SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY
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Dr. Jennifer Thomas
Superintendent

Minutes
SEDOL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Thursday, October 22, 2026

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

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

The regular meeting of the SEDOL Executive Board was called to order at 8:30 a.m. on October 22, 2026, at the Administration Building in Gages Lake, IL.

The Board observed a moment of silence in memory of Melissa Escogido Hernandez, a student from Laremont School and Jessica Albert, a Certified Vision/Hearing Tech, who both recently passed away.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Ms. McHugh)

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

Motion to Accept the Agenda - VOICE VOTE

Moved by: D24-Dr. Jason Lind; seconded by: D56-Odie Pahl

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D56-Odie Pahl, and D118-Carey McHugh

Absent: ROE-Dr. Michael Karner and Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Carried 5-0

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

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya; seconded by: D24-Dr. Jason Lind

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D56-Odie Pahl, and D118-Carey McHugh

Absent: ROE-Dr. Michael Karner and Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Carried 5-0

4.1 Minutes

Public and closed session minutes of the regular meeting of September 24, 2026.

Minutes Sep 24 2026 - Members.pdf

4.2 Policy Matters

The Board approved proposed revisions to the following policy.

0830 Visitors to and Conduct on Property Oct 22 2026.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.

October 22, 2026 Personnel Recommendations & Vacancies.pdf

October 22, 2026 Addendum.pdf

4.4 Financial Matters

FY27 October Executive Board Meeting Summary.pdf

Paid AP Board Check Register 10-22-26.pdf

Paid AP Manual Check Register 09-25,30-26.pdf

Payroll Summary - Sspt 2026.pdf

5. RECOGNITION (Dr. Thomas)

5.1 STARS Students

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!

5.2 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.

5.3 Staff Appreciation

Recognition for the Month of October:

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENT (Ms. McHugh)

There was no Public Comment.

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

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.

ɔcuments 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.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 FY25 Audit Update - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Thomas)

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 and have the goal of being completed this year. This would put SEDOL on track moving forward. Dr. Thomas also reported that Mr. Shepherd has begun working on the FY28 budget.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Approval of FY28 Contract/Itinerant Rates - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Thomas)

The Board approved the FY28 contract and itinerant rates.

Contract-Itinerant Memo FY28.pdf

Contract-Itinerant Rates FY28.PDF

Motion to Approve Rates - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D56-Odie Pahl; seconded by: D24-Dr. Jason Lind

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Absent: Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Carried 6-0

9.2 Amendment to Architect Contract FY27 - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Thomas)

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.

Graves Design Project Authorization.pdf

Motion to Approve Amendment - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya; seconded by: D24-Dr. Jason Lind

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Absent: Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Carried 6-0

9.3 School Maintenance Project Grant - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Thomas)

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

School Maint Project Grant.pdf

Motion to Approve Grant - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D24-Dr. Jason Lind; seconded by: D56-Odie Pahl

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Absent: Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Carried 6-0

9.4 Disposal of F250 Truck - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Thomas)

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

Motion to Approve Disposal Request - ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Absent: Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Carried 6-0

9.5 FOIA - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Wojcik)

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

9.6 Planning for December Governing Board Meeting- INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Thomas)

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

DRAFT GB Agenda- Dec 02 2026.pdf

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

Motion to Enter Into Closed Session - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D56-Odie Pahl; seconded by: D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Absent: Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Carried 6-0

Move the Board enter into closed session at 9:13 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 placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students.

Motion to Return to Public Session - VOICE VOTE

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

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Absent: Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Carried 6-0

The Board return to public session at 9:17 a.m.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Request for Non-Member District Placement - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Thomas)

The Board approved the requested by Woodstock D200 to continue placement for one student in the Laremont School ELP EC program for the 2026-27 school year. The districts will be billed based on the non-member district tuition schedule and will be responsible for transportation costs and for the cost associated with any additional support needed as a result of the placement.

#200 Hold Harmless 10.22.26.pdf

#200 Supt Letter 10.22.26.pdf

Motion to Approve Request - ROLL CALL VOTE

Moved by: D24-Dr. Jason Lind; seconded by: D56-Odie Pahl

Aye: D75/120-Dr. Corey Tafoya, D24-Dr. Jason Lind, D37-Dr. Scott Schwartz, D56-Odie Pahl, D118-Carey McHugh, and ROE-Dr. Michael Karner

Absent: Dr. Sandra Keim-Bounds

Carried 6-0

12. INFORMATIONAL

12.1 SEDOL Program Highlights (Dr. Wojcik)

Highlights were shared from SEDOL building and sector programs.

12.2 SEDOL Foundation (Dr. Thomas)

- One Special Night - November 7
- Ping Pong for the Kids - February 7
- Laremont Trivia Night - March 6
- Pucks for Autism- June 2027
- Golf Invitational- September 2027
- 5K Run/Walk- September 2027

12.3 SEDOL Events (Dr. Thomas)

• Halloween Extravaganza	John Powers Center	10.22.26
• Parent/Teacher Conferences	SEDOL Bldgs	10.22.26 and 10.23.26
• Parent University- *cancelled*		10.27.26
• 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)	Admin Bldg	11.14.26
• Thanksgiving Break	SEDOL Calendar	11.25-27.26

13. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (Ms. McHugh)

There were no Executive Board member comments.

14. ADJOURNMENT (Ms. McHugh)

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sara Martinez
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

Carey McHugh Board President	Dr. Jennifer Thomas Board Secretary