



Dr. Jennifer Thomas
Superintendent

Executive Board Meeting Summary
Thursday, July 23, 2026

INTERFUND TRANSFER HEARING

A public hearing on the interfund transfers was held prior to the start of the regular meeting.

OATH OF OFFICE

Superintendent Thomas administered the oath of office to the following Board Members who were approved by the Governing Board to serve a two-year term expiring in June 2028: Ms. Odie Pahl, Gurnee D56 Governing Board Member; Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds, Lake Villa D41 Superintendent; and Dr. Corey Tafoya, Mundelein D75 & 120 Superintendent.

PLEDGE AND AGENDA

Following the Call to Order/Roll Call, Oath of Office, and Pledge of Allegiance by Dr. Thomas and President McHugh, the Board accepted the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following board designations were made as part of the annual organizational process:

- Board Secretary: Dr. Jennifer Thomas, Superintendent
- Newspaper: The Daily Herald
- Legal Counsel: Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick and Kohn (HLERK)
- Meeting Schedule: Generally the 4th Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m. unless a conflict; the complete meeting schedule is provided at the end of this summary
- Proposed Committee Appointments:

<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Finance</u>	<u>Policy</u>	<u>Negotiations</u>
Dr. Jason Lind, Chair	Dr. Scott Schwartz, Chair	Ms. Odie Pahl, Chair	Ms. Carey McHugh, Chair
Ms. Odie Pahl	Dr. Corey Tafoya	Dr. Jason Lind	Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds
	Ms. Odie Pahl	Dr. Michael Karner	

The Executive Board President and the Superintendent are ex officio members of all committees.

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

- ~ Request for Contracts for 11 educational support personnel (ESP) and 3 licensed staff
- ~ Resignations/retirements by 8 ESP and 1 licensed staff
- ~ Contracted 5 staff

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Vocational Students

Ms. Erin Tidd and Mr. Austin Robertson recognized the vocational student workers who have contributed and are continuing to contribute their efforts this summer cleaning and sorting student devices. This year they were able to have workers prior to the extended school year and after to help prepare for the beginning of the school year.

Introduction of New Administrators

Stephanie Jakimczyk, Assistant Sector Supervisor

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Thomas updated the Board on the SEDOL 2026-27 Continuous Improvement Plan. She outlined the CIP process, goals, next steps, and timeline.

SEDOL's Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP)

Identifies goals, objectives, and dashboard indicators designed to advance opportunities for our students.

CIP Process

Reflects stakeholder input - districts, staff, board, and parents; dashboard indicators are used as measures of evidence and frequent progress updates, revisions, and next steps.

2026-27 Goals

1. Provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of students throughout the SEDOL community
2. Establish an effective, equitable financial structure that best supports students' and district needs
3. Advance high standards and expectations
4. Advance effective collaborative team practices

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.

Timeline

- July to mid-August 2026: Develop CIP goal objectives and dashboard indicators. Finalize the CIP plan for 2026-27.
- August 27, 2026: 2026-27 CIP Plan presentation to the Executive Board.
- Sept. 2026-May 2027: Data collection and monitoring goals with regular reports to Executive and Governing Boards.
- June 2027: Year-End CIP Report

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution Authorizing Interfund Transfers

The Board adopted the interfund transfer resolution authorizing \$2,000,000 from the Education Fund be moved to the Operations & Maintenance Fund and \$2,000,000 from the Operations & Maintenance Fund be moved to the Capital Projects Fund.

FY24 Audit Update

Mr. Shepherd updated the Board on the FY25 audit with an anticipated completion date of October 2026.

Summer Project Update

Mr. Saum provided the Board with an update on summer facilities projects, including the following:

- Evaluation of wood replacement for the roof awning at Gages Lake School.
- Replacement of water heaters, as needed.
- Updates and replacement of electrical panels, as needed.
- Improvements to the entrance at the John Powers Center.
- Replacement of glass throughout SEDOL buildings as needed.
- Assembly of new fitness equipment by the Operations Department at Cyd Lash Academy.
- Construction of a wall at Fairhaven School to divide the sensory room and create additional classroom space.

iPad Approval

Dr. Thomas updated the Board on the increase in price from the original quote from Apple that was previously approved at the June 25, 2026, meeting. When the order was submitted after approval, the quoted price had been increased by \$25,740; unit price from \$324 to \$429. The Board approved the additional funds to purchase the remaining iPads from the original quote.

NEW BUSINESS

Final Budget FY27

The Board approved the FY25 final budget and that it be presented for Governing Board approval at the meeting on August 5, 2026. There were no changes from the tentative budget to the final.

The final budget will be based on the cash basis, which includes Evidence-Based Funding and tuition revenues being calculated accordingly, and for final budget purposes, total SEDOL expenditures for FY27 are set at \$65,332,118. Those expenditures are offset by SEDOL revenues of \$61,692,877, leaving a fund balance of \$12,404,210. Total expenditures in the Education Fund are \$56,273,934; expenditures in the O&M Fund are \$3,739,509; Debt Services Fund are \$180,625; Transportation Fund are \$840,000; IMRF Fund are \$1,045,050; and Capital Projects are \$3,250,000.

Bank Resolution

The Board approved the bank resolution appointing Dr. Thomas as an authorized alternate signer on SEDOL Bank accounts.

NIHIP Resolution

The Board appointed Mr. Shepherd as the Northern Illinois Health Insurance Program (NIHIP) representative and appointed Dr. Thomas as the NIHIP alternate representative.

STU Proposed Contract

The Board reviewed the 3-year SEDOL Teachers' Union contract and recommended Governing Board approval at their August 5th meeting.

Art Therapy Contract

The Board approved the contract between SEDOL and Ms. Laura Luoma in the amount of \$34,317.50. Ms. Luoma will provide art therapy to community life skills students, REACH students, and JPC Deaf and Hard of Hearing middle school students.

Start of the 2026-27 School Year

Dr. Thomas reviewed a few of the beginning of the 2026-27 school year dates. She also noted that although sector dates are similar, there are a few differences.

All SEDOL New Staff Orientation

August 12, 13, 14, 2026

SEDOL Buildings - Teacher Institute Days

August 17, 18, 19, 2026

SEDOL Buildings/Programs - First Day of Student Attendance

August 20, 2026

Sector Programs

DISTRICT	TEACHER INST	STUDENT 1ST DAY
#24 MILLBURN • Millburn Elem	AUG 17-18	AUG 19
#41 LAKE VILLA • Martin	AUG 17-18	AUG 19 Grades 1-8 Kindergarten 1st day is AUG TBD
#50 WOODLAND • Woodland Middle	AUG 17-18	AUG 19 - ½ Day
#56 GURNEE • Spaulding, Prairie Trail, Viking Middle	AUG 17-18	AUG 19 - Early Dismissal
#70 LIBERTYVILLE ELEM. • Butterfield	AUG 17-18	AUG 19
#79 FREMONT • Intermediate • Middle	AUG 18-19	AUG 20
#116 ROUND LAKE • Village Elem • Round Lake Middle	AUG 10-12	AUG 13
#127 GRAYSLAKE • Grayslake North HS	AUG 10-11	AUG 12

CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered 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 legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.
2. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

INFORMATIONAL

Bereavement

Wayne Bentel, former SEDOL teacher and teaching supervisor (1974-1980) and later (1997-2005) principal of Fairfield Academy, a former SEDOL-operated program, passed away on Monday, July 13.

SEDOL Foundation Events

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

Extended School Year (ESY)

Dr. Jimenez-Captain provided the Board with an overview of the Extended School Year (ESY) program, which served a total of 309 students this summer. She shared that the summer theme, *Under the Sea*, was enjoyed by both students and staff, with curriculum-based and hands-on activities designed around the theme. Each program provided instructional maps for literacy, mathematics, and STEM that were aligned to meet students' individual needs while including engaging summer experiences. Parents also provided positive feedback about the program through the ESY survey.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

The Board welcomed its newest members, Dr. Keim-Bounds (D41) and Dr. Tafoys (D75 & 120).

ADJOURNMENT

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

2026-27 Executive Board Meeting Schedule- SEDOL Administration Bldg Office Bay Room

Thursday, August 27, 2026
Thursday, September 24, 2026
Thursday, October 22, 2026
Thursday, November 12, 2026
Thursday, December 17, 2026
Thursday, January 28, 2027
Thursday, February 25, 2027
Thursday, March 18, 2027
Thursday, April 15, 2027 (*Special meeting on tentative budget*)
Thursday, April 22, 2027
Thursday, May 27, 2027
Thursday, June 24, 2027
Thursday, July 22, 2027

2026-27 Governing Board Meeting Schedule- Gages Lake School Community Room

Wednesday, August 5, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. 6:50 p.m. Public Hearing on the FY27 Budget
Wednesday, December 2, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 3, 2027 – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 2, 2027 – 7:00 p.m.