

SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY

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Dr. Jennifer Thomas
Superintendent

Governing Board Meeting Summary Wednesday, August 5, 2026

BUDGET HEARING

A public hearing on the final FY27 budget was held prior to the start of the regular meeting.

PLEDGE, AGENDA, and MINUTES

Following the Call to Order/Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, and Oath of Office, the Board accepted the agenda and minutes.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- Board members and SEDOL administration introduced themselves.
- Member district administrators in attendance introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

PROGRAM REPORTS

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 highlights reflecting the summer theme, *Under the Sea*, which 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 feedback about the program through the ESY survey including the educational value, program engagement, program duration, communication, and staff appreciation.

SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

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.
- September 2026-May 2027: Data collection and monitoring goals with regular reports to Executive and Governing Boards.
- June 2027: Year-End CIP Report

STU PROPOSED CONTRACT

Dr. Wojcik presented a summary of the SEDOL Teachers' Union proposed 3-year contract to begin with the 2026-27 school year. The Board approved the 3-year contract.

FINANCE UPDATE AND PRESENTATION OF THE FY27 FINAL BUDGET

FY27 Final Budget

Mr. Shepherd shared that there were no changes to the Tentative SEDOL Budget that was presented at the June 3, 2026 Governing Board meeting.

Mr. Shepherd proposed the following to the Board for the final FY27 budget:

- 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.

The Board approved the final FY27 budget.

New Tuition Model Implemented

Program Tuition

- Direct and indirect expenses were estimated for each program (*cost accounting*)
- Tuitions were calculated at 80% of student enrollment capacity
 - Example: Program has capacity to house 100 students – tuition rates were calculated at 80% or 80 students being enrolled for the school year

The new tuition model includes a separate administrative fee as outlined below:

- Board of Education (*Function 2310*)
- Office of the Superintendent (*Function 2320*)
- Special Services Administration (*Function 2330*)
- Improvement of Instruction (*Function 2210*)
- Business Office (*Function 2520*)
- Office of Human Resources (*Function 2640*)
- Office of Technology (*Function 2660*)

INFORMATIONAL

SEDOL Foundation - Upcoming 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

SEDOL Events

Summer Program Tours

- ESY Classrooms- Laremont School, Cyd Lash Academy, Gages Lake School, and Sector

Fall Program Tours

- September 17th- Laremont School, Cyd Lash Academy, and Gages Lake School
- September 18th- Fairhaven School and John Powers Center

An informational flyer will be shared with a link to register.

OPEN FORUM

Suggestions, questions/concerns, and future agenda items recommended by the Board:

Ms. McHugh reminded the Board that there are still two open Governing Board seats on the Executive Board.

ADJOURNMENT

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

2026-27 Executive Board Meeting Schedule *SEDOL 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, December 2, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 3, 2027 – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 2, 2027 – 7:00 p.m.

:sm 8/7/26