

# 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, December 18, 2025**

**Board Members Present:** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D41-Joanne Osmond, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Michael Karner (ROE)

**Board Members Absent:**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL (Ms. McHugh)**

The regular meeting of the SEDOL Executive Board was called to order at 8:30 a.m. on December 18, 2025, at the Administration Office in Gages Lake, IL.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Ms. McHugh)**

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

The Board observed a moment of silence in memory of Jill Jones, a paraprofessional at Fairhaven School who passed away on December 5, 2025. Jill joined the Fairhaven team on January 8, 2024. In Jill's honor, a donation will be made to the SEDOL Foundation.

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA - ACTION NEEDED (Ms. McHugh)**

Motion to Accept the Agenda - VOICE VOTE

*Moved by:* D41-Joanne Osmond

*Seconded by:* D56-Odie Pahl

**Aye** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D41-Joanne Osmond, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Michael Karner (ROE)

**Carried 8-0**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA - ACTION NEEDED (Ms. McHugh)**

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda - ROLL CALL VOTE

*Moved by:* D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman

*Seconded by:* D41-Joanne Osmond

**Aye** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D41-Joanne Osmond, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Michael Karner (ROE)

**Carried 8-0**

5.1 Minutes

Public and closed session minutes of the regular meeting of November 13, 2025.

[Minutes- Nov 13 2025.pdf](#) 

5.2 Financial Matters

Paid Accounts Payables:

[FY26 December Executive Board Meeting Summary.pdf](#) 

[11-14-25 AP Paid Check Register - Payroll Liabilities - Extra Check.pdf](#) 

[11-14-25 AP Paid Check Register - Payroll Liabilities.pdf](#) 

[11-26-25 AP Paid Check Register - Payroll Liabilities.pdf](#) 

[12-15-25 AP Paid Check Register - Payroll Liabilities.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Board Checks - 12-18-25.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Manual Checks 11-07,14,21-25; 12-02,05-25.pdf](#) 

5.3 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.

There was no addendum.

## 6. RECOGNITION (Dr. Hackett)

### 6.1 STARS Students

The Board recognized a student from Ms. Michelle Clark's classroom at John Powers Center as the December STARS Student. Since coming to John Powers Center, this student has made amazing progress. He is able to communicate his wants and needs and is an active participant in groups and activities. He is picking up new vocabulary quickly, and his confidence grows more every day.

### 6.2 Employee of the Month

The Board recognized Ms. Estefani Falcon, a teacher at Gages Lake School, as December's Employee of the Month. Ms. Falcon supports her students with a positive attitude and a calm demeanor. She is able to motivate her students through tangible reinforcers that are meaningful to them, creating a powerful classroom community. Her students respond with respect and hard work.

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENT (Ms. McHugh)

There was no Public Comment.

## 8. SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) UPDATE (Dr. Hackett/Dr. Thomas)

The four goal leaders presented the focus of the next steps for each of their goals.

**Goal 1:** Provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of students throughout the SEDOL community (Dr. Jimenez-Captain)

**Objective D:** Leadership and member districts have been engaging in collaborative brainstorming meetings to process and review the continuum of SEDOL services, including sector and day programs, to best address the dynamic and changing needs of students and districts.

- Three meetings have been held already with 16 members, 9 of which are member district special education administrators.

**Goal 2:** Establish an effective, equitable financial structure that best supports students and district needs (Dr. Thomas)

**Objective B:** Administration and member districts have been meeting to review SEDOL's staffing model and process to reflect programmatic needs by analyzing current allocations and identifying key variables and have been working on developing a revised staffing model and process. The updated model and process will be shared with SEDOL administration and district leadership for review and feedback.

**Goal 3:** Advance high standards and expectations (Mr. Crowley)

**Objective A:** This team will complete a self-directed cyclical monitoring process aligned with ISBE's district monitoring plan to review and refine instructional and procedural best practices at least quarterly, with documented improvements reflected in program evaluation summaries and shared action plans.

**Objective B:** SEDOL will continue to provide associated training on IEP components to all staff involved in the IEP process to build and promote assurances, consistency, and high-quality educational planning across all programs.

**Goal 4:** Advance effective collaborative team practices (Dr. Barbini)

**Objective B:** Information about SEDOL's programming continuum and services to better inform decision-making on behalf of students will be published in program brochures for SEDOL stakeholders.

- 12 out of the 14 brochures have been completed and will be displayed in SEDOL buildings and in the administration building front office. They are also currently available on the SEDOL website.

**Objective C:** Planning for a parent council focused on ways to engage and support SEDOL families through training, resources, and networking will begin in January.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 FY26 Budget Amendment - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

[Draft Budget Amendment 12-18-25 Exec Bd on 12-11-25.pdf](#) 

Dr. Johns presented a draft of the amended budget. At the January 22 meeting, the Executive Board will be asked to recommend approval of the amended budget changes to the Governing Board at its March 4 meeting.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Request for Quote (RFQ) - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Barbini)

Dr. Barbini presented the rationale for updating the audio equipment in the Gages Lake School Community Room and for obtaining quotes for its replacement. The Board approved the request.

Motion to Request RFQ - ROLL CALL VOTE

*Moved by:* D41-Joanne Osmond

*Seconded by:* D56-Odie Pahl

**Aye** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D41-Joanne Osmond, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Michael Karner (ROE)

**Carried 8-0**

10.2 Deduct Change Order - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

The Board approved Deduct Change Order 001 from Douglas Flooring in the amount of (\$5,977.50).

[Douglas Floor Change Order 001-12.18.25.pdf](#) 

Motion to Approve Change Order - ROLL CALL VOTE

*Moved by:* D24-Dr. Jason Lind

*Seconded by:* D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman

**Aye** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D41-Joanne Osmond, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Michael Karner (ROE)

**Carried 8-0**

10.3 Summer Construction Project Schedule - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

Dr. Johns presented the 2026 summer construction projects. These projects will be funded through the geothermal rebate.

**Cyd Lash Academy (Closed for ESY)-** Boiler replacement/new boiler and circulating pumps/boiler BAS controls, sanitary PVC piping in boiler room changed to pressure-rated PVC, replace water heater, and conduct glass testing and determine replacement needs

**Gages Lake School & Pre-Vocational-** Determine whether removal or re-roof/decking of canopy is required and complete the project, conduct glass testing and determine replacement needs, and replace frames/doors on (2) outside doors

**John Powers Center-** Replace water heater, replace electric circuit panel, replace (parking lot) building entrance door canopy/awning, replace (parking lot) building entrance storefront metal and glass, replace (parking lot) building entrance doors, replace magnetic locks with electric strikes at (parking lot) entrance, and conduct glass testing and determine replacement needs

**Fairhaven School-** Replace water heater, remove water heater mixing valve, and change the non-fire-rated gym hallway entrance/possible door access.

[Summer Project Schedule 12-18-25.pdf](#) 

10.4 FOIA - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Wojcik)

On November 18, 2025, SEDOL received a FOIA request from Mr. Max Binnington, requesting the following:

- “Contracts, retainer agreements, fee agreements, or engagement letters between the district and the law firm of Robbins Schwartz and/or Franczek and/or any law firm from January 1, 2020, to present;
- Invoices, bills, proformas, or payment records from Robbins Schwartz and/or Franczek and/or any law firm to the district or behalf of the district from January 1, 2020, to present;
- Correspondence between the district and Robbins Schwartz and/or Franczek and/or any law firm regarding any matter not protected by attorney-client privilege, including but not limited to litigation, pre-litigation advice, or claim management from January 1, 2020, to present;
- Contracts, retainer agreements, fee agreements, or engagement letters between the district and any law firm from January 1, 2020, to present;
- Civil litigation case files, complaints, answers, motions, and pleadings in which the district was a party from January 1, 2020, to present;

- Litigation guidelines and protocols from January 1, 2020, to present
- Dr. Wojcik responded to this request on November 25, 2025, offering the opportunity to narrow the scope of the request; otherwise, the request is denied pursuant to FOIA Section 3(g) as being unduly burdensome.

Mr. Binnington has not yet responded.

## 11. CLOSED SESSION - ACTION NEEDED (Ms. McHugh)

Motion to Enter Into Closed Session - ROLL CALL VOTE

The Board entered into Closed Session at 9:15 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 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.
3. 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.

*Moved by:* D41-Joanne Osmond

*Seconded by:* D56-Odie Pahl

**Aye** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D41-Joanne Osmond, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Michael Karner (ROE)

**Carried 8-0**

Motion to Return to Public Session - VOICE VOTE

The Board returned to Public Session at 9:37 a.m.

*Moved by:* D56-Odie Pahl

*Seconded by:* D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman

**Aye** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D41-Joanne Osmond, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Michael Karner (ROE)

**Carried 8-0**

## 12. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Other Business.

## 13. INFORMATIONAL

### 13.1 SEDOL Foundation (Ms. Subry)

- Adopt-a-Family- December (26 families)
- 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

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

**14. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (Ms. McHugh)**

Happy Holidays!

**15. ADJOURNMENT (Ms. McHugh)**

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sara Martinez  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

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Carey McHugh  
Board President

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Dr. Judy Hackett  
Board Secretary