

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY**

18160 W Gages Lake Road, Gages Lake, Illinois 60030-1819

847-548-8470 Fax 847-548-8472 VP 224-207-8476

[www.sedol.us](http://www.sedol.us)

**Judy Hackett, Ed.D.**

**Tim Thomas, Ed.D.**

*Co-Interim Superintendents*

### **Minutes**

#### **SEDOL EXECUTIVE BOARD PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING**

**Thursday, May 22, 2025**

**Board Members Present:** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Board Members**

**Late:**

**Board Members Absent:** Dr. Lynn Glickman

**Staff Members Present:** Dr. Tim Thomas, Dr. Yesenia Jimenez-Captain, Dr. Laura Wojcik, Mr. Matthew Crowley, Ms. Sara Martinez, Dr. Judy Hackett, Dr. Stephen Johns, and Ms. Becky Allard

**Staff Members**

**Late:**

**Guest:**

**A public hearing on interfund transfers was held from 8:20 - 8:30 a.m.,  
prior to the start of the regular meeting.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL (Dr. Lind)**

The regular meeting of the SEDOL Executive Board was called to order at 8:30 a.m. on May 22, 2025, at the Administration Office in Gages Lake, IL.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Dr. Lind)**

**3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Lind)**

Motion to Accept the Agenda - VOICE VOTE

*Moved by:* Ms. Carey McHugh

*Seconded by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Lind)**

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda - ROLL CALL VOTE

*Moved by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

*Seconded by:* Ms. Odie Pahl

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

##### 4.1 Minutes

Public and closed session minutes of the special meeting on April 22, 2025 and the public and closed session minutes of the regular meeting on April 24, 2025.

[Minutes- Apr 22 2025.pdf](#) 

[Minutes - Apr 24 2025.pdf](#) 

##### 4.2 Financial Matters

Paid Accounts Payables:

[FY25 May Executive Board Meeting Summary.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Check Register - Payroll Liabilities 043025.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Check Register - Payroll Liabilities 051525.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Check Run 05-22-25.pdf](#) 


[Paid AP Check Run Over \\$8,000 05-22-25.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Manual Checks 04-17,25-25.pdf](#) 

##### 4.3 Personnel Matters

Recommend employment of the following applicants, with work assignment and start date as indicated, subject to completion of the physical examination and forms, as required by Section 24-6 of the School Code, successful completion of a criminal background investigation as required by Section 10-21.9 of the School Code, a Child Abuse Registry check, and submission of all

forms, documents, and certifications as required by law and/or requested by SEDOL for the position.

[May 22, 2025 Personnel Recommendations & Vacancies.pdf](#) 

[FY26 Recommendation for Re-Employment- Updated.pdf](#) 

[May 22, 2025 Addendum.pdf](#) 

4.4 Closed Session Minutes/Recordings

Administration recommended the minutes of closed session from the following meetings remain confidential and that all previously reviewed minutes remain closed. In addition, the administration recommends the destruction of verbatim recordings for the following closed session meetings.

[Closed Session Minutes-Recordings Dates.pdf](#) 

**5. RECOGNITION (Dr. Hackett)**

5.1 STARS Students

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.

5.2 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.

5.3 Introduce New Director of Human Resources

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

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT (Dr. Lind)**

There was no Public Comment.

**7. SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) UPDATE (Dr. Hackett/Dr. Thomas)**

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 training on how to support student use of AI 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.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

### 8.1 FY23 and FY24 Audit Updates - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

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 is already underway and should go much quicker.

### 8.2 Resolution Authorizing Interfund Transfer - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

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.

[Resolution Authorize Interfund Transfer.pdf](#) 

Motion to Adopt Resolution - ROLL CALL VOTE

*Moved by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

*Seconded by:* Ms. Carey McHugh

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

8.3 Proposed revision to the SEDOL 2025-26 Calendar - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Jimenez-Captain)

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 the 1st and 2nd quarters were adjusted to nine weeks each, and the 4th quarter was updated to May 27th.

[SEDOL Calendar Revised- Changes Noted.png](#) 

Motion to Approve Revision - VOICE VOTE

*Moved by:* Dr. Donn Mendoza

*Seconded by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 Extended Collective Bargaining Agreement with STU - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Wojcik/Ms. Osmond)

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.

Motion to Approve - ROLL CALL VOTE

*Moved by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

*Seconded by:* Ms. Odie Pahl

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

9.2 Change Order Approval - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

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).

Motion to Approve Intelli-Building Controls & Solutions Deduct Change Order 001- ROLL CALL VOTE

*Moved by:* Ms. Carey McHugh

*Seconded by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

- 9.3 Food Service Extended Contract - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)  
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.  
Motion to Approve Contract Extension - ROLL CALL VOTE  
*Moved by:* Ms. Odie Pahl  
*Seconded by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond  
**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl  
**Carried 7-0**
- 9.4 COPS Grant Application - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)  
The Board approved SEDOL to submit a grant application for the COPS School Violence Prevention Program.  
Motion for Approval Grant Application - VOICE VOTE  
*Moved by:* Ms. Carey McHugh  
*Seconded by:* Ms. Odie Pahl  
**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl  
**Carried 7-0**
- 9.5 Contract Extension with Net56 - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Barbini)  
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. Administration will seek future contract bids for this service in the fall.  
Motion to Approve Contract Extension - ROLL CALL VOTE  
*Moved by:* Dr. Donn Mendoza  
*Seconded by:* Ms. Carey McHugh  
**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl  
**Carried 7-0**
- 9.6 FOIA - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Wojcik)  
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.

**10. CLOSED SESSION - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Lind)**

Motion to Enter Into Closed Session - ROLL CALL VOTE

The Board entered into Closed Session at 9:38 a.m. 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.

*Moved by:* Dr. Michael Karner

*Seconded by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

Motion to Return to Public Session - VOICE VOTE

The Board returned to Public Session at 10:01 a.m.

*Moved by:* Ms. Carey McHugh

*Seconded by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

- 11.1 Request for Non-Member District Placement - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Hackett/Dr. Thomas)

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. The district will be billed based on the non-member district tuition schedule and will continue to be responsible for transportation costs and for the cost associated with any additional support needed as a result of the placement.

Motion to Approve Request - ROLL CALL VOTE

*Moved by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

*Seconded by:* Ms. Carey McHugh

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

**12. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no committee reports.

**13. INFORMATIONAL**

13.1 2024-25 Retirees

<b>Retiree</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Years of Service</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 Asst	38
Lisa Winston	Social Work	26
Joe Winters	Teacher	30
Anne Zanarini	Teacher	36

13.2 SEDOL Foundation (Ms. Subry)

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

- One Special Night - November 8

13.3 SEDOL Upcoming Events (Dr. Hackett/Dr. Thomas)

Transition Recognition Evening	Laremont	May 21	6:00 p.m.
Retirement Ceremony	GLS Community Room	May 22	4:00 p.m.
Fairhaven Graduation	Fairhaven	May 23	1:00 p.m.
Laremont Graduation	Laremont	May 23	9:30 a.m.
Governing Board Mtg	GLS Community Room	June 4	6:50 Public Hearing 7:00 Regular Mtg
JPC DHH Graduation	Vernon Hills HS Grayslake North HS	May 27 May 29	8:00 p.m. MS 7:00 p.m. HS

**14. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (Dr. Lind)**

There were no Executive Board Comments.

**15. CLOSED SESSION - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Lind)**

Motion to Enter Into Closed Session - ROLL CALL VOTE

The Board entered into closed session at 10:11 a.m. 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.

*Moved by:* Ms. Carey McHugh

*Seconded by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

Motion to Return to Public Session - VOICE VOTE

The Board returned to Public Session at 11:31 a.m.

*Moved by:* Ms. Carey McHugh

*Seconded by:* Dr. Michael Karner

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

**16. ADJOURNMENT (Dr. Lind)**

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sara Martinez  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

---

Dr. Jason Lind  
Board President

---

Dr. Judy Hackett  
Board Secretary