



Dr. Jennifer Thomas
Superintendent

Executive Board Meeting Summary
Thursday, September 24, 2026

MOMENT OF SILENCE, PLEDGE, AND AGENDA

Following the Call to Order/Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance, the Board observed a moment of silence in memory of a Laremont School student who passed away. They continued by accepting the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- ~ Request for Contracts for 11 educational support personnel (ESP) and 1 licensed staff
- ~ Resignations/Retirements by 5 ESP and 1 licensed staff
- ~ Request for Leave of Absence by 1 educational support staff
- ~ Contract staff 3

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

STARS Student of the Month

The Board recognized a student from Ashley Brite's Transition classroom at Laremont School as the September STARS student. While this student has struggled in the past with communication, daily living skills, and gross motor skill, her ability to communicate, trust stuff, and willingness to work on gross motor skills has grown significantly. For the first time, with assistance and help of an E-Pacer, she was able to walk 20 feet and is now up to 120 feet!

Employee of the Month

The Board recognized Smita Chatlani, Academic Specialist, as September's Employee of the Month. Smita was nominated by sixteen staff from Gages Lake School. She has demonstrated exceptional planning and coordination, has developed and organized essential instructional guides, resources, and curriculum materials. She provides hands-on classroom support and demonstrates a strong commitment to educator success and student learning.

Staff Appreciation

Recognition for the Month of September

- IT Professional

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Thomas and Mr. Shepherd presented on:

- Goal #2 Establish an effective, equitable financial structure that best supports students and district needs
- Objective A By June 2027, SEDOL will collaborate with member districts to review implementation of revised tuition model and evaluate the implementation of S-Fund

S-Fund General Information

- Creates a revenue source for students attending public day schools.
- Encourages student participation in public school specialized programming through districts and co-ops.
- S-Fund combines funds used to reimburse both private and public day programs.
- Rules are regulated by ISBE.
- Tuition regulated by Purchased Care Review Board.
- Currently S-Fund anticipated to be fully implemented using PCRB tuition rates

S-Fund Challenges

- Allocation for S-Fund plus private schools has increased, but not enough to cover the number of programs that were added by S-Fund (172 programs).
- Proration of the combined private & public reimbursement is currently 63%. In FY23, proration was 98%. In FY24 proration was 91%.
- Of SEDOL's 31 member districts, 16 districts saw an increase in reimbursement with the implementation of S-fund and 15 districts saw a decrease in reimbursement with the implementation of S-fund.
- Currently S-Fund is anticipated to be fully implemented using PCRB tuition rates beginning July 2027.
- PCRB still operating 2 years in arrears for tuition - Looking at the impact this has on the funding of our programs

S-Fund Work in Progress

- SEDOL is working with ISBE and region co-op CSBOs on questions of discrepancy in PCRB tuition to actual cost.
- SEDOL is in contact with consultants from both ISBE and PCRB.
- SEDOL is working with Cooperatives across the state on balancing implementation of S-fund while balancing non-tuition based programming with a co-op.
- SEDOL Member Districts, Executive Board and Governing Board are being kept in the loop regarding efforts to implement S-fund.
- We continue to work on both the S-fund model as well as monitor the implementation of the current tuition model to be ready for all contingencies regarding funding for the 2027-28 school year.

Mr. Crowley presented on:

Goal 3 Advance high standards and expectations.

Adjective C By June 2027, SEDOL will increase staff proficiency in emergency response protocols through implementation of the Standard Reunification Method (SRM), therefore enhancing the district's overall capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

Standard Reunification Method

- Non-Union administrative building staff engaged in training
- Developed an understanding of the 6 step sequential release process
 - This process will ensure an accountable chain of custody
- SEDOL Administrative Team conducted a site visit of a reunification site
- Begin planning work for the development of reunification kits
 - As well as classroom based "go bags"
- Next Steps: Building specific rally points, staff training, and tabletop exercises

Verkada Guest Management

- Integrated under the same ecosystem as our security cameras and access control
- Provides extra barrier between visitors and office staff during screening process
- Ability to enter OOPs or "restricted lists"

SEDOL ID Badges

- Color coded lanyards for staff, visitors, vendors
- Updated images that provide access to buildings
- To be worn at all times on campus/school grounds

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Donation Approval

The Board approved the monetary donation from the Illinois Foundation of Deaf Children.

Annual Student Behavior Committee

The next meeting of the Annual Student Behavior Committee is scheduled for October 5th at 3:30 p.m. Topics will include: Policy 7:190 *Student Behavior* and associated administrative procedures, restraint and time out (RTO) data, and NEST data (Fairhaven School).

Disposal of Old Bus

The Board approved the disposal of the old bus. Administration will look into options for disposal.

FOIA

Dr. Wojcik received twenty FOIA requests and responded to all twenty in the appropriate timeline.

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. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal.

OTHER

Possible Termination

The Board approved the termination of support staff member Savannah Fleece effective August 17, 2026.

Possible Termination

The Board approved the termination of support staff member Patricia McGraw effective September 24, 2026.

Co-Interim CSBO Contract Extension

The Board approved contract extension for Dr. Johns and Ms. Allard for up to an additional 30 days. They will continue to help with the transition of business department matters.

INFORMATIONAL

SEDOL Highlights

Highlights were shared from SEDOL building and sector programs.

SEDOL Foundation Events

- 5K Run/Walk- ~~September 19~~ October 4
- One Special Night- November 7
- Adopt a Family- November/December
- Ping Pong for the Kids- February 7
- Laremont Trivia Night- March 6
- Pucks for Autism- June 2027
- Golf Invitational- September 14

SEDOL Fall Program Tours

Highlights were shared from the September 17 tours of Cyd Lash Academy, Gages Lake School, and Laremont School, as well as the September 18 tours of Fairhaven School and John Powers Center. The tours provided an opportunity for member district superintendents, special education directors, district specialists, and board members to learn more about the programs and services offered at each school.

Lake County Resource Fair

On September 18, SEDOL co-hosted the Lake County Resource Fair with the Lake County Regional Office of

Education (ROE), Mother's Trust, and the Lake County Community Foundation. Nearly 50 community social service agencies participated in the event, providing valuable resources and connections to attendees. SEDOL's Bob Bolin helped organize the event and helped bring together the participating agencies and community partners. One of the day's highlights was the keynote presentation by Amanda Clay.

SEDOL Events

Resource Fair	Laremont School	10.3.26
Trunk or Treat	Laremont School	10.3.26
Homecoming	Laremont School	10.9.26
Homecoming	Fairhaven School	10.16.26
Halloween Extravaganza	John Powers Center	10.22.26
Parent University	Understanding the IEP	10.22.26 (4:00-6:00 p.m.)
Parent/Teacher Conferences	SEDOL Bldgs	10.22.26 (p.m.) and 10.23.26 (a.m.)
Boo Bash	Fairhaven School	10.29.26
Halloween Parade	Laremont School	10.30.26
Halloween Parade	Fairhaven School	10.30.26

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Lind shared and Dr. Keim-Bounds agreed that the tours were a great way to see the students and spend some time interacting with them. He said it was really nice to see them getting the services and opportunities they need to learn and grow.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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.