

**SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY**

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**Judy Hackett, Ed.D.**

**Tim Thomas, Ed.D.**

*Co-Interim Superintendents*

**Minutes**

**SEDOL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, June 26, 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. Matthew Barbini, Dr. Judy Hackett, Dr. Stephen Johns, and Ms. Becky Allard

**Staff Members  
Late:**

**Guest:**

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

The regular meeting of the SEDOL Executive Board was called to order at 8:33 a.m. on June 26, 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 regular meeting on May 22, 2025.

[Minutes May 22 2025.pdf](#) 

**4.2 Financial Matters**

Paid Accounts Payables:

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

[Paid AP Check Register - Payroll Liabilities 05-30-25..pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Check Register - Payroll Liabilities 06-13-25.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Check Register - Payroll Liabilities 06-16-25.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Check Run 06-26-25.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Check Run Over \\$8,000 06-26-25.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Manual Checks 05-16,9,23,30-25.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Manual Checks Over \\$8,000 05-16,9,23,30-25.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.

[June 26, 2025 Personnel Recommendations & Vacancies.pdf](#)



[June 26, 2025 Addendum.pdf](#) 

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

#### 5.1 Building Bridges Award Video

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.

5.2 Introduce New Principal for John Powers Center

Ms. Amy Timonen was recognized as the new John Powers Center Principal 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. 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 for all four goals represented in the report. A copy of the report is available on the SEDOL website.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

8.1 Final 2024-25 School Calendar — INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Jimenez-Captain)

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

8.2 Final Budget for FY26 - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

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.

[SEDOL Tentative Final Budget FY26 4-24-25.pdf](#) 

Motion to Accept and Present Final Budget - 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**

8.3 Acceptance of FY23 Audit - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

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

[SEDOL - Audit Report UPDATED 6-5-25.pdf](#) 

[SEDOL - FY23 Audit Management Comments Letter.pdf](#) 

[SEDOL - FY23 Audit- Communication with Governance.pdf](#) 

Motion to Accept FY23 Audit - 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**

8.4 FY24 Audit Update - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)  
Ms. Allard updated the Board on the FY24 audit and informed them that it is anticipated to be completed August 2025.

8.5 Summer Project Updates - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)  
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.

[GravesDesignGroup Update.pdf](#) 

8.6 Fairhaven School Courtyard Project Approval - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)  
This project will include transitioning the current courtyard into a playground-style poured surface covered by a shade. This will provide an area for outdoor student activities. The SEDOL Foundation is funding this project.

Motion to Approve Courtyard Project - 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**

8.7 SEDOL Fiscal Forecast Update - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Thomas/Dr. Hackett)

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.

8.8 Continuation of Authorized Agent - ACTION NEEDED (Ms. McHugh)

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.

Motion to Approve Agent - VOICE 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. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Authorized Depositories - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

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

Motion to Approve Depositories - ROLL CALL 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**

9.2 Student Meal Fees - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

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.

[FY26 Meal Pricing Chart for 6-26-25.pdf](#) 

Motion to Approve Student Meal Fees - 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**

9.3 Therapets Contract - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Jimenez-Captain)

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.

Motion to Approve Contract - 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**

9.4 STU MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Wojcik)

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.

Motion to Approve MOU - ROLL CALL VOTE

*Moved by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

*Seconded by:* Dr. Donn Mendoza

**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 Policy Revisions - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Wojcik)

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

[0570 Religious Holidays Jun 26 2025.pdf](#) 

[5250 Leave of Absence Jun 26 2025.pdf](#) 

Motion to Approve Revisions - VOICE 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**

- 9.6 Psychiatry Studio Contract - ACTION NEEDED (Mr. Crowley)  
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.  
Motion to Approve Contract - 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**

- 9.7 Connections Day School, Inc Extended Agreement - ACTION NEEDED (Mr. Crowley)  
The Board approved the extended contract with Connections Day School, Inc. for the 2025-26 school year.  
Motion to Approve Extended Agreement - 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**

9.8 Planning for August Governing Board Meeting -  
INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Thomas/Dr. Hackett)

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

9.9 Administrator Salary Increases Update - INFORMATIONAL (Dr.  
Thomas)

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.

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

Motion to Enter Into Closed Session - ROLL CALL VOTE

The Board entered into closed session at 9:41 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. 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:* 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**

Motion to Return to Public Session - VOICE VOTE

The Board returned to Public Session at 9:56 a.m.

*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**

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

- 11.1 Possible Termination - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Wojcik)  
The Board approved the termination of support staff member Ms. Stephanie Day for job abandonment.

Motion to Approve Termination - ROLL CALL 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**

- 11.2 Possible Termination - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Wojcik)  
The Board approved the termination of support staff member Ms. Sandra Pardo for cause.

Motion to Approve Termination - ROLL CALL VOTE

*Moved by:* Ms. Carey McHugh

*Seconded by:* Dr. Donn Mendoza

**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**

11.3 Extended Collective Bargaining Agreement with SSSA -  
ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Wojcik)

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

Motion to Approve Extended Agreement - 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**

11.4 SSSA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) - ACTION  
NEEDED (Dr. Wojcik)

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.

Motion to Approve MOU - 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. INFORMATIONAL**

12.1 SEDOL Foundation (Ms. Subry)

- 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.

12.2 SEDOL Events (Dr. Hackett/Dr. Thomas)

- 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

12.3 In Memoriam

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

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

- 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.

**14. ADJOURNMENT (Dr. Lind)**

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sara Martinez  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

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Dr. Jason Lind  
Board President

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Dr. Judy Hackett  
Board Secretary