

SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY

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www.sedol.us

Dr. Jennifer Thomas

Superintendent

TO: Executive Board Members

FROM: Administration

RE: Executive Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, August 27, 2026

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

LOCATION: SEDOL Administration Office, Bay Room

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Ms. McHugh)

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

Motion to Accept the Agenda - VOICE VOTE

Move acceptance of the agenda as presented.

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

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda - ROLL CALL VOTE

Move approval of the consent agenda items and addendum, if included, as presented.

4.1 Minutes

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

4.2 Financial Matters

Paid Accounts Payables:

[FY27 AUG26 Executive Board Meeting Summary.pdf](#) 

[Executive Board - Payroll Summary.pdf](#) 

[AP Board Check Register 08-27-26.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Manual Check Register 07-17,24,31-26.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.

[August 27, 2026 Personnel Recommendations & Vacancies.pdf](#) 

5. RECOGNITION (Dr. Thomas)

5.1 2025-26 Employee of the Year Ashley Merkel.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT (Ms. McHugh)

President McHugh will recognize any visitors at the meeting. The Executive Board is always interested in hearing from anyone who has a concern or issue regarding SEDOL programs and services. In order to ensure that everyone is heard and, at the same time, conduct the meeting properly and efficiently, those wishing to address the Board are asked to observe the following guidelines.

1. Sign in at the meeting and complete the Public Comment Information Form.
2. Address the Board at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the Board President.
3. State your name for the record.
4. Comments should be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. The Board President may deny a person the opportunity to speak for more than 3 minutes. The President may also deny such opportunity to a person who has previously addressed the Board on the same subject.
5. Groups attending Board meetings are requested to appoint a spokesperson, if possible. The spokesperson should identify the group he/she represents and then briefly explain the concerns shared by the group. The Board President reserves the right to terminate a speaker's comments if they are repetitive or redundant.
6. Comments made during open session should not pertain to individual students or employees. Concerns regarding a specific student or employee should be presented in closed session.
7. The Board President or other presiding officer shall have the authority to terminate the remarks of any individual addressing the Board under public comment and to determine procedural matters regarding public comment not otherwise defined in Board policy.

7. SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) UPDATE- ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Thomas)

Administration will present the 2026-27 Continuous Improvement Plan for Board approval.

Motion to Approve Plan - ACTION NEEDED

Move approval of the 2026-27 Continuous Improvement Plan as presented.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Summer Project Update - INFORMATIONAL (Mr. Shepherd)

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1 Curriculum Purchase - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Jiménez-Captain)
Administration will request approval to purchase SEDOL-wide curriculum through Everway in the amount of \$66,594.47.

Move to Approve Purchase - ROLL CALL VOTE

Motion to approve the purchase of curriculum through Everway in the amount of \$66,594.47 as presented.

- 9.2 1st Days of 2026-27 School Year - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Thomas)
Administration will provide and update on the start of the 2026-27 school year.

- 9.3 Emergency Resolution - ACTION NEEDED (Mr. Shepherd)
Administration requests approval of the resolution for an emergency contract as recommended by McDonough Mechanical Services for boiler replacement at Laremont School without proceeding through the competitive bid process set forth in Section 10-20.21(a) of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(a)). Repairs are anticipated to cost in excess of \$50,000.

[Emergency Resolution Laremont Boiler.pdf](#) 

Motion to Approve Emergency Contract Resolution - ROLL CALL VOTE

Move to approve the Laremont School emergency contract resolution as presented for boiler replacement as recommended by McDonough Mechanical Services with an anticipated cost in excess of \$50,000.

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

Motion to Enter Into Closed Session - ROLL CALL VOTE

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 legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

Motion to Return to Public Session - VOICE VOTE

Move the Board return to public session.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 Possible Termination - ACTION NEEDED (Ms. McHugh)
Administration recommends the termination of support staff employee 08272026-01 for cause.

Motion to Approve Termination - ROLL CALL VOTE

Move to approve the termination of employee 08272026-01 for cause as recommended.

12. INFORMATIONAL

- 12.1 Bereavement (Dr. Thomas)
Marilyn Bobb, a former SEDOL administrative assistant, passed away on August 6, 2026. Marilyn worked in the Administration Building from August 1976 until her retirement in June 2007.
- 12.2 SEDOL Foundation (Ms. Subry)
- 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
- 12.3 SEDOL Events (Dr. Thomas)
- Curriculum Night
 - September 10th
 - SEDOL Building Tours
 - September 17th at Laremont School, Gages Lake School, and Cyd Lash Academy
 - September 18th at Fairhaven School and John Powers Center
 - [American Sign Language Classes](#)
 - Fall session starts September 23rd at John Powers Center

13. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (Ms. McHugh)

14. ADJOURNMENT (Ms. McHugh)

2026-27 Executive Board Meeting Schedule *SEDOL Office Bay Room*

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.