

**SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY**

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**Judy Hackett, Ed.D.**

**Tim Thomas, Ed.D.**

*Co-Interim Superintendents*

**Minutes**

**SEDOL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, January 23, 2025**

**Board Members Present:** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Board Members Late:** Ms. Carey McHugh

**Board Members Absent:** Dr. Lynn Glickman

**Staff Members Present:** Dr. Tim Thomas, Dr. Laura Wojcik, Ms. Sara Martinez, Dr. Judy Hackett, and Dr. Stephen Johns

**Staff Members Absent:** Mr. Matt Crowley, Dr. Yesenia Jimenez-Captain

**Guest:**

**1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL (Dr. Lind)**

The regular meeting of the SEDOL Executive Board was called to order at 8:32 a.m. on January 23, 2025 at the Administration Office in Gages Lake, IL.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Dr. Lind)**

**3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Lind)**

Motion to Accept the Agenda - VOICE VOTE

*Moved by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

*Seconded by:* Ms. Odie Pahl

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 6-0**

**4. CONSENT AGENDA - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Lind)**

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda - ROLL CALL VOTE

*Moved by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

*Seconded by:* Dr. Donn Mendoza

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 6-0**

4.1 Minutes

Public minutes of the regular meeting of December 19, 2024.

[EB Minutes Dec 19 2024.pdf](#) 

4.2 Financial Matters

Paid Accounts Payables and Fund Balance Report:

[FY25 January Executive Board Meeting Summary.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Check Register - Payroll Liabilities 01-15-25.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Check Register - Payroll Liabilities 12-27-24.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Check Run 01-23-25.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Check Run Over \\$8,000 01-23-25.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Manual Checks 12-13,14,20-24.pdf](#) 

[Paid AP Manual Checks Over \\$8,000 12-13,14,20-24.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.

[Jan 23, 2025 Personnel Recommendations & Vacancies \(1\).pdf](#)



[Letter of Resignation - Kurt Preble.pdf](#) 

There was no addendum.

### 5. RECOGNITION (Dr. Hackett)

#### 5.1 STARS Students

The Board recognized a student from Ms. Willkomm's classroom at John Powers Center, as the January STARS student. This student has recently started an internship with the SEDOL operations team at Laremont School and takes his job very seriously. He asks questions, listens to directions, and is eager to learn. This student takes great pride in his work and feels this type of occupation is in his future.

#### 5.2 Employee of the Month

The Board recognized Ms. Lisa Winston, Social Worker and Social Work Liaison as January's Employee of the Month. Ms. Winston is an incredible asset to the social work department. She goes above and beyond and goes out of her way to make herself available to students and staff alike. She is always willing to assist where needed and inspires her so-workers to be the best that they can be.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT (Dr. Lind)**

There was no Public Comment.

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

Ms. Sarah Carey, John Powers Center (JPC) Principal, shared how identified objectives of the CIP are guiding the program at John Powers Center, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Itinerants, and the Community Transition focus areas.

CIP Goal Alignment: SEDOL CIP Goal 1- Provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of students throughout the SEDOL community; JPC Goal 2- Improve curriculum and instruction through review and implementation; SEDOL CIP Goal 3- Advance high standards and expectations

**1. Hearing Itinerant Teachers**

- 5 teachers work with students with hearing loss in their home schools
- Provide service to 35 schools across Lake County
- Work with students on advocacy, understanding their hearing loss, auditory skill development, vocabulary development, and more.

**2. Community Transition**

- Two classrooms with 25 total students
- Working on independence, daily life skills, and community integration
- Work crews
- Build weekly budgets, grocery shop, and cook
- Mentoring program with CLC and their students
  - a. Work on developing self-confidence
  - b. Verbal, motor, and problem-solving skills

Ms. Pam Evans, Sector Supervisor and Vision Supervisor, shared how identified objectives of the CIP are guiding the program focus areas.

CIP Goal Alignment: SEDOL CIP Goal 1- Provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of students throughout the SEDOL community.

#### 1. Vision Department

- 5 Teachers and 1 Orientation & Mobility professional provide services to students with mild to severe vision difficulties
- 115 students served throughout Lake County
- Enable students to function effectively in the classroom
- Develop skills necessary for independence
- Services include direct instruction, consultation, and/or curricular modifications or adaptations
- SEDOL hosts a vision clinic which provides other services and resources for our families
- Staff participated in Vision State Leaders

#### 2. Sector Programs

- Programs consist of: LASSO1 (Learning Opportunity and Social Skills Opportunity), LASSO 2, TAB (Teaching Appropriate Behaviors), ELS (Educational Life Skills), and LASSO EC (Early Childhood).
- 85 staff members
- 137 students with 7 transitioning back to district programs in FY25 and 15 in FY26
- 70 students mainstreaming with hosting districts
- 9 member district buildings currently hosting SEDOL sector programs

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

### 8.1 FY23 Audit - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

Ms. Allard provided an update to the Board regarding the status of the FY23 audit. SEDOL should be receiving the audit review by next week and will be able to finalize soon after the FY24 audit would then begin.

### 8.2 D75/120 Update - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Hackett/Dr. Thomas)

Dr. Hackett and Dr. Thomas discussed that with ongoing collaboration with member districts and the expansion of the financial/tuition committees, and the positive steps to address SEDOL's fiscal structures, D75/120 rescinded their letter of withdrawal from the SEDOL cooperative in December, 2024.

[D75:120 Rescind Withdrawal Letter.pdf](#) 

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

### 9.1 Business Office Financial Status Update - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

Ms. Allard discussed that she is evaluating costs on health insurance to lower the cost without reducing the benefits. She also discussed timelines for Skyward implementation. Financial applications would begin July 1, 2025 and payroll and human resources would begin January 1, 2026. With the decision to use manual implementation, the timelines have shifted from the original schedule and will provide a smoother transition.

### 9.2 Fairhaven School Bid Contracts - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard)

Dr. Johns provided details to the January 17th bid opening for the Fairhaven School projects. The four bids received for roof, window, and rooftop unit replacement were opened and reviewed. Efraim Carlson Construction Company, Inc. came in the lowest at \$1,466,800.00. The Board approved this contract.

[FH Project Bid Letter.pdf](#) 

[FH School Bids.pdf](#) 

Motion to Approve Contract Recommendation - ROLL CALL VOTE

*Moved by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

*Seconded by:* Ms. Odie Pahl

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

9.3 Cybersecurity Contract - ACTION NEEDED (Mr. Crowley)

Dr. Barbini provided the Board with an update on the increasing phishing SEDOL has been experiencing since October, 2024. KnowBe4 will provide cybersecurity training for staff and phishing defense. The Board approved the 3-year contract (2025-2027) in the amount of \$36,047.94 (\$12,015.98 per year).

[KnowBe4 Board Memo.pdf](#) 

Motion to Approve Contract - ROLL CALL VOTE

*Moved by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

*Seconded by:* Ms. Odie Pahl

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

9.4 March Governing Board Meeting - INFORMATIONAL (Dr. Hackett/Dr. Thomas)

The Board reviewed the agenda for the March 5, 2025 meeting.

[DRAFT Agenda GB Mar 5 2025.pdf](#) 

**10. CLOSED SESSION - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Lind)**

Motion to Enter Into Closed Session - ROLL CALL VOTE

The Board entered into closed session at 9:21 a.m. to discuss:

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.

*Moved by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

*Seconded by:* Ms. Odie Pahl

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

Motion to Return to Public Session - VOICE VOTE

The Board returned to Public Session at 9:24 a.m.

*Moved by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

*Seconded by:* Dr. Scott Schwartz

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl

**Carried 7-0**

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

### 11.1 Possible Termination - ACTION NEEDED (Dr. Lind)

The Board approved the termination of Holly Reimann for job abandonment effective January 6, 2025.

Motion to approve Termination - ROLL CALL VOTE

*Moved by:* Dr. Donn Mendoza

*Seconded by:* Ms. Joanne Osmond

**Aye** Dr. Donn Mendoza, Dr. Jason Lind, Dr. Michael Karner, Dr. Scott Schwartz, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Ms. Odie Pahl



**12. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports

**13. INFORMATIONAL**

13.1 SEDOL Foundation (Ms. Subry)

- Ping Pong for the Kids- February 2
- Laremont Trivia Night- March 15
- Dinner Dance- April 26
- Pucks for Autism- June 20-22

13.2 SEDOL Events (Dr. Hackett/Dr. Thomas)

**January:**

Blood Drive- GLS Community Rm 1.29- 1-5 pm

**February:**

SEDOL Foundation Ping Pong for Kids- 2.1

**March:**

Trivia Night - Lehmann Mansion- 3.15

**April:**

Miles of Smiles Dentist- FH, JPC- 4.14

Miles of Smiles Dentist- GLS - 4.15

Healthy Kids Week- John Powers - 4.21 thru 4.25

**14. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (Dr. Lind)**

Ms. McHugh shared that Superintendent Wilm from D118 will be retiring at the end of this school year.

**15. ADJOURNMENT (Dr. Lind)**

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sara Martinez  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

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Dr. Jason Lind  
Board President

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Dr. Judy Hackett  
Board Secretary