



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

Executive Board Meeting Summary
Thursday, March 19, 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 and financial matters were approved along with the following personnel items:

- ~ Request for Contracts for 5 educational support personnel (ESP) and 1 licensed staff
- ~ Resignations/retirements by 12 ESP and 2 licensed staff
- ~ Increase in Contract Time for 1 licensed staff

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Employee of the Month

The Board recognized Mr. Tim Thul, Operations and Purchasing, as the March Employee of the Month. In addition to his daily responsibilities, Mr. Thul has played an active role in the implementation of Skyward, served as a member of the communication committee, and has been instrumental in the design of the SEDOL program brochures, CIP report and updated program logos. He consistently contributes behind the scenes in numerous ways and uses his creativity to enhance SEDOL's visual identity through his artwork and graphic design.

March Staff Recognition

The Board recognized the following national recognition days in March for maintenance workers, social workers, behavior specialists, and assistive technology personnel.

Bridge Builder Award

The Board honored the Grant High School District 124 leadership team with the Bridge Builder Award, acknowledging their impactful role in the February 13 Institute Day. SEDOL appreciates their partnership and looks forward to continued collaboration next year. Dr. Jeremy Schmidt, D124 Superintendent, and Ms. Beth Reich, D124 Business Manager, were in attendance to accept the award, and they were again honored at their district board meeting that evening.

Cyd Lash Academy CAAEL Art Show

The Board recognized Cyd Lash Academy student artists who were top winners at the regional CAAEL Art Show. The students shared their artwork and spoke about their creative process. They also expressed appreciation to Mr. Sonder for the opportunity to explore and express their creativity in his art class.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

SEDOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) UPDATES

Goal 1: *Provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of students throughout the SEDOL community*

Objective C: *By June 2026, SEDOL will create systems of support that ensure fidelity of instructional practices.*

Ms. Palmer and Ms. Chatlani, Instructional Services, presented on TeachTown Launch for PreK and discussed the mission overview of the TeachTown Launch Program, indicating that inclusive education, a whole-child approach, and kindergarten readiness are key in effective implementation.

Skill focus areas include:

- Hello circle, emerging math, emerging literacy, sensory exploration, goodbye circle, centers guide, fine motor and art, and story time

Intentional support by the Instructional Services Department includes:

- Professional Learning: On-site training and monthly virtual coaching
- Removing Barriers: Schedules, assessment schedules and adaptations, and budget
- Structured Support: On-site planning support and classroom frameworks
- Play-based instruction includes the entire disciplinary team

Maintain high expectations through:

- Fidelity: Differentiate expectations and celebrating small successes
- Collaboration: Related service providers, administrations, and partnerships with families
- Data-Driven: Monitor student growth and curriculum review and effectiveness

In summary, the presenters shared a quote that captures the essence of the work, "Growth is never linear; rather, it is and should always be cyclical, marked by spurts of celebrating progress, necessary plateaus, and pauses for reflection."

Goal #1: *Provide exceptional programs and services to meet the needs of students throughout the SEDOL community*

Objective A: *By June 2026, SEDOL will identify and create curriculum teams for each program, including college/careers.*

Mr. Kettering, Cyd Lash Academy (CLA) Principal, presented on the CLA curriculum.

Updating and expanding curriculum:

- Every student deserves an engaging curriculum: Supports attendance, decreases unexpected behaviors, and aligns with future goals and interests

Since August we have...

- Explored what we already have, added opportunities for intervention and enrichment, and received support from the Instructional Services Department
- Aligned curriculum maps to ensure alignment with member-districts
- Adjusted content to meet the specific needs of the CLA students
- Targeted reading intervention/enrichment through Lexia Learning
- Aligned with member-districts to promote successful transitions back to a student's home school
- Provided hands-on activities to engage students and to promote experimentation and curiosity
- Targeted intervention and enrichment in reading/math through Lexia and iReady

Provide additional support:

- Physical education provides leadership opportunities, promotes student regulation, and exposes students to recreational activities available in the community
- Elective opportunities provide support for student goals and interests, i.e., culinary arts, art, vocational exploration, and additional online learning opportunities

A program-made video highlighting the students' perspectives on the curriculum was shown, as well as the many ways it is advancing their understanding and continued interest in educational growth.

Goal #3: *Advance High Standards and Expectations*

Objective C: *By June 2026, SEDOL will increase staff proficiency in emergency response protocols to 95% as measured by both a post-training assessment and performance in unannounced drills, thereby enhancing the district's overall capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.*

Mr. Kettering also provided an update on the program safety and security plans, specifically on de-escalation, debriefing situations, appropriate radio use, reduced cell phone use by staff, and office intervention procedures. An exciting focus with a highly experienced consultant is supporting Cyd Lash staff on either retraining or initial training in the important Circle of Courage philosophy that guides the program's focus.

OLD BUSINESS

Fairhaven School Update

The Fairhaven School sewer project has been delayed by the village and through obtaining permits. The work has been scheduled to occur during SEDOL's spring break (March 23-27). A new line will be installed that will connect to a deeper manhole across Countryside Highway. The project is expected to cost just under \$300,000.

NEW BUSINESS

Sub Rate Beginning FY27

The Board approved the following sub rates to go into effect beginning at the start of the 2026-27 school year:

- Certified staff will start at \$155 per day and, after subbing for twenty days, increase to \$165 per day.
- Non-certified staff will start at \$140 per day and, after subbing for twenty days, increase to \$150 per day.

Door Access and Visitor Security Management System

The Board approved the resolution authorizing the award of an emergency contract to Modern Media Tech, Inc. for approximately \$250,000 for replacement of the door access system and visitor security management system at all SEDOL schools. This emergency contract was approved without proceeding through the competitive bid process set forth in Section 10-20.21(a) of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(a)).

Net56, Inc. Contract

The Board approved the Net56, Inc. 3-year contract to provide managed security service for comprehensive IT for the following three years and amounts as indicated for 2026-27 - \$584,668.67; 2027-28 - \$602,154.73; and 2028-29 - \$620,165.37. Mr. Bruce Koch, Net56 CEO & President, shared gratitude for the long-standing relationship with SEDOL and the evolving efforts that support a comprehensive approach.

FY27 Infnitec Contract Renewal

The Board approved the FY27 Infnitec contract in an amount not to exceed \$49,950. Per the Articles of Joint Agreement, this includes SEDOL and its member districts. This has been a long-standing contract to support efforts around mandated trainings, assistive technology supports, and trial devices.

ALOP Intergovernmental Agreement

The Board approved the updated ALOP Intergovernmental Agreement between SEDOL, Zion-Beton High School, and the Lake County Regional Office of Education. This agreement covers the creation and operation of an Alternate Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP).

2026-27 SEDOL Calendar

The Board approved the SEDOL 2026-2027 school calendar. This calendar includes: Laremont School, Gages Lake School, Cyd Lash Academy, Fairhaven School, SEDOL Vocational Program, Transition Program at John Powers Center, REACH Community Site, Regional Safe School Program, ALOP Program, and SEDOL Administrative Office.

FOIA Request

1. On February 9, 2026, Mr. Woo-Sung Shim, Lake/McHenry Scanner, requested copies of records related directly to the hiring of a paraprofessional at Fairhaven School. At that time, SEDOL notified Mr. Shim of the need for an extension of time. SEDOL legal counsel responded to Mr. Shim's request on February 25, 2026, granting in part and denying in part his request.
2. On February 10, 2026, Ms. Megan DeMar, CBS News, requested copies of personnel records related directly to a paraprofessional at Fairhaven School. At that time, SEDOL notified Ms. DeMar of the need for an extension of time. Dr. Wojcik responded to Ms. DeMar's request on February 26, 2026, granting in part and denying in part her request.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went 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. Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal.
3. Collective bargaining matters, collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

4. 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 D200 Woodstock to continue placement for a current Fairhaven School student.

Recommendations for FY26 Personnel Reduction in Force and Dismissals

The Board approved the following necessary personnel reductions, dismissals, and other possible related personnel actions for the 2026-27 school year.

1. Honorable Dismissal of Teachers: Leticia Garza, Rico McCoy, Michelle Pinta, Cooper Smith, and Ann Watson (.5)
2. Honorable Dismissal of Educational Support Staff: James Arie (.5), Delsey Barrera-Hughes, Donna Hansen, America Hill, Joshua Housing, Carol Nguyen, and Abigail Rangel-Arroyo (.5)
3. Dismissal of First- and Second-Year Probationary Teachers for Reasons Other Than Reduction in Force: Theresa Carpenter

MOU for SEDOL Safety Reunification Sites

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) for SEDOL safety reunification sites.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Personnel Committee met March 3, 2026. The following was discussed: Enrollment for next school year is currently at 481; we will have 14 retirees this year; displaced staff will be receiving information for open positions they can consider transferring to; sub rates were discussed earlier in today's meeting, and salary increases for non-union groups will be determined after the SEDOL Teacher's Union completes negotiations.

INFORMATIONAL

Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Relocation Update

- Meetings were held in January and March that reflected staff and member district perspectives for a new high school site.
- A D/HH parent forum was held on March 3rd to provide an update and address questions
- A student forum will be held in upcoming months.
- A survey and updates will be sent to families and staff

Information regarding location, requirements, and program details are still being discussed.

Highlights

- Recent Program Tours to day programs
- A special Welcome reception for Dr. Jennifer Thomas, incoming superintendent

SEDOL Governing Board and Executive Board Vacancies

- Governing Board
 - President and secretary seats are 1-year terms
- Executive Board
 - 2 Governing Board member seats currently open
 - 2 Superintendent seats will be open as of July 1, 2026

Information has been sent to the member district superintendents and SEDOL Governing Board.

Upcoming SEDOL Foundation Events

- Pucks for Autism- June 5-7 - additional details coming soon
- Golf Invitational- September 14
- 5K Run/Walk- September 19
- One Special Night- November 7

Upcoming SEDOL Events

April:

Smile Illinois Dentist	Fairhaven(JPC)	4.13.26	All day
Smile Illinois Dentist	Gages Lake(CLA)	4.24.26	All day
Infinitec Student Award Banquet	Cotillion	4.23.26	5:00 p.m.

May:

Staff Appreciation Week	First week of May		
Smile Illinois Dentist	Laremont	5.7.26	All Day
Unified Sports Day	Fairhaven	5.1.26	All Day
Laremont Prom	Laremont	5.1.26	12:45 p.m.
Lake County Educator of the Year Banquet	LC Fairgrounds	5.6.26	5:00 p.m.
Unified Sports Day	Laremont	5.8.26	All day
Fairhaven Prom	Fairhaven	5.8.26	1-2:30pm
Proud to Be Me Picnic	John Powers	5.15.26	11-2:00
Promotion/Graduation	Cyd Lash	5.15.26	
Transition Recognition	Laremont/DHH/Cyd	?	6:00 p.m.
Promotion/Graduation	Laremont	5.20.26	9:30 a.m.
Retirement Ceremony	GLS Community Rm	5.21.26	4:00 p.m.
DHH High School Graduation	Grayslake North	5.21.26	7:00 pm
Promotion/Graduation	Fairhaven	5.22.26	1:00 p.m.
DHH 8th Grade Hawthorn Graduation	Vernon Hills HS	5.29.26	6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Thursday, April 16, 2026 – 8:30 a.m. *FY27 Budget Meeting (change of date)*
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.

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

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 – 7:00 p.m

SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT OF LAKE COUNTY

18160 W Gages Lake Rd, Gages Lake, Illinois 60030-1819

847-548-8470 Fax 847-548-8472 VP 224-207-8476

www.sedol.us



School Calendar 2026-2027

August 2026						
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Aug 17	Institute Day- No Students
Aug 18	Institute Day- No Students
Aug 19	Institute Day- No Students
Aug 19	Open House 2:30 - 3:30 pm
Aug 20	First Day Student Attendance - Full Day
Sep 7	Labor Day - School Holiday
Sep 10	Curriculum Night 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Sep 16	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal
Sep 21	Non-Attendance Day
Oct 12	Indigenous Peoples' Day - School Holiday
Oct 16	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal*
Oct 22	Evening Parent/Teacher Conference 3:45-7:45pm
Oct 23	No Student Attendance P/T Conferences 8:00-11:00am
Nov 11	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal
Nov 25	Non-Attendance Day
Nov 26	Thanksgiving- School Holiday
Nov 27	Non-Attendance Day
Dec 18	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal*
Dec 21	Winter Break Begins
Jan 4	School Resumes
Jan 18	ML King's Birthday- School Holiday
Jan 27	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal
Feb 12	Institute Day - No Students Staff only
Feb 15	Presidents' Day - School Holiday
Mar 1	Casimir Pulaski Day-School Holiday
Mar 5	Parent/Teacher Conference All Day - No Students
Mar 19	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal*
Mar 22	Spring Break Begins
Mar 29	School Resumes
Apr 21	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal
May 27	1/2 Day School Improvement, 11:45 Dismissal*
May 27	Last Day (if no Emergency Days used)
May 31	Memorial Day - School Holiday
	End of 1st quarter - 10/16
	End of 2nd quarter - 12/18
	End of 3rd quarter - 03/19
	End of 4th quarter - 05/27

February 2027						
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- First Day / School Resumes
- X Non-Attendance Day
- H Holiday
- TI Institute Day - No Students
- //// 1/2 Day School Improvement
- Parent/Teacher Conference - No Students
- ED Emergency Days - if needed

School Day - 8:45am - 2:30pm

*IEP paperwork days: 10/16, 12/18, 03/19, 05/27

Exceptional Services for Exceptional Students by Exceptional Staff