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Co-Interim Superintendents

Executive Board Meeting Summary
Thursday, May 28, 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, financial matters, and closed session minutes/recordings were approved along with the following personnel items:

- ~ Request for Contracts for 3 educational support personnel (ESP) and 15 licensed staff
- ~ Request for Contract 1 Psychologist Intern and 1 Social Work Intern
- ~ Resignations/retirements by 7 ESP and 5 licensed staff
- ~ Reinstatement of 2 ESP staff and 4 licensed staff
- ~ Increase in Contract for 1 ESP staff
- ~ Employment recommendations for 2026-27

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

STARS Student

The May STARS student was not able to attend the meeting, so Dr. Hjorth shared this student's accomplishments with the Board and will recognize these accomplishments with her and her family at a later date. This student is from Ms. Bentley's classroom at Fairhaven School and has demonstrated extraordinary growth throughout the school year in the areas of communication, academics, social development, and behavior. She continues to make everyone around her proud.

2026 Infinitec Outstanding Student Technology Award

Infinitec recognized a District 6 student from a SEDOL Sector Program at a dinner/award celebration on April 23rd. This student will also be recognized in person at the June 3, 2026, Governing Board meeting.

Reflection from 2025-26

A video montage highlighting the past school year was shared with the Board. It will also be shared with the Governing Board at their June 3rd meeting.

Employee of the Month

The Board recognized Ms. Sandi Johnson, Cyd Lash Academy Behavior Specialist, as the May Employee of the Month. Sandi is a highly valued team member and is both respected and valued by students. She has made a meaningful impact on students who were previously struggling, has helped students gain confidence, and is teaching them to advocate for themselves. She consistently collaborates with teachers and service providers to develop effective interventions.

Employee of the Month

The Board recognized Ms. Carly Fishman, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Social Worker, as the May Employee of the Month. Carly goes above and beyond for all of her students. She communicates and works well with the JPC families. She is creative and thinks outside the box. Carly always finds ways to help staff and students in need, and she is dependable, kind, and welcoming to all.

March Staff Recognition

The Board recognized the following national staff recognitions for May: Interpreters, Nurses, Psychologists, School Communicators Day, Speech/Language Pathologists, and Teachers.

ROE Educator of the Year Recognition

The following staff were nominated for the ROE Educator of the Year Award and attended a dinner/reception with other Lake County nominees.

- Michelle Clark- Classroom Diverse Learner Teacher
- Matthew Crowley- School Administrator
- Chris Howes- Educational Service Personnel
- Erin MacDonald- Student Support Personnel
- Erin Picco- Early Career Educator

Ms. Michelle Clark received the Educator of the Year Award for the Classroom Diverse Learner Teacher.

Introduction of New Administrators

Ms. Tracy McMahon- Assistant to the Principal, John Powers Center

Ms. Traci Strieter- Principal, Laremont School

Mr. Matt Zidron- Principal, Gages Lake School

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) UPDATES

Administration presented the final 2025-26 CIP Plan, which included key highlights and progress from the past year.

Goal 1 Highlights-

- Seven evidenced-based curricula were implemented this year.
- The county-wide Institute Day had 1267 participants and received a participant rating of 4.3 out of 5.0!

Goal 2 Highlights-

- The Executive Board unanimously approved the revised tuition model on October 23, 2025, and the Governing Board unanimously approved it on December 3, 2025.
- Processes were documented to assist the SEDOL administrative team with navigating the annual budget process.

Goal 3 Highlights-

- 84% overall compliance with all indicators from the ISBE cyclical monitoring framework.
- Developed a comprehensive IEP Manual.

Goal 4 Highlights-

- Developed a comprehensive suite of informational brochures describing each of our 14 specialized programs.
- Developed a communication plan for the 2026-2027 school year.

Next Steps-

Curriculum & Data: Convene a multi-tiered curriculum committee to review data and tools measuring curriculum implementation and efficacy.

Capacity Building: Expand internal capacity using an embedded train-the-trainer and coaching model.

Fiscal Monitoring: Track and assess the impacts of the restructured tuition model.

Strategic Planning: Complete a collaborative action plan for programs and services that aligns with continuum and steering committee values.

Professional Development: Expand customized training on instructional strategies, IEP development, and state monitoring compliance.

Safety & Operations: Advance Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and Standard Reunion Method (SRM) training, efforts, and expectations.

Staffing Analysis: Review annual staffing data and trends to identify hard-to-fill positions and address district needs.

Family Engagement: Deepen parent partnerships through targeted training, networking, and a parent

advisory focus.

Communications: Launch and execute a comprehensive 2026–27 communication plan.

Also presented was an update from:

Goal 1: *Provide Exceptional Programs and Services to meet the needs of students throughout the SEDOL community.*

Laremont Curriculum

Dr. Schmitt, Principal, Laremont School, shared with the Board the MOVE Model Site.

Laremont is among the leading schools providing innovative mobility and functional learning opportunities. One of only 30 MOVE Model Sites worldwide and the first and only MOVE Model Site in Illinois.

What is MOVE

- Evidence-based program, focuses on increasing independence, mobility, and participation
- Embeds functional movement into everyday routines and instruction
- Supports skills such as sitting, standing, walking, and transitioning
- Uses individualized assessments to monitor student progress
- Supported through collaboration with:
 - Staff and families, SEDOL Foundation, and Rifton/MOVE community

This year, continued implementation of the revised curriculum model with quarterly learning topics allowed for: Deeper student engagement, expanded hands-on learning opportunities, building-wide instructional alignment, and increased community partnerships and assemblies.

- Quarter 1- Community Helpers
- Quarter 2- Science Inquiry
- Quarter 3- Past & Present
- Quarter 4- Animal Traits

Larmont Transition

Live with the Lions! Building school community through student engagement and leadership.

Weekly school announcement program. This was designed to:

- Build school community and connectedness, increase student voice and participation, and celebrate school events, achievements, and daily activities.

Students led various sessions, including:

- Staff and student interviews, weather updates, cooking with Katie/Krystal, jokes and talents, Word of the Jungle - special events, and where in the world is Larry the Lion - to highlight weekly mobility trips and experiences.

Companion Device Pilot

Ms. Erin MacDonald presented on the companion device pilot.

Students learn to use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) through modeling.

Some students become protective of their device or resistant when adults attempt to model on their device. This can significantly reduce opportunities for consistent language modeling. Staff needed a way to model language without removing access to the student's device.

What is a companion device?

A staff-accessible AAC system that mirrors the student's communication system, allowing adults to model language without taking the student's personal device.

Pilot Design

- 12 teachers with representation across programs
- Priority given to classrooms with at least 1 student resistant to adult modeling on their personal device
- 7-week duration with 4 data collection points
- All staff completed training prior to receiving communication app
- Communication app added to teacher

Results

The student uses AAC more frequently when language is modeled on a companion device - 71% agreed or strongly agreed

The student demonstrated increased willingness to communicate with use of companion device - 87% agreed or strongly agreed

The student showed improved regulation when AAC was modeled using the companion device - 77% agreed or strongly agreed

The student appeared less frustrated during communicative interactions when language is modeled on a

companion device - 81% agreed or strongly agreed

Common Themes From Staff Testimonials

1. Overcoming device “guardianship” and reluctance through modeling
2. Increased student autonomy and spontaneous communication
3. Reduction in frustration and challenging behaviors
4. Boosted staff proficiency, comfort, and growth
5. Measurable academic success
6. Value of dedicated companion devices in classroom

Looking Forward

Pilot participants will continue to have access to companion devices next year; a formal process for teachers to request a companion device is in development and will launch in the fall. Teachers who request a companion device will receive training, check-ins with an AT team member, and provide data on the efficacy of the device on student communication.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy Updates/Reviews

The Board approved revisions to Policy 7:150 *Agency Law Enforcement Requests*.

NEW BUSINESS

Lake County Sheriff’s Office Agreement

The Board approved the 1-year reciprocal reporting agreement between the Lake County Sheriff’s Office and SEDOL for the 2026-27 school year.

TheraPets Contract

This item will be moved to the June meeting agenda.

D73 School to School Contract

The Board approved the 2026-27 School-to-School Food Service Contract between Vernon Hills D73 and SEDOL (John Powers Center and the Regional Safe School Program) and the amended 2025-26 agreement to include the extended school year.

Appointment of Authorized Agent

The Board approved the appointment of Mr. Dave Shepherd, incoming Assistant Superintendent of Business, as the authorized IMRF agent and TRS representative effective July 1, 2026.

CLIC Insurance Rates

The Board accepted the CLIC insurance coverage and rates for workers’ compensation and liability coverages.

FOIA Request

On March 26, 2026, Mr. Justin Wenig, Star Bridge, requested access to and copies of all purchase orders and/or payment records for non-person/vendor entities, such as companies, organizations, or contractors, from January 1, 2025, to the current date.

Dr. Wojcik responded with the requested items on April 23, 2026.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into closed session to discuss the following:

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 the request by Waukegan District 60 to continue placement for one student in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program for the 2026-27 school year.

INFORMATIONAL

ISBE Correspondence - Dr. Hackett sent a follow-up email to member districts in an attempt to clarify the ISBE correspondence that was emailed out. The general meaning of the state email was to inform districts that they may request one district director to receive the same information shared with the State-Approved Director of Special Education. The process for this is still in the works.

Purchase Care Review Board Meeting - Was scheduled for June 2nd; however, has been moved to July (date to be determined). This meeting will address questions on the tuition rate-setting process.

ED Red Lake County Summit - June 11th at the Regional Office of Education Facility in Lake Forest.

Parent University

- April 14th, 2026 Partners in Support
Q&A panel experts featuring state representatives, educational advocates, and service providers to help navigate the complexities of disability services with practical, expert guidance.
- May 14th, 2026 Understanding Pathological Demand Avoidance
Molly Johnson, founder of Patiently Parenting. PDA is often linked to Autism and ADHD, and is a neurodevelopmental profile characterized by an intense, anxiety-driven need for control and a natural resistance to everyday demands.

Upcoming SEDOL Foundation Events

- Pucks for Autism- June 5-7
- Golf Invitational- September 14
- 5K Run/Walk- September 19
- One Special Night- November 7
- Ping Pong for Kids- February 7, 2027
- Laremont Trivia Night- March 6, 2027

2025-26 Retirees

<u>RETIREE</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>YEARS OF SERVICE</u>
James Arie	Crisis & Safety Specialist	3
Theresa Buckman	School Social Worker	24
Maura Cunningham	Psychologist	28
Kristine Erikson	Teacher	37
Edward Foss	Teacher	3
Kristine Goebeler	Sign Lang Interpreter	20
Steve Jacobson	Teacher	26
Cheryl Lardner	Registered Nurse	20
Kathleen Miller	Teacher	34
Judy Napolitano	Paraprofessional	20
Angelina O'Rourke	Teacher	19
Kathryn Pierce-Church	Physical Therapist	29
Andrea Rouse	Principal	2
Karen Schreck	Teacher	28
Susan Snyder	Physical Therapy Assistant	24
Robin Wantoch	Teacher	10
Colleen White	Paraprofessional	26
Kathleen Wood Woolmuth	Occupational Therapist	13

Upcoming SEDOL Events

May:

DHH 8th Grade Hawthorn Graduation Vernon Hills HS 5.29.26 6:00 p.m.

June:

Governing Board Meeting Gages Lake 6.3.26 7:00 pm

SEDOL Foundation Pucks for Autism	Multiple	6.5-7.26	All day
ESY Staff 1st Day	Multiple	6.15.26	Full Day
ESY Student Open House	Multiple	6.15.26	1-3:00 p.m.
ESY Student 1st Day	Multiple	6.16.26	8:30-12:00 a.m.
Executive Board Mtg	Admin Bldg	6.25.26	8:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Thursday, June 25, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 23, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.

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

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.