SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY
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Dr. Jennifer Thomas
Superintendent

Minutes
SEDOL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Thursday, July 23, 2026

Board Members Present:	D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds
Board Members Absent:	D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner
Staff Members Present:	Dr. Jennifer Thomas, David Shepherd, Matthew Crowley, Dr. Yesenia Jimenez-Captain, and Sara Martinez
Staff Members Absent:	Dr. Matthew Barbini and Dr. Laura Wojcik

INTERFUND TRANSFER HEARING

A public hearing on the interfund transfers was held prior to the start of the regular meeting at 8:20 a.m. and ended at 8:30 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL (Dr. Thomas)

The July meeting of the Executive Board is the annual organizational meeting. In accordance with Executive Board Policy 2:64, Dr. Thomas, SEDOL Superintendent, opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. at the SEDOL Administration Building, Gages Lake, IL. At its June meeting, the Governing Board took action to reappoint members to the Executive Board. Dr. Thomas administered the oath of office to Ms. Odie Pahl, Gurnee D56 Governing Board Member; Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds, D41 Superintendent; and Dr. Corey Tafoya, D75 & 120.

All will serve a two-year term expiring in June 2028.

0256 Board Structure.pdf

0264 Oath of Office Jan 24 2019.pdf

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Ms. McHugh)

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

Motion to Accept the Agenda - VOICE VOTE
Moved by: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya; seconded by: D56-Odie Pahl

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Absent: D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Carried 4-0

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

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D56-Odie Pahl; seconded by: Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D56-Odie Pahl, and D118-Carey McHugh

Abstain: Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Absent: D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Carried 3-0

4.1 Board Designations

1. Appointment of Board Secretary
2. Naming of Official Newspaper
3. Designation of Legal Counsel
4. Meeting Schedule
5. Committee Appointments

Board Designations.pdf

4.2 Minutes

Public and closed session minutes of the regular meeting of June 25, 2026.

Minutes EB Mtg - Jun 25 2026.pdf

4.3 Financial Matters

Paid Accounts Payables:

FY27 JUL26 Executive Board Meeting Summary.pdf

Paid AP Board Check Register 07-23-26.pdf

Paid AP Manual Check Register 07-24-26.pdf

4.4 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.

July 23, 2026 Personnel Recommendations & Vacancies.pdf

July 23, 2026 Addendum.pdf

4.5 Policy Matters

Proposed revisions to the attached policy have been reviewed by the Policy Committee. Administration recommends approval to change the policy.

Policy 5:330 Leaves

5. RECOGNITION (Dr. Thomas)

5.1 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.

5.2 Introduction of New Administrators

Stephanie Jakimczyk, Assistant Sector Supervisor

6. PUBLIC COMMENT (Ms. McHugh)

There was no Public Comment.

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

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

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Resolution Authorizing Interfund Transfers - (Mr. Shepherd)

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.

Resolution Authorize Interfund Transfer.pdf

Motion to Adopt Resolution - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D56-Odie Pahl; seconded by: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Absent: D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Carried 4-0

8.2 FY25 Audit Update - INFORMATIONAL (Mr. Shepherd)

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

8.3 Summer Project Update - INFORMATIONAL (Mr. Shepherd)

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.

8.4 iPad Approval - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Thomas)

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.

Memo for iPads.pdf

iPad Proposal.pdf

Motion to Approve Additional Funds - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D56-Odie Pahl; seconded by: Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Absent: D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Carried 4-0

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Final Budget FY27 - ACTION NEEDED (Mr. Shepherd)

The Board approved the FY27 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.

Motion to Accept and Present Final Budget - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya; seconded by: D56-Odie Pahl

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Absent: D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Carried 4-0

9.2 Bank Resolution - ACTION NEEDED (Mr. Shepherd)

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

Resolution Authorizing Signers on Accounts at Libertyville Bank.pdf

Move Approval of Bank Resolution - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D56-Odie Pahl; seconded by: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Absent: D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Carried 4-0

9.3 NIHIP Resolution - ACTION NEEDED (Mr. Shepherd)

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

NIHIP Resolution.pdf

Motion to Approve Appointments - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya; seconded by: D56-Odie Pahl

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Absent: D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Carried 4-0

9.4 STU Proposed Contract - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Wojcik)

Ms. Carey and Ms. McHugh of the SEDOL Board Negotiations Team provided a brief overview of the proposed 3-years contract to start with the 2026-27 school year between the SEDOL Teachers' Union and the SEDOL Board. The Board recommended Governing Board approval at their August 5th meeting.

Motion to Recommend Approval - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D56-Odie Pahl; seconded by: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Absent: D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Carried 4-0

9.5 Art Therapy Contract - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Jimenez-Captain)

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.

Art therapy Contract FY27.docx.pdf

Motion to Approve 2026-27 Contract - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds; seconded by: D56-Odie Pahl

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Absent: D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Carried 4-0

9.6 Start of the 2026-27 School Year - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Thomas)

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- Sector Programs.pdf

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

Motion to Enter Into Closed Session - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D56-Odie Pahl; seconded by: Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Absent: D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Carried 4-0

TheBoard entered into closed session at 9:09 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 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.

Motion to Return to Public Session - VOICE VOTE

Moved by: D56-Odie Pahl; seconded by: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Absent: D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Carried 4-0

The Board returned to public session at 9:16 a.m.

11. INFORMATIONAL

11.1 Bereavement (Dr. Thomas)

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

11.2 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- June 2027

11.3 SEDOL Events

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.

12. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (Ms. McHugh)

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

13. ADJOURNMENT (Ms. McHugh)

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sara Martinez
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

Carey McHugh
Board President

Dr. Jennifer Thomas
Board Secretary