SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY
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Dr. Jennifer Thomas
Superintendent

Executive Board Meeting Summary
Thursday, November 12, 2026

PLEDGE AND AGENDA
Following the Call to Order/Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance by President McHugh, the Board accepted the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA
Minutes, closed session, and financial matters were approved along with the following personnel items:
- ~ Request for Contracts for 8 educational support personnel (ESP) and 1 licensed staff
- ~ Resignations/Retirements by 2 ESP and 0 licensed staff

SPECIAL RECOGNITION
The Board recognized a student from Monse Cortes's classroom at John Powers Center as the November STARS Student. This student is a wonderful example of perseverance. When he first began at JPC, he had limited language skills, but over the past few years, he has made tremendous progress. Through hard work and determination, he continues to develop clear speech sounds and listening skills. In addition to his academic and communication growth, he is kind, welcoming, and a positive role model for those around him.

Employee of the Month
The Board recognized Andre Probst, Laremont School Teacher, as the November Employee of the Month. Andre is an exceptional educator whose dedication and commitment create an engaging and supportive learning environment for his students. Known as the "Boardmaker King," Andre ensures his students have the visual resources they need to support their learning. He also plays a key role in planning and implementing schoolwide events, consistently going above and beyond for the students and staff at Laremont School.

Employee Recognition
The Board recognized Becky Allard, Co-Interim Chief School Business Official (CSBO), as she prepares for her final day with SEDOL on December 3. The Board expressed its appreciation for Becky's dedication, commitment, and many contributions throughout her 2 years with SEDOL. They highlighted her experience and the successful implementation of software programs and updates that will continue to benefit SEDOL for years to come. The Board and administration extended its sincere gratitude to Becky and wished her the best as she begins her next chapter.

National Board Appreciation - November 15th
Dr. Thomas recognized the Executive, Governing, and Foundation Boards and thanked them for their time and dedication to SEDOL. The Executive Board received gift bags with student made items and were presented with artwork from the buildings that when complete, will hang in the Bay Room as a gift to the Board.

Staff Appreciation
Recognition for the Month of November
- School Directors
- School Psychologist
- Superintendent/Assistant Superintendents

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Hitt 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.

Fairhaven's Data-Driven Approach to Student Growth

Our Approach: Data informs every decision- A consistent cycle connects daily instruction to individual student reports.

1. Collect- Academic/IEP goal data 2-4 times weekly, and behavior data daily
2. Document- Academic and behavior data entered electronically each week
3. Review- Quarterly data days for eerie student, every goal, collaborate IEP teams
4. Respond- Adjust instruction and behavioral supports based on findings
5. Monitor- Monthly problem-solving meetings review response and next steps

Quarterly Data Days- Every student, every goal:

Each classroom IEP team reviews progress, celebrates growth, and identifies actionable next steps.

How We Use the Data:

Celebrate individual student success and effective strategies
Collaborate to identify goals needing additional support
Agree on instructional or behavioral adjustments and responsibilities

From Data to Action- Supporting Student Growth:

Identify- Which goal or behavior needs attention?
Analyze- What do the data and classroom observations tell us?
Collaborate- What do educators, related service providers, and specialists recommend?
Adjust- Which teaching strategy, support, or intervention will change?
Monitor- Is the change improving student outcomes?

Fall 2026 IEP Goal Progress- 84.7% of goals show positive progress:

- 77.7% meeting/making progress
- 8% exceeding
- 10% not making progress
- 5% excessive absences

Understanding Progress in an Individualized Program

Progress is not always linear; teams consider the whole student and the context of each goal.

Follow-Through: Monthly Problem-Solving Meetings:

Data Days establish plans; monthly meetings help teams monitor progress between quarterly reviews.

A culture of Data-Based Decisions:

Aligning daily practice, collaborative review, and continuous school improvement.

Fairhaven's commitment to meaningful, individualized growth:

"We do not collect data simply to document performance. We use it to understand each student, celebrate growth, strengthen instruction, and make thoughtful decisions that improve access to learning."

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Facility Improvement Update

Mr. Shepherd discussed the roof and elevator facility improvement projects at John Powers Center.

He also reported that the Life Safety Inspection reports/progress will be reviewed with the Board at the December 17th meeting.

The Board was also informed that SEDOL is in the process of a solar study. This study will explore the possibility of using solar as a power option and the process to implement it. Current federal and state tax incentives would allow rebates to cover the partial cost of this project. These tax incentives expire at the end of December 2026. The study will be discussed at the December meeting.

FOIA
Dr. Wojcik received one FOIA request and responded 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. 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.

OTHER
Possible Termination
The Board approved the termination of educational support personnel Erin Arnold.

INFORMATIONAL
SEDOL Highlights
Highlights were shared from SEDOL building and sector programs.

SEDOL Foundation Events

- 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, 2027
- 5K Run/Walk- September, 2027
- One Special Night

SEDOL Events
November

- PUNS Night (SEDOL Families) - SEDOL Admin Bldg - Nov 17
- Ribbon Cutting for Laremont Outdoor Memorial - Nov 24
- Thanksgiving Break - SEDOL Calendar - Nov 25-27

December

- Governing Board Meeting - Dec 2
- Winter Festivities - SEDOL School Bldgs/Programs - Dec 14 - 18
- Executive Board Meeting - SEDOL Admin Bldg - Dec 17
- Winter Break - SEDOL Calendar - Dec 21 - Jan 1

January

- Parent University (Behavior Lunch & Learn/Q&A) - Virtual - Jan 13
- American Sign Language Winter Session - John Powers Center - Jan 20

February

- Lake County Wide Institute Day - (Special Ed- Grant High School) - Feb 12

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Dr. Tafoya asked that the Board receive information on the solar project at least one week prior to the December Board meeting to allow for ample time to review.
- Ms. McHugh wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

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

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.