

**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, May 28, 2026**

**Board Members Present:** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

**Board Members Absent:** D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza

**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 May 28, 2026, at the Administration Building in Gages Lake, IL.

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

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

Motion to Accept the Agenda - VOICE VOTE

Moved by: D24-Dr. Jason Lind; seconded by: D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman

**Aye:** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

**Absent:** D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza

**Carried 6-0**

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

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D56-Odie Pahl; seconded by: D24-Dr. Jason Lind

**Aye:** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

**Absent:** D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza

**Carried 6-0**

#### 4.1 Financial Matters

Paid Accounts Payables:

[FY26 MAY26 Executive Board Meeting Summary.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Board Check Register.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Manual Check Register 04-17,24,27-26.pdf](#) 

#### 4.2 Minutes

Public and closed session minutes of the regular meeting on April 23, 2026.

[Minutes Apr 23 2026.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.

[May 28, 2026 Personnel Recommendations & Vacancies.pdf](#) 

[May 28, 2026 Addendum.pdf](#) 

#### 4.4 Closed Session Minutes/Recordings

Administration recommended the minutes of closed session remain confidential and that all previously reviewed minutes remain closed. In addition, administration recommended the destruction of verbatim recordings for the attached closed-session meetings.

[Closed Session Minutes-Recordings Dates DOC.pdf](#) 

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

#### 5.1 STARS Students

The May STARS student was not able to attend the meeting, so Dr. Hjorth shared this student's accomplishments with the Board and will recognize these accomplishments with her and her family at a later date. This student is from Ms. Bentley's classroom at Fairhaven School and has demonstrated extraordinary growth throughout the school year in the areas of communication, academics, social development, and behavior. She continues to make everyone around her proud.

#### 5.2 2026 Infinitec Outstanding Student Technology Award

Infinitec recognized a District 6 student from a SEDOL Sector Program at a dinner/award celebration on April 23rd. This student will also be recognized in person at the June 3, 2026, Governing Board meeting.

#### 5.3 Employees of the Month

1. The Board recognized Ms. Sandi Johnson, Cyd Lash Academy Behavior Specialist, as the May Employee of the Month. Sandi is a highly valued team member and is both respected and valued by students. She has made a meaningful impact on students who were previously struggling, has helped students gain confidence, and is teaching them to advocate for themselves. She consistently collaborates with teachers and service providers to develop effective interventions.

2. The Board recognized Ms. Carly Fishman, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Social Worker, as the May Employee of the Month. Carly goes above and beyond for all of her students. She communicates and works well with the JPC families. She is creative and thinks outside the box. Carly always finds ways to help staff and students in need, and she is dependable, kind, and welcoming to all.

#### 5.4 May Staff Appreciation

- Interpreters (SLI and bilingual)
- Nurses
- Psychologists
- School Communicators Day
- Speech/Language Pathologists
- Teachers

#### 5.5 ROE Educator of the Year Recognition

The following staff were nominated for the ROE Educator of the Year Award and attended a dinner/reception with other Lake County nominees.

- Michelle Clark- Classroom Diverse Learner Teacher
- Matthew Crowley- School Administrator
- Chris Howes- Educational Service Personnel
- Erin MacDonald- Student Support Personnel
- Erin Picco- Early Career Educator

Ms. Michelle Clark received the Educator of the Year Award for the Classroom Diverse Learner Teacher.

#### 5.6 Introduction of New Administrators

Ms. Tracy McMahon, Assistant to the Principal, John Powers Center

Ms. Traci Stieter - Principal, Laremont School

Mr. Matt Zidron - Principal, Gages Lake School

### 6. **PUBLIC COMMENT (Ms. McHugh)**

There was no Public Comment.

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

Administration presented the final 2025-26 CIP Plan, which included key highlights and progress from the past year.

#### Goal 1 Highlights

- Seven evidenced-based curricula were implemented this year.
- The county-wide Institute Day had 1267 participants and received a participant rating of 4.3 out of 5.0!

#### Goal 2 Highlights

- The Executive Board unanimously approved the revised tuition model on October 23, 2025, and the Governing Board unanimously approved it on December 3, 2025.
- Processes were documented to assist the SEDOL administrative team with navigating the annual budget process.

#### Goal 3 Highlights

- 84% overall compliance with all indicators from the ISBE cyclical monitoring framework.
- Developed a comprehensive IEP Manual.

#### Goal 4 Highlights

- Developed a comprehensive suite of informational brochures describing each of our 14 specialized programs.
- Developed a communication plan for the 2026-2027 school year.

#### Next Steps

Curriculum & Data: Convene a multi-tiered curriculum committee to review data and tools measuring curriculum implementation and efficacy.

Capacity Building: Expand internal capacity using an embedded train-the-trainer and coaching model.

Fiscal Monitoring: Track and assess the impacts of the restructured tuition model.

Strategic Planning: Complete a collaborative action plan for programs and services that aligns with continuum and steering committee values.

Professional Development: Expand customized training on instructional strategies, IEP development, and state monitoring compliance.

Safety & Operations: Advance Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and Standard Reunion Method (SRM) training, efforts, and expectations.

Staffing Analysis: Review annual staffing data and trends to identify hard-to-fill positions and address district needs.

Family Engagement: Deepen parent partnerships through targeted training, networking, and a parent advisory focus.

Communications: Launch and execute a comprehensive 2026–27 communication plan.

Also presented was an update from:

**Goal 1:** *Provide Exceptional Programs and Services to meet the needs of students throughout the SEDOL community.*

### **Laremont Curriculum**

Dr. Schmitt, Principal, Laremont School, shared with the Board the MOVE Model Site.

Laremont is among the leading schools providing innovative mobility and functional learning opportunities. One of only 30 MOVE Model Sites worldwide and the first and only MOVE Model Site in Illinois.

What is MOVE

- Evidence-based program, focuses on increasing independence, mobility, and participation
- Embeds functional movement into everyday routines and instruction
- Supports skills such as sitting, standing, walking, and transitioning
- Uses individualized assessments to monitor student progress
- Supported through collaboration with:
  - Staff and families, SEDOL Foundation, and Rifton/MOVE community

This year, continued implementation of the revised curriculum model with quarterly learning topics allowed for: Deeper student engagement, expanded hands-on learning opportunities, building-wide instructional alignment, and increased community partnerships and assemblies.

- Quarter 1- Community Helpers
- Quarter 2- Science Inquiry
- Quarter 3- Past & Present
- Quarter 4- Animal Traits

### **Larmont Transition**

Live with the Lions! Building school community through student engagement and leadership.

Weekly school announcement program. This was designed to:

- Build school community and connectedness, increase student voice and participation, and celebrate school events, achievements, and daily activities.

Students led various sessions, including:

- Staff and student interviews, weather updates, cooking with Katie/Krystal, jokes and talents, Word of the Jungle - special events, and Where in the World is Larry the Lion - to highlight weekly mobility trips and experiences.

### **Companion Device Pilot**

Ms. Erin MacDonald presented on the companion device pilot.

Students learn to use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) through modeling.

Some students become protective of their devices or resistant when adults attempt to model on their devices.

This can significantly reduce opportunities for consistent language modeling. Staff needed a way to model language without removing access to the student's device.

What is a companion device?

A staff-accessible AAC system that mirrors the student's communication system, allowing adults to model language without taking the student's personal device.

#### Pilot Design

- 12 teachers with representation across programs
- Priority given to classrooms with at least 1 student resistant to adult modeling on their personal device
- 7-week duration with 4 data collection points
- All staff completed training prior to receiving communication app
- Communication app added to teacher

#### Results

The student uses AAC more frequently when language is modeled on a companion device - 71% agreed or strongly agreed.

The student demonstrated increased willingness to communicate with the use of a companion device - 87% agreed or strongly agreed.

The student showed improved regulation when AAC was modeled using the companion device - 77% agreed or strongly agreed.

The student appeared less frustrated during communicative interactions when language is modeled on a companion device - 81% agreed or strongly agreed.

#### Common Themes From Staff Testimonials

1. Overcoming device "guardianship" and reluctance through modeling
2. Increased student autonomy and spontaneous communication
3. Reduction in frustration and challenging behaviors
4. Boosted staff proficiency, comfort, and growth
5. Measurable academic success
6. Value of dedicated companion devices in classroom

#### Looking Forward

Pilot participants will continue to have access to companion devices next year; a formal process for teachers to request a companion device is in development and will launch in the fall. Teachers who request a companion device will receive training, check-ins with an AT team member, and provide data on the efficacy of the device on student communication.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

### 8.1 Policy 2nd Reading Review - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Wojcik)

The Board approved revisions to Policy 7:150 *Agency Law Enforcement Requests*.

[\\*\\*7150 Agency Law Enforcement Requests May 28 2026.pdf](#) 

Motion to Approve Policy Changes - Voice Vote

Moved by: D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman; seconded by: D56-Odie Pahl

**Aye:** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

**Absent:** D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza

**Carried 6-0**

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

### 9.1 Lake County Sheriff's Office Agreement - ACTION NEEDED (Mr. Crowley)

The Board approved the 1-year reciprocal reporting agreement between the Lake County Sheriff's Office and SEDOL for the 2026-27 school year.

[Reciprocal Reporting MOU-Lake County Sheriff and SEDOL.pdf](#) 

Motion to Approve Agreement - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D56-Odie Pahl; seconded by: D24-Dr. Jason Lind

**Aye:** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

**Absent:** D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza

**Carried 6-0**

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

This item will be moved to the June agenda.

9.3 D73 School to School Contract - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

The Board approved the 2026-27 School-to-School Food Service Contract between Vernon Hills D73 and SEDOL (John Powers Center and the Regional Safe School Program) and the amended 2025-26 agreement to include the extended school year.

[25-26 Food Service Agreement JPC Amendment.pdf](#) 

[26-27 Food Service Agreement JPC.pdf](#) 

[26-27 Food Service Agreement RSSP.pdf](#) 

Motion to Approve Contract- ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D24-Dr. Jason Lind; seconded by: D56-Odie Pahl

**Aye:** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

**Absent:** D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza

**Carried 6-0**

9.4 Appointment of Authorized Agent - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

The Board approved the appointment of Mr. Dave Shepherd, incoming Assistant Superintendent of Business, as the authorized IMRF agent and TRS representative effective July 1, 2026.

Motion to Appoint Agent - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D56-Odie Pahl; seconded by: D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz

**Aye:** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

**Absent:** D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza

**Carried 6-0**

9.5 CLIC Insurance Rates - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

The Board accepted the CLIC insurance coverage and rates for workers' compensation and liability coverages.

[2026-27 CLIC Insurance Rates .pdf](#) 

Motion to Accept Coverage/Rates - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman; seconded by: D56-Odie Pahl

**Aye:** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

**Absent:** D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza

**Carried 6-0**

9.6 FOIA - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Wojcik)

On March 26, 2026, Mr. Justin Wenig, Star Bridge, requested access to and copies of all purchase orders and/or payment records for non-person/vendor entities, such as companies, organizations, or contractors, from January 1, 2025, to the current date.

Dr. Wojcik responded with the requested items on April 23, 2026.

**10. CLOSED SESSION - ACTION NEEDED (Ms. McHugh)**

Motion to Enter Into Closed Session - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D24-Dr. Jason Lind; seconded by: ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

**Carried**

Move the Board enter into Closed Session at 9:36 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. The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students.

Motion to Return to Public Session - VOICE VOTE

Moved by: D56-Odie Pahl; seconded by: D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman

**Carried**

The Board returned to Public Session at 9:41 a.m.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

11.1 Request for Non-Member District Placement - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Hackett/Dr. Thomas)

The Board approved the request by Waukegan District 60 to continue placement for one student in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program for the 2026-27 school year.

[#60 Hold Harmless 5.28.26.pdf](#) 

[#60 Supt Letter 5.28.26.pdf](#) 

Motion to Approve Request - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: ROE-Dr. Michael Karner; seconded by: D56-Odie Pahl

**Aye:** D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D46-Dr. Lynn Glickman, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

**Absent:** D116-Dr. Donn Mendoza

**Carried 6-0**

**12. INFORMATIONAL**

**ISBE Correspondence**

Dr. Hackett sent a follow-up email to member districts in an attempt to clarify the ISBE correspondence that was emailed out. The general meaning of the state email was to inform districts that they may request one district director to receive the same information shared with the State-Approved Director of Special Education. The process for this is still in the works.

**Purchase Care Review Board Meeting**

Was scheduled for June 2nd; however, has been moved to July (date to be determined). This meeting will address questions on the tuition rate-setting process.

## **ED Red Lake County Summit**

June 11th at the Regional Office of Education Facility in Lake Forest.

### **Parent University**

- April 14th, 2026 Partners in Support  
Q&A panel experts featuring state representatives, educational advocates, and service providers to help navigate the complexities of disability services with practical, expert guidance.
- May 14th, 2026 Understanding Pathological Demand Avoidance  
Molly Johnson, founder of Patiently Parenting. PDA is often linked to Autism and ADHD, and is a neurodevelopmental profile characterized by an intense, anxiety-driven need for control and a natural resistance to everyday demands.

#### 12.1 SEDOL Foundation (Ms. Subry)

- Pucks for Autism- June 5-7
- Golf Invitational- September 14
- 5K Run/Walk- September 19
- One Special Night- November 7
- Ping Pong for Kids- February 7, 2027
- Laremont Trivia Night- March 6, 2027

#### 12.2 2025-26 Retirees

[Retirees.pdf](#) 

#### 12.3 SEDOL Events (Dr. Hackett)

[Upcoming Events Around SEDOL 2026.pdf](#) 

### **13. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (Ms. McHugh)**

### **14. ADJOURNMENT (Ms. McHugh)**

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 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