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, November 13, 2025

PLEDGE AND AGENDA
Following the Call to Order/Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance by President McHugh, 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 4 educational support personnel (ESP)
~ Resignations/retirements by 6 ESP
~ 1 Contract staff

SPECIAL RECOGNITION
STARS Student of the Month
The Board recognized a student from Ms. Falcon's SAB classroom at Gages Lake School as the November STARS Student. Throughout the school year, this student has shown inspiring growth and dedication. He has made remarkable progress in consistently using his AAC device to communicate and connect with others. In addition, he actively engages with his peers, effectively advocates for his needs, and independently selects calming strategies to support his success.

Employee of the Month
The Board recognized Rebecca Guagliardo, Speech/Language Pathologist and Assistive Technology (AT) Consultant, as November's Employee of the Month. Becca consistently demonstrates exceptional dedication in her role, going above and beyond to ensure staff have the tools and support they need to effectively implement strategies with students. She is a positive influence, known for her creativity, motivation, and commitment to both students and colleagues.

Board Recognition
Dr. Hackett and Dr. Thomas recognized the members of the Executive Board, Governing Board, and SEDOL Foundation Board for their dedicated service and leadership. As a gesture of appreciation, board members received a student-made gift along with a SEDOL logo keepsake. In addition, a special thumbprint tree, created by students and featuring individual thumbprints from students across SEDOL as its leaves, was presented to honor the Boards' ongoing commitment.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There was no Public Comment.

SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) UPDATES

Dr. Kelly Olsen, Erina Jorudd, Alex Letto, and Jenny O'Day presented on Goal 1: Provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of students throughout the SEDOL community. The presentation included the impact of the Nest Behavioral Support Team at Fairhaven School.

SIP Goal: Decrease crisis calls by 5% due to the support and training provided by the nest.

The Nest is a team of Fairhaven and SEDOL staff dedicated to supporting the behavioral, training, and professional needs of Fairhaven staff.

Their Mission: to support Fairhaven School staff so their students can soar by

- Providing crisis support for all 16 classrooms – (data-driven support)
- Hosting monthly trainings on behavior, regulation, and support strategies
- Leading onboarding and hands-on training for new paraprofessionals
- Offering a hands-on learning space with classroom tools included in student plans
- Conducting behavior observations and collaborative coaching with classroom teams
- Delivering crisis intervention training and follow-up support
- Sharing resources and tools – (The NEST Handbook)— data collection tips, incident report guidance, active learning sheets, PD videos, feedback tools, social stories, and visual supports

Their Impact:

- Provided over 25 staff trainings in:
    - Token economy systems, prompt hierarchy, and behavior support
- Attended 16 Classroom Problem Solving Meetings on a 6 week basis
- Completed over 30 student and staff observations
- Developed Nest handbook for staff

Through the work of the Nest, there has been an 8% reduction in the Crisis Calls and a 32% reduction in the Crisis Duration for the 2025-26 school year. This exceeds the goal expectation.

OLD BUSINESS

FY24 Audit Update

Ms. Allard updated the Board on the status of the FY24 audit. She is anticipating bringing the FY24 audit to the Executive Board at the December, 2025 or the January 2026 meeting. Once complete, the FY25 audit will begin.

Facility Grant

Dr. Johns requested Board approval of the matching Facility Grant in the amount of $50,000 for the replacement of the boiler at Cyd Lash Academy which is estimated at $250,000. The Board approved this request.

NEW BUSINESS

Vehicle Sale

The Board approved the sale of the GMC cargo van.

Contractual and Itinerant Rates

The Board approved the member district contractual and itinerant rates for 2026-27.

Audiological Rates for Non-Member Districts

The Board approved the non-member district audilogical rates for 2025-26 and 2026-27.

Life Safety Reports 2025-26

Mr. Saum reviewed the Life Safety Reports for SEDOL facilities as issued by the Lake County Regional Office of Education. These reports identified violations at the Administration Building, Cyd Lash Academy, Fairhaven School, Gages Lake School, John Powers Center, and Laremont School. Many of the cited violations have already been resolved, and the remaining items are currently in the process of being addressed.

FOIA Request

Dr. Wojcik received a FOIA request from Mr. Steve Watts requested the following information on all current employees: full legal name, job title or role, official work email address, assigned worksite or campus, and current annual salary. Dr. Wojcik responded via email on October 28, 2025.

CLOSED SESSION

Move the Board enter 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 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 employee.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Board approved making a formal recommendation to the Governing Board at its December 3, 2025 meeting to appoint the new superintendent of SEDOL effective July 1, 2026.

OTHER BUSINESS

Possible Termination

The Board approved the termination of support staff member Elizabeth McCarthy for job abandonment effective October 6, 2025.

INFORMATIONAL

SEDOL Foundation Events

- The *One Special Night* event received more than $63,000 in donations. The proceeds will be shared to support expanding opportunities and supports at Cyd Lash Academy and Gages Lake School.
- Adopt-a-Family- December
- Ping Pong- February 1
- Laremont Trivia Night- March 7
- Dinner Dance- April 25
- Pucks for Autism- June 12-14
- Golf Invitational- September 14
- 5K Run/Walk- September 19
- One Special Night- November 7

SEDOL Events

- Upcoming Food Drive across SEDOL for families in needs
- SEDOL is hosting the Special Education sessions for Institute Day in partnership with Lake County ROE - Friday, Feb. 13th
- Laremont Donuts with Santa- Saturday, Dec. 6th

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Executive Board Member Comments.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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