed that AI will help educators in a positive way and help provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of students throughout SEDOL.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **FY23 and FY24 Audit Updates**

Ms. Allard shared that the FY23 audit should be coming to the Board at the June 26, 2025 meeting. She also shared that the FY24 audit should go much quicker.

### **Resolution Authorizing Interfund Transfers**

The Board adopted the resolution authorizing interfund transfers from the Operations & Maintenance Fund to the Education Fund in the amount of \$3,000,000; from the Operations & Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund in the amount of \$3,250,000; and from the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund in the amount of \$1,000,000.

### **Proposed Revisions to the SEDOL 2025-26 Calendar**

The following changes were approved by the Board for the 2025-26 School Calendar.

- The end of year date was changed from May 29th to May 27th.
- The end of 1st and 2nd quarters were adjusted to nine weeks each and the 4th quarter updated to May 27th.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Extended Collective Bargaining Agreement with STU**

Dr. Wojcik provided proposed changes/additions to the STU contract extension. The Executive Board approved the proposed extended agreement and recommended Governing Board final approval at the June 4, 2025 meeting.

### **Change Order Approval**

The Board approved the Intelli-Building Controls & Solutions Deduct Change Order 001 for the Cyd Lash Academy HVAC Replacement Project in the amount of (\$2,105.29).

### **Food Service Extended Contract**

The Board approved a 1-year food service contract extension with Organic Life for the 2025-26 school year for an estimated amount of \$295,940.44. This is a 3.6% increase from 2024-25.

### COPS Grant Application

The Board approved SEDOL to submit a grant application for the COPS School Violence Prevention Program.

### Contract Extension with Net56

The Board approved a 1-year contract extension with Net56 to provide break/fix, networking, and disaster recovery services in the amount of \$564,717.36.

### FOIA

On May 1, 2025, SEDOL received a FOIA request from Ian Barney from Barney Hammond LLP. This request was denied on May 8, 2025 as the request sought student records concerning an individually identifiable student.

On May 2, 2025, SEDOL received a FOIA request from Ian Barney from Barney Hammond LLP seeking a settlement agreement in a civil case involving SEDOL and an individually identifiable student. This request was granted in part and denied in part on May 9, 2025.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board entered into closed session to discuss:

1. 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.
2. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal.
3. The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students.
4. Collective bargaining matters, collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### Request for Non-Member District Placement

The Board approved continued placement of a Lake Zurich D95 student in the Laremont Early Childhood Exploring, Learning, and Participating (ELP) program for the 2025-26 school year.

### **INFORMATIONAL**

<b><u>Retiree</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Years</u></b>
Tracy Adams	Teacher	27
Ann Beres	Paraprofessional	16
Tina Borges	Teacher	36
Sandra Callahan	COTA	35
Ronnie Carbonara	Teacher	27
Cheryl Dalin	Teacher	23
Kim Eden	Teacher	30
Pam Evans	Supervisor	34
Jim Glazer	Teacher	21
Jihye Jonas	Paraprofessional	19
Char Komperda	Paraprofessional	30
Chris Middy	Paraprofessional	25
Susie Staranowicz	Administrative Assistant	38
Lisa Winston	Social Work	26
Joe Winters	Teacher	30
Anne Zanarini	Teacher	36

*This is a combined total of 453 years of service!*

**SEDOL Foundation Events**

- Pucks for Autism - June 20-22
- Golf Invitational - September 8
- 5K Run/Walk - September 13
- One Special Night - November 8

**Upcoming Events**

May:

Retirement Ceremony	GLS Community Rm	5.22.25
Laremont Promotion/Graduation	Laremont School	5.23.25
Fairhaven Promotion/Graduation	Fairhaven School	5.23.25
JPC DHH 8th Grade Graduation	Vernon Hills HS	5.27.25
Lynn Byron Memorial Bench Commemoration	Millburn School	5.28.25
JPC DHH High School Graduation	Grayslake North HS	5.29.25

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

No Comments

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**2024-25 Executive Board Meeting Schedule**

*SEDOL Office Bay Room*

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, June 4, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

