

SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY

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Judy Hackett, Ed.D.
Tim Thomas, Ed.D.
Co-Interim Superintendent

Governing Board Meeting Summary Wednesday, August 6, 2025

GOVERNING BOARD ORIENTATION

An orientation session was held for interested Governing Board members prior to the Public Hearing for the FY26 budget and the start of the regular meeting. The orientation provided an overview of programs and services, outlined priorities for the 2025–26 fiscal year, and included a governance overview highlighting the roles and responsibilities of Board members.

BUDGET HEARING

A public hearing on the FY26 final budget was held prior to the start of the regular meeting.

PLEDGE, OATH, AGENDA, and MINUTES

Following the Call to Order/Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance by President Mack, the Board recited the Oath of Office then accepted the agenda and approved the minutes.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Governing Board recognized:

1. Board members and SEDOL administration introduced themselves.
2. Member district administrators in attendance introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

PROGRAM REPORTS

Extended School Year (ESY)

Dr. Jimenez-Captain provided an overview of the Extended School Year (ESY).

This year we had 327 students within 53 classrooms participate in ESY. Cyd Lash Academy- 26 students, Fairhaven School- 60 students, John Powers Center- 26 students, Gages Lake School- 112 students, and Laremont School- 103 students. This year's theme was Amusement Park: Healthy Habits & Splash Into Summer. The buildings enjoyed academic instruction relating to IEP goals/objectives while having fun with the summer's theme.

Surveys were distributed to both parents and staff. Results indicated that 91.4% of parents either *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that there are clear benefits to the Extended School Year (ESY) program. Additionally, 96.1% of staff reported feeling supported throughout the ESY period.

SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Hackett presented on the SEDOL 2025-26 Continuous Improvement Plan Advanced Goal efforts and how they align to continued objectives and future focus in the areas of:

1. Exceptional Programs and Services
2. Effective Equitable & Equitable Financial Structures
3. Advance High Standards and Expectations
4. Advance Effective Collaborative Team Practices

At the August 28, 2025 Executive Board meeting, Dr. Hackett will present revised objectives and finalize evidence of progress. She will also seek Board perspective on 2025-26 priorities and measures of growth. At this time, key areas of focus will include:

- Systems: Powerschool, Skyward, Cyclical Monitoring, Standard Response Protocol, new and revised procedures
- Parent Advisory Group
- Expanding Professional Learning Opportunities
- Hiring a New Superintendent to begin July 1, 2026

At the June 4, 2025 Board meeting and again at today's orientation, board members received the June 2025 Report on the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP), which outlines the progress made on each of the four previous goals and future focus areas.

STU MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Dr. Wojcik provided an overview of the proposed MOU reached with the SEDOL Teachers' Union (STU) regarding religious holidays/personal days. The Board approved the STU MOU as presented.

SSSA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Dr. Wojcik provided an overview of the proposed MOU reached with the SEDOL Support Staff Association (SSSA) regarding religious holidays/personal days and LASSO 3 stipend. The Board approved the SSSA MOU as presented.

EXTENDED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH SSSA

Dr. Wojcik provided proposed changes/additions to the SEDOL Support Staff Association (SSSA) contract extension for 2026-27. The Board approved the proposed extended agreement.

FINANCE UPDATE AND PRESENTATION OF FY26 FINAL BUDGET

Ms. Allard informed the Board that the FY24 audit is well underway and should be complete in late August or September, 2025. The auditors will then begin the FY25 audit.

Dr. Johns updated the Board on State funding for FY26.

- Public Act 103-0644 "Public Special Education Program Tuition Reimbursement was passed on July 1, 2024 by Illinois General Assembly
- As one of the important next steps, the IL Purchase Care Review Board (PCRB) engaged in the annual process of setting rates for reimbursement for 24-25 for approved programs 7.29
- SEDOL day programs have been approved and rates established by PCRB
- Categorical Funding (MCATS) - estimated proration as of 8/4/2025
 - Regular/Vocational Transportation - 73%
 - Special Education Transportation - 61%
 - Special Education Facility - 45% to 55% - no additional funds
 - Orphanage (both) - 100%

EBF district revenues have a slight increase this year and are anticipated for the next 5 consecutive years. Special Education Coops EBF funds have a fixed annual flat rate.

FY26 Final Budget

There were no further changes to the Tentative SEDOL Budget that was presented at the June 4, 2025 Governing Board meeting.

- The final budget is based on anticipated revenue and expenditures.
 - Total Expenditures
 - Education Fund \$53,719,723

- Expenditures be offset by tuition, district contractual,
- and grant revenue, leaving a fund balance of \$8,957,473
- Expenditures
 - Operations and Maintenance Fund \$3,718,226; Debt Services Fund \$174,175; Transportation Fund \$861,536; IMRF Fund \$991,900; Capital Projects \$3,200,000
- Auditors recommend that SEDOL operate the books on a cash basis
- SEDOL will file a cash budget with ISBE
- Auditors will prepare the AFR and Audit on an accrual basis
- The change from “Accrual” to “Cash” budget was reflected in the Board motion
- If a budget amendment is needed for FY26, Interim CSBOs will provide an update at December Governing Board meeting
- If an amendment is required, it will be presented at the Jan, 2026 Executive Board, then included on March 4, 2026 Governing Board meeting agenda for action

The Board approved the final FY26 budget.

UPCOMING EVENT

SEDOL Foundation

- Golf Invitational - September 8
- 5K Run/Walk - September 13
- One Special Night - November 8

SEDOL

- New Staff Orientation - August 8th, 11th, 12th
- Institute Days for staff (excludes sector & JPC DHH)
 - August 13th, 14th, 15th and August 18th**
- Student first day back to school (full day) - August 18th
- Governing Board Program Tours - Tues., Sept 23 and Mon., Sept. 29th (*more details to follow*)

OPEN FORUM

Suggestions and future agenda items recommended by the Board:

- President Mack D46, wished everyone an amazing school year.
- Ms. Osmond D41, recommended everyone sign up for the Foundation 5K. She emphasized what a fun time it is for children and adults.
- Ms. Wiczer D127, asked if the Board could receive quick monthly updates from Dr. Johns/Ms. Allard regarding the financial happenings in Washington with school funding.
- Mr. Becker D76, asked if administration had ever thought of having their Executive Board meetings in the evening. Administration said they will look into options.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

2025-26 Executive Board Meeting Schedule *SEDOL Office Bay Room*

Thursday, July 24, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, August 28, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, September 18, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, October 23, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, November 13, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, December 18, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, January 22, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, February 26, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, March 19, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, April 2, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, April 23, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, May 28, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, June 25, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
Thursday, July 23, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.

FY27 Budget Meeting

2025-26 Governing Board Meeting Schedule *Gages Lake School Community Room*

Wednesday, August 6, 2025 – 7:00 p.m. *6:50 p.m. Public Hearing on the FY26 Budget*
Wednesday, December 3, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 4, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 3, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.