



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

**Executive Board Meeting Summary**  
**Thursday, August 28, 2025**

**OATH OF OFFICE, PLEDGE AND AGENDA**

Following the Call to Order/Roll Call, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Superintendent of D37, who was reappointed by the Governing Board to serve another 2-year term and was absent from the July Executive Board meeting, recited the Oath of Office, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by President McHugh. The Board then accepted the agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes and financial matters were approved along with the following personnel items:

- ~ Request for Contracts for 19 educational support personnel (ESP), 10 licensed staff, and 3 licensed Interns
- ~ Resignations/Retirements by 19 ESP and 3 licensed staff
- ~ Contract staff 17

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

**2024-25 Employee of The Year**

Dr. Julie Sweeney-Grana, SEDOL Audiologist

**New Staff for 2025-26**

Over 50 new staff joined the SEDOL family this year.

**Introduction of New Administrators**

Ms. Pam Evans, Interim Sector Supervisor

Ms. Karen Fletcher, Fairhaven School Assistant Principal

Ms. Jennifer Pilcher, John Powers Center Co-Interim Assistant Principal

Ms Gail Wright, John Powers Center Co-Interim Assistant Principal

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

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

Dr. Hackett, Dr. Jimenez-Captain, Dr. Thomas, Mr. Crowley, and Dr. Barbini presented an overview of the SEDOL 2025-26 Continuous Improvement Plan outlining the four goals and briefly explaining the objectives. The Board received a copy of the new plan to review.

Goal #1- Provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of each program including college/careers

Goal #2- Establish an effective equitable financial structure that best supports students and district needs

Goal #3- Advance high standards and expectations

Goal #4- Advance effective collaborative team practices

At the September 18, 2025 meeting, the Board will be asked to approve the 2025-26 CIP Plan.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Summer Projects Update

Dr. Johns and Ms. Allard shared several recent improvements across our schools, many of which were made possible thanks to generous support from the SEDOL Foundation:

- **Fairhaven School:** A new roof, window replacements, and a new sensory area were completed. The sensory area was funded by the Foundation.
- **John Powers Center:** The kitchen received new cabinets and will serve as a learning space for students in the Transition Program. This renovation was also made possible through Foundation funding.
- **Gages Lake School:** Repairs were completed on the back canopy, improving both safety and functionality for students and staff.
- **SEDOL Campus:** The campus landscaping received a refresh and included cleaning out and adding new flower beds, perennial plantings, and fresh mulch. This project was funded by the Foundation and completed with the help of our Transition Program students.
- **Laremont School:** Students in the Transition Program received new furniture designed to be both more functional and safer for their needs.

### SEDOL Tuition Restructuring Update

Dr. Thomas presented the proposed new tuition restructuring model recommended by the Advisory Committee at the July 16, 2025 meeting and approved by the Steering Committee at the July 24, 2025 meeting. He discussed the process, thought, and details that went into selecting this model. SEDOL Administration will present the proposed model to member district administrators (superintendents, special education directors, and CSBOs) at a meeting on September 18th and address any questions. The Executive Board will be asked to consider approval at the October 23, 2025 meeting and recommend Governing Board approval at the December 3, 2025 meeting.

### Policy Updates

The Board approved updates to PRESS policies: *04:80 Accounting and Audit*, *6:235 Access to Electronic Networks*, *7:250 Student Support Services*, and *7:255 Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence*.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1st Day of 2025-26 School Year

Dr. Hackett shared that the beginning-of-the-year institute days were focused more heavily on staff development this year. She also shared photos of staff and students from the first few days of school.

### Annual Student Behavioral Policy Committee

Mr. Crowley provided an update on the committee meeting held on August 26, 2025.

Highlights included:

- A review of Policy 7:190 – Student Behavior.
- A reported 95% reduction in restraints and timeouts compared to the previous three years.
- Implementation of a renewed culture and climate initiative across the district.

### 10-Year Life Safety Plan Update

Dr. Johns outlined the timeline for the 10-Year Life Safety Plan.

- Review - August, 2025
- Adoption - September, 2025
  - A Items - Within 1 Year - \$304,050
  - B Items - Within 5 Years - \$2,298,880
  - C Items - Future considerations - \$15,502,290

### Vehicle Purchase

Dr. Johns requested approval to purchase the following vehicle from Currie Motors using the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative: 2026 Ford Transit Full Size Van in the amount of \$51,727.00. A vehicle purchase was included in the 2025-26 budget. The Board approved this purchase.

## FOIA

- On July 31, 2025, SEDOL received a FOIA request from Ms. Amna Khan. The request was denied on August 7, 2025, as it sought records that contain personally identifiable information as well as law enforcement records that are not in the possession of the district.
- On August 18, 2025, SEDOL received a FOIA request from Justin Wenig requesting public records detailing financial transactions (check register, expenditure report, or purchase order history) from January 1, 2022, to the present. Dr. Wojcik responded on August 22nd.

## Summer Curriculum Projects Update

Dr. Jimenez-Captain shared with the Board that she received 19 requests for summer curriculum projects totaling \$23,420.80. Projects needed to align to Illinois Learning Standard or Essential Elements and staff needed to define the impact on students. Her team approved 15 projects totaling \$8,841.72. Staff with approved projects needed to submit evidence of completion and will need to present the details of their project.

## Art Therapy Contract

The Board approved a 1-year art therapy contract with Ms. Laura Luoma to provide services to the John Powers Center DHH Program and the Transition Program for the 2025-26 school year in the amount of \$39,057.50.

## Center for Special Education Contract

The Board approved a 1-year contract with Center for Special Education to provide fifteen comprehensive evaluations in the amount of \$42,290.00.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no Other Business.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports

## **INFORMATIONAL**

### SEDOL Foundation Events

- Golf Invitational - September 8
- 5K Run/Walk - September 13
- One Special Night - November 8

### SEDOL Events

#### Superintendent Focus Group Meetings/Survey

- Virtual Focus Group Staff- September 2nd, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Virtual Focus Group Parents- September 8th, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Survey will be shared via email the 1st week of September

#### Curriculum Night

- September 4th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

#### SEDOL Program Tours

- Tuesday, September 23rd (Laremont School, Gages Lake School, & Cyd Lash Academy) 9:30 a.m.
- Monday, September 29th (Fairhaven School & John Powers Center) 9:30 a.m.
- RSVP by Wednesday, September 17th

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. McHugh wished everyone a great year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

- Thursday, September 18, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, October 23, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, November 13, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, December 18, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, January 22, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, February 26, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, March 19, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, April 2, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.     *FY27 Budget Meeting*
- Thursday, April 23, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, May 28, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, June 25, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, July 23, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.

**2025-26 Governing Board Meeting Schedule** *Gages Lake School Community Room*

- Wednesday, December 3, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 4, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 3, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.