

# **SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY**

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**Judy Hackett, EdD**  
**Tim Thomas, EdD**  
*Co-Interim Superintendents*

## **SEDOL GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**

August 6, 2025

### **GOVERNING BOARD ORIENTATION**

An orientation session was held at 5:30 p.m. 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.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET**

It should be noted that a public hearing on the proposed budget for the 2025-2026 school year was held prior to the Governing Board meeting. The hearing was called to order at 6:50 p.m. and closed at 7:01 p.m.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:01 p.m., a quorum being present, President Mack called the meeting of the SEDOL Governing Board to order on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at Gages Lake School in Gages Lake, Illinois. The following Executive Board members were in attendance: Dr. Jason Lind, Ms. Carey McHugh, Ms. Odie Pahl, Ms. Joanne Osmond, and Dr. Scott Schwartz.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **Governing Board Members Present**

Ms. Lise McCarthy, D1	Mr. Michael Engle, D73
Ms. Andrea Usry, D3	Mr. David Becker, D76
Ms. Heather Devine, D33	Mr. Shawn Killackey, D79
Dr. Tanya Karner, D34	Mr. Justin Parker, D102
Ms. Brandy Barth D37- Alternate	Ms. Peg Larson, D116- Alternate
Ms. Joanne Osmond, D41	Ms. Sandy Jacobs, D117- Alternate
Dr. Stephen Mack, D46	Ms. Carey McHugh, D118
Ms. Brianna Powvens, D50	Ms. Laura Mellon, D120
Ms. Odie Pahl, D56	Ms. Kathy Kusiak, D124
Ms. Emily Savino, D68	Ms. Liz Wiczer, D127
Ms. Kate Grove, D70	Ms. Nina Austin, D128

#### **Governing Board Members Absent**

Ms. Denise Lear, D6	Ms. Georgina Aguirre, D75- Alternate
Mr. Fred Skeppstrom, D24	Mr. Tony DeMonte, D121
Ms. Natalie Karner, D36	Ms. Patricia Stephen, D126
Ms. Vivian Kueter, D38	Open Seat, D187
Open Seat, D72	

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Mack asked everyone to stand and join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **OATH OF OFFICE TO MEMBERS**

All present members of the Board recited the Oath of Office.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

### **Motion to Accept Agenda**

Ms. Joanne Osmond, D41 moved the agenda be accepted as presented; seconded by Ms. Kathy Kusiak, D124

<b><u>VOICE VOTE:</u></b>	Ayes:	Districts 1, 3, 33, 34, 37, 41, 46, 50, 56, 68, 70, 73, 76, 79, 102, 116, 117, 118, 120, 124, 127, 128
	Nays:	None
	Absent:	Districts 6, 24, 36, 38, 72, 75, 121, 126, 187

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **Motion to Approve Minutes**

Mr. Shawn Killackey D79, moved the public session minutes from the June 4, 2025 meeting be approved as presented; seconded by Ms. Liz Wiczer, D127.

<b><u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u></b>	Ayes:	Districts 1, 3, 33, 34, 37, 41, 46, 50, 56, 68, 70, 73, 76, 79, 102, 116, 117, 118, 120, 127, 128
	Nays:	None
	Abstain:	District 124
	Absent:	Districts 6, 24, 36, 38, 72, 75, 121, 126, 187

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **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 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). This report outlines the progress made on each of the four previous goals and future focus areas.

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE STU**

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.

#### **Motion to Approve MOU**

Ms. Joanne Osmond, D41 moved approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the SEDOL Teachers' Union and the SEDOL Board as presented; seconded by Ms. Andrea Usry, D3.

<b><u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u></b> Ayes:	Districts 1, 3, 33, 34, 37, 41, 46, 50, 56, 68, 70, 73, 76, 79, 102, 116, 117, 118, 120, 124, 127, 128
Nays:	None
Absent:	Districts 6, 24, 36, 38, 72, 75, 121, 126, 187
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE SSSA**

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.

#### **Motion to Approve MOU**

Ms. Emily Savino, D68 moved approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the SEDOL Support Staff Association and the SEDOL Board as presented; seconded by Mr. David Becker, D76.

<b><u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u></b> Ayes:	Districts 1, 3, 33, 34, 37, 41, 46, 50, 56, 68, 70, 73, 76, 79, 102, 116, 117, 118, 120, 124, 127, 128
Nays:	None
Absent:	Districts 6, 24, 36, 38, 72, 75, 121, 126, 187
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

### **EXTENDED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE 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.

#### **Motion to Approve Extended Agreement**

Mr. Michael Engle, D73 moved approval of the extended bargaining agreement for the 2026-27 school year between the SEDOL Support Staff Association and the SEDOL Board as presented; seconded by Mr. Shawn Killackey, D79.

<b><u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u></b> Ayes:	Districts 1, 3, 33, 34, 37, 41, 46, 50, 56, 68, 70, 73, 76, 79, 102, 116, 117, 118, 120, 124, 127, 128
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Nays: None  
 Absent: Districts 6, 24, 36, 38, 72, 75, 121, 126, 187  
 MOTION CARRIED

## **FINANCE UPDATE AND PRESENTATION OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET**

### **Audit Update**

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.

### **State Funding Update**

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 August 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 a cash 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 January 22, 2026 Executive Board, then included on March 4, 2026 Governing Board meeting agenda for action

The Board approved the final FY26 budget.

### **Motion to Approve FY26 Final Budget**

Ms. Joanne Osmond, D41 moved approval of the FY26 final budget recommendations as presented; seconded by Mr. Michael Engle, D73.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ayes: Districts 1, 3, 33, 34, 37, 41, 46, 50, 56, 68, 70, 73, 76, 79, 102, 116, 117, 118, 120, 124, 127, 128

Nays: None  
 Absent: Districts 6, 24, 36, 38, 72, 75, 121, 126, 187  
 MOTION CARRIED

## **INFORMATIONAL**

- A. SEDOL Foundation
  - 1. Golf Invitational- September 8
  - 2. 5K Run/Walk- September 13
  - 3. One Special Night- November 8
- B. SEDOL Upcoming Events
  - 1. New Staff Orientation - August 8th, 11th, 12th
  - 2. Institute Days for staff (excludes sector & JPC DHH)
    - a. SEDOL buildings- August 13th, 14th, 15th and Sector & JPC DHH- dates vary
  - 3. SEDOL buildings- Student first day back to school (full day) - August 18<sup>th</sup>
  - 4. Governing Board and member district 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 would look into options.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board entered into closed session at 8:14 p.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.

### **Motion to Enter Into Closed Session**

Ms. Emily Savino, D68 moved the Board enter into closed session; seconded by Ms. Liz Wiczer, D127.

<b><u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u></b>	Ayes:	Districts 1, 3, 33, 34, 37, 41, 46, 50, 56, 68, 70, 73, 76, 79, 102, 116, 117, 118, 120, 124, 127, 128
	Nays:	None
	Absent:	Districts 6, 24, 36, 38, 72, 75, 121, 126, 187
		<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>

The Board returned to open session at 8:52 p.m.

### **Motion to Return to Open Session**

Ms. Carey McHugh, D118 moved the Board return to open session; seconded by Dr. Tanya Karner D34.

<b><u>VOICE VOTE:</u></b>	Ayes:	Districts 1, 3, 33, 34, 37, 41, 46, 50, 56, 68, 70, 73, 76, 79, 102, 116, 117, 118, 120, 124, 127, 128
	Nays:	None
	Absent:	Districts 6, 24, 36, 38, 72, 75, 121, 126, 187
		<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sara Martinez  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

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Dr. Stephen Mack, President

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Ms. Joanne Osmond, Secretary