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



Judy Hackett, EdD Tim Thomas, EdD Co-Interim Superintendents

> Executive Board Meeting Summary Thursday, June 26, 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 and financial matters were approved along with the following personnel items:

- ~ Request for Contracts for 4 educational support personnel (ESP) and 4 licensed staff
- ~ Resignations/Retirements by 8 ESP and 5 licensed staff
- ~ Reinstatement of 2 ESP staff and 4 licensed staff
- ~ Contract staff 2 (2025-26 school year)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Building Bridges Award

Mr. Brian Sonder, Cyd Lash Academy Art Therapist, was recognized as an individual who seeks out opportunities that purposely build bridges and connections between students, programs and communities. This is essential in our work with students and it is even more importantly a critical life skills for our students. Mr. Sonders has helped shine a light on talent, recognition and celebration of the many gifts and contributions our students provide to our community. Mr. Sonders goes above and beyond everyday for his students. His students express how they feel comfortable and confident in his classroom. They are free to express themselves through their art and Mr. Sonders encourages them to embrace their creativity. A video of his students expressing their sentiment was shared.

Introduction of New John Powers Center Principal

Ms. Amy Timonen was recognized as the new John Powers Center Principal for the 2025-26 school year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Hackett provided an overview of how the process for the SEDOL Continuous Improvement Plan was developed. Recommendations from the Exceptional Learning Solutions team and SEDOL stakeholders guided the development, progress outcome, and future focus. The June 2024-25 Report which was shared with the Board via email and hard copy, reflects highlights and future focus areas to all four goals represented in the report. A copy of the report is available on the SEDOL website.

OLD BUSINESS

Final 2024-25 School Calendar

Dr. Jimenez-Captain shared with the Board that the final 2024-25 school calendar had been filed with the ROE.

Final Budget for FY26

The Board approved the FY25 final budget and that it be presented for Governing Board approval at the meeting on August 6, 2025 meeting. There were no changes from the tentative budget to the final.

- 1. The final budget be based on the cash basis, which includes Evidence-Based Funding and tuition revenues being calculated accordingly;
- 2. For final budget purposes, total expenditures in the Education Fund for FY26 be set at \$53,719,723 and that those expenditures be offset by tuition, district contractual and grant revenue, leaving a fund balance of \$8,957,473;
- 3. Total expenditures in the Operations and Maintenance Fund be set at \$3,718,226; in the Debt Services Fund at \$174,175; in the Transportation Fund at \$861,536, in the IMRF Fund at \$991,900, and Capital Projects at \$3,200,000.

Acceptance of the FY23 Audit

The Board approved the FY23 audit. Copies were shared electronically with both the Executive and Governing Boards.

FY24 Audit Update

Ms. Allard updated the Board on the FY24 audit and informed them that it is anticipated to be completed August 2025.

Summer Project Updates

Fairhaven School Projects are well underway with the roof replacement phase 1 expected to be completed by July 11th, the HVAC unit for the gym will be installed mid-July and window replacements will begin the week of June 30th. There was an emergency sanitary sewer replacement project that was completed as well.

The Ops and Maintenance Department have been busy with Fairhaven School and Sector ESY moves, moving the Seymour transition program to John Powers Center, landscape projects, various painting projects, and projected gutter repair and repairing/replacing lights throughout SEDOL buildings.

Fairhaven School Courtyard Project

This project will include transitioning the current courtyard into a playground styled poured surface covered by a shade. This will provide an area for outdoor student activities. The SEDOL Foundation is funding this project.

SEDOL Fiscal Forecast Update

Dr. Thomas discussed the tuition rate restructuring committees and their upcoming meetings. An update will be provided to the Board after these meetings.

- Tuition Advisory Committee meetings July 9th and 16th from 1-3:30 p.m.
- Tuition Steering Committee meeting July 24th at 1:00 p.m.

Continuation of Authorized Agent

The Board approved Dr. Thomas, Co-Interim Superintendent to continue as the authorized Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) agent and the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) representative for 2025-26.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorized Depositories

The Board approved the current SEDOL depositories as stated in Board Policy 4:30 Selection of Depositories, Investment Managers, Dealers, and Brokers.

Student Meal Fees

The Board approved increasing breakfast fees from \$2.00 to \$2.50 and the lunch fees from \$4.00 to \$4.50 for the 2025-26 school year.

Therapets Contract

The Board approved the contract with Therapets in the yearly amount of \$10,800 to continue providing services

to Laremont School. The SEDOL Foundation has agreed to cover the costs associated with this contract for the 2025-26 school year.

STU Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Dr. Wojcik provided an overview of the proposed MOU reached with the SEDOL Teachers' Union (STU) regarding religious holidays. The Board approved the STU MOU as presented and recommended Governing Board approval at their August 6, 2025 meeting.

Policy Revisions

The Board approved revisions to policies 5:70 Religious Holidays and 5:250 Leave of Absences.

Psychiatry Studio Contract

The Board approved the contract with Psychiatry Studio for psychiatric consults in the amount of \$265.44 per hour, up to 16 hours per week for approximately 36 weeks.

Connections Day School, Inc. Extended Agreement

The Board approved the extended contract with Connections Day School, Inc. for the 2025-26 school year.

Planning for August Governing Board Meeting

The Board was provided an electronic draft of the August 6, 2025 Governing Board agenda to review.

Administrator Salary Increase Update

Dr. Thomas informed the Board of the plan to bring SEDOL administrative staff salaries in line with the median salary range of member districts. This adjustment will be implemented gradually over the next couple of years.

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.
- 2. 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

Possible Termination

The Board approved the termination of support staff member Ms. Stephanie Day for job abandonment.

Possible Termination

The Board approved the termination of support staff member Ms. Sandra Pardo for cause.

Extended Collective Bargaining Agreement with SSSA

Dr. Wojcik provided proposed changes/additions to the SEDOL Support Staff Association (SSSA) contract extension for 2026-27. The Executive Board approved the proposed extended agreement and recommended Governing Board approval at the August 6, 2025 meeting.

SSSA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Dr. Wojcik provided an overview of the proposed MOU reached with the SEDOL Support Staff Association (SSSA) regarding religious holidays. The Board approved the SSSA MOU as presented and recommended Governing Board approval at their August 6, 2025 meeting.

INFORMATIONAL

Sedol Foundation Events

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

The Grant Committee recently approved 15 grant requests written by SEDOL programs in the amount of \$142,858.00.

Upcoming Events

- Laremont ESY 4th of July Parade- July 3rd at 10:30 a.m.
- New Board Member Orientation- TBD
- New District Superintendent Orientation- TBD
- HYA Superintendent Stakeholder Session-TBD

In Memoriam

Mr. Thomas Bartels, who served as Laremont School principal from August 1989 to June 2007, passed May 19, 2025.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Congratulations to Dr. Hackett for being selected to serve on the Illinois State Board of Education.
- The Board shared how grateful they were to have the SEDOL Leadership Team.

ADJOURNMENT

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

2024-25 Executive Board Meeting Schedule SEDOL Office Bay Room

Thursday, July 24, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.

2025-26 *Tentative Executive Board Meeting Schedule SEDOL Office Bay Room

Thursday, July 24, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, August 28, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, September 18, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 23, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 13, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 18, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, January 22, 2026 - 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 26, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 19, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 2, 2026 – 9:30 a.m. FY27 Budget Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 28, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 25, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 23, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

*The Executive Board will approve the 2025-26 meeting schedule at its July meeting.

2025-26 Governing Board Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, August 6, 2025 – 7:00 p.m. 6:50 p.m. Public Hearing - Budget Wednesday, December 3, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, 2026 – 7:00 p.m