SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY
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Dr. Jennifer Thomas
Superintendent

Executive Board Meeting Summary
Thursday, October 22, 2026

MOMENT OF SILENCE, PLEDGE, AND AGENDA

The meeting was called to order and a roll call was taken.

The Board observed a moment of silence in memory of Melissa Escogido Hernandez, a Laremont School student and Jessica Albert, a SEDOL staff member who both recently passed away.

They continued with the Pledge of Allegiance and by accepting the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- ~ Request for Contracts for 6 educational support personnel (ESP) and 0 licensed staff
- ~ Resignations/Retirements by 3 ESP and 2 licensed staff
- ~ Contract staff 2

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

STARS Student of the Month

The Board recognized a student from Nina Avis's classroom at Fairhaven School as the October STARS student. This student has embraced the expectations and routines of middle school and has grown into a wonderful leader and role model for his peers. He continues to demonstrate independence, make positive strides in his growth, and set good examples for those around him. His positive attitude and kind spirit bring happiness to the classroom, and he has a special way of making everyone around him smile. We are proud to celebrate his accomplishments and the positive impact he makes each day!

Employee of the Month

The Board recognized Mary Budde Ragan, Sector Social Worker, as the October Employee of the Month. Mary consistently goes above and beyond to support students. She takes the time to understand each student's individual needs and approaches every situation with care, creativity, and professionalism. Mary also works closely with teachers, making time to consult, collaborate, and share ideas to ensure students receive the support they need. Her dedication, compassion, and commitment to working as a team make a meaningful difference in the lives of the students she serves.

Staff Appreciation

Recognition for the Month of October

- Audiologists and CAVT
- Custodians
- Physical Therapists
- Principals/Supervisors
- Vocational Facilitators

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Palmer, Stacy Calcagnino, and Christa Nick presented on:

Goal #1 Provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of students throughout the SEDOL community

Objective C By June 2027, SEDOL will strengthen collaborative structures that use professional learning and data-driven continuous improvement to strengthen student outcomes across the district and county.

Stacy Calcagnino presented on: MOVE (Mobility Opportunities Via Education/Experience) Assessment Dining Plan.

This project was approved as a summer curriculum project and was intended to create documents to go along with the MOVE curriculum. The documents were created to work with the Eating & Dining Plan.

Documents include:

- The Need: Prompt Plan for Standing/Walking
- The Creation: Developmental Feeding Milestone Checklist
- The Guide: Feeding Skills Intervention Guide
- The Evaluation: Dining and Movement/Positioning evaluation cards that travel with each student
- The Future: Likes/Dislikes document

Christa Nick presented on: Morning Meeting Mix, orientation songs and visuals for secondary and post-secondary students.

The purpose of this project was to use AI resources to create more age appropriate and interesting music and visual supports for these daily orientation concepts.

  - 5 Themes: Days of the Week, Months of the Year, Seasons, Feelings, and Weather
  - 5 Genres: HipHop, 70s Funk, Afro-Cuban Style, K-Pop, and Heavy Rock
- Teachers review orientation information daily (days of the week, months of the year, etc.)
  - For younger learners, there is a wide range of available resources.
  - Very little is available to reinforce these concepts for secondary and post-secondary learners.
  - The purpose of this project was to use AI resources to create more age-appropriate and interesting music and visual supports.
- The challenges we faced
  - AI made changes that were unexpected.
  - When conscious changes were made, AI would sometimes change other things.
  - AI operates on credits, and revising takes credits. Soon the credits were all gone.
  - Each round of changes meant waiting, which slowed the process down significantly.
  - Despite best efforts, there were still a few errors that slipped through.
  - Even with challenges, it was a valuable experience and the final product turned out well.

Dr. Barbini presented on:

Goal 4 Advance effective collaborative team practices

Objective A By June 2027, implement 2026-27 communication plan and enhance communication structure.

- Began the process of evaluating mass notification solutions to enhance communication with the SEDOL community.
  - SEDOL will actively explore solutions that allow for two way text based communication with families.
  - Recommendation to the Executive Board at the March Board Meeting.
- Developed a cadence for producing and publishing short video reels on SEDOL social media channels to increase engagement. Two reels have been published to date!

Objective B By June 2027, update information about SEDOL's programming continuum and services to enhance decision-making on behalf of students through updates in program brochures for SEDOL stakeholders.

- Updated program information on the website to reflect content on program brochures.
- Discussed how to leverage program brochures to advance this objective at the October 8 general administrative meeting.

Objective D: By fall 2026, SEDOL will show the impact of contributions of the SEDOL Foundation in publications and board meetings.
- Social media posts on the Golf Outing, 5K Run/Walk, Sensory Garden at Fairhaven.
- The SEDOL Foundation has a dedicated space in the monthly newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

FY25 Audit

Dr. Thomas provided the Board with an update on the FY25 and FY26 audits, noting that the auditors are scheduled to be onsite next week. With the assistance of Ms. Allard and Dr. Johns, both audits are well underway, with the goal of completing them this year. This would put SEDOL on track moving forward. Dr. Thomas also reported that Mr. Shepherd has begun working on the FY28 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

FY28 Contract/Itinerant Rates

The Board approved the FY28 contract and itinerant rates.

Amendment to Architect Contract FY27

Administration updated the Board on the 10-Year Life Safety Plan and the School Maintenance Project Grant. The Board approved Project Authorization Exhibit 008, which primarily includes projects at the John Powers Center.

School Maintenance Project Grant

The Board approved the School Maintenance Project Grant in the amount of $50,000.

Disposal of F250 Truck

The Board approved the disposal of the 2013 F250 pick-up. Administration will look into options for disposal.

FOIA

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

Planning for December Governing Board Meeting

The Board reviewed the December 2, 2026 Governing Board draft agenda.

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 placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students.

OTHER

Request for Non-Member District Placement

The Board approved placement for one student in the Laremont School Early Childhood program.

INFORMATIONAL

SEDOL Highlights

Highlights were shared from SEDOL building and sector programs.

SEDOL Foundation Events

- 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
- 5K Run/Walk- October 4

SEDOL Events

❖	Halloween Extravaganza	John Powers Center	10.22.26
❖	Parent/Teacher Conferences	SEDOL Bldgs	10.22.26 and 10.23.26
❖	~~Parent University~~- *cancelled*	~~Understanding the IEP 10.27.26 (5:00-7:00 p.m.)~~	
❖	Boo Bash	Fairhaven School	10.29.26
❖	Halloween Parade	Laremont School	10.30.26
❖	Halloween Parade	Fairhaven School	10.30.26
❖	Executive Board Meeting	SEDOL Admin Bldg	11.12.26
❖	PUNS Night (SEDOL Families)	SEDOL Admin Bldg	11.14.26
❖	Thanksgiving Break	SEDOL Calendar	11.25-27.26

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Executive Board member comments.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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.