

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 7, 2024

BUDGET HEARING

A public hearing on the FY25 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 Osmond, the Board recited the Oath of Office then accepted the agenda and approved the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Governing Board recognized:

1. Board Members and SEDOL Administration introduced themselves.
2. Lake County Educators of the Year Nominees: Selena Burton, Sarah Carey, Samantha Kozlowski, Alex Letto, and Karen Schreck
3. Lake County Educator of the Year Service Support: Alex Letto

APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER

Dr. Thomas was approved by the Board to serve as the 2024-25 treasurer for the district.

PROGRAM REPORTS

Extended School Year (ESY)

Dr. Jimenez-Captain presented the Board with a summary of ESY which ran from June 11th-July 11th with 376 students enrolled. These students continued to work on their IEP goals with positive learning opportunities. The theme this year was the Olympics which allowed the students to learn about and participate in Olympic themed activities.

Beginning of School Year

Dr. Thomas highlighted the input received from staff, member districts, and other stakeholders which will help shape the focus, direction, and goals of the SEDOL team this year. It was noted that this year SEDOL has 95% of their positions filled to start the year. This is due to the efforts of the Human Resources Department to retain current staff and actively recruit new staff.

Exceptional Learning Solutions (ELS) Update

Exceptional Learning Solutions has been engaged to monitor the progress and provide supports for SEDOL following the Special Education Program Review. There have been many discussions within the district about successful completion of some recommendations and others that are still being addressed. There were 12 categories reviewed during the Special Education Program Review with recommendations included with each. Dr. Hackett provided a summary of the recent ELS presentation provided to the Executive Board in July and an update on the 12 categories. The SEDOL team is in the process of establishing priority goals for 2024-25 to present to the Executive Board in August in the form of a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP will be shared with the Governing Board as well.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROPERTY TRANSFER RESOLUTION SOUTH SCHOOL

The Board approved the Local Government Property Transfer Resolution regarding the sale of South School, 330 N Ridgemoor Ave, Mundelein, IL. This resolution is needed as part of the sale of South School from SEDOL to Mundelein Elementary District 75.

PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET

Dr. Johns presented an overview of the FY25 final budget which includes: a 5% increase in tuition rates across the board, a 5% increase in O & M funds to include the Facilities and Technology Plans, and Future Capital Projects. The Governing Board approved the final budget for FY25.

OPEN FORUM

Suggestions and future agenda items recommended by the Board:
Information and staff be updated on the website, the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) and data be shared with the board, security provide an update/presentation, new superintendent process, and an update on the SEDOL curriculum.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

:sm 8/8/2024

2024-25 Executive Board Meeting Schedule

SEDOL Office Bay Room

***Cyd Lash Academy Multipurpose Room*

- Thursday, August 22, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.**
- Thursday, September 19, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.**
- Thursday, October 24, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, November 14, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, December 19, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, January 23, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, February 27, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, March 20, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, April 3, 2025 - 9:30 a.m. *Special meeting on tentative budget*
- Thursday, April 24, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, May 22, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, June 26, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, July 24, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.

2024-25 Governing Board Meeting Schedule

- Wednesday, December 4, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 5, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 4, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.



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Exceptional Learning Solutions Summary of the Special Education District of Lake County Review and Next Steps

August, 2024

Dr. Bambi Lockman and Todd Zoellick, consultants from Exceptional Learning Solutions (ELS) presented an update at the July 25th SEDOL Executive Board Meeting. ELS continues to monitor progress on the review recommendations after the extensive SEDOL Special Education Program Review was completed in July, 2023. The purpose of this virtual presentation was intended to provide an update for the Executive Board and highlight areas that require additional focus.

The consultants reported on each of the following 12 categories identified in the review, acknowledging progress and efforts of the committees and teams and the current status. The consultants acknowledged much great work and progress noted over the past year and shared what has gone well, some challenges along the way and areas of continued focus. The recommendations are part of a multi-year plan, with the majority indicating that they are in progress, several completed and a few highlighted as priorities for 2024-2025.

1. Central Office Administration

- 1.1 A working group of SEDOL team members of central office, SEDOL programs, itinerants and members districts meet regularly and prioritize recommendations - **Partially complete**
- 1.2 A SEDOL organizational chart was developed by ELS and approved - **Partially complete**
- 1.3 A focus on school-based SEDOL program leadership with decision-making and budgeting aligned to school needs - **Incomplete**
- 1.4 Address culture and climate at SEDOL with an emphasis on why and how, provide transparency in initiatives, increase engagement and accountability - **Incomplete**
- 1.5 A developed communication plan with a series of different meeting and sessions to discuss initiatives, communicate updates and provide important information to stakeholder groups and share ideas, engage in discussions and develop processes and systems - **In Progress**
- 1.6 Purchase and implementation of a new SIS system and align AT under the Innovation and Technology Department - **In Progress**

2: Safety and Security

- 2.1 A director of Safety has been hired that focuses on student and building safety, associated training and development of SEDOL wide safety plans - **Complete**
- 2.2 Each building has been evaluated by the Safety Director to identify areas of need and to ensure safety across SEDOL buildings - **Completed and Ongoing**

2.3 Development of a SEDOL safety plan is in the works that reflect the needs of students in the event of an emergency situation - **In Progress**

3: Human Resources

3.1 New HR processes and procedures have been implemented that emphasize positive, efficient and effective recruitment and hiring practices - **Partially Complete**

3.2 Job descriptions have been revised, reflecting a more detailed, current description of positions, expanded outreach and mentoring opportunities - **Partially Complete**

3.3 Focus on design of a new staffing model that reflects the uniqueness of student population and is aligned to the instructional design of programs **Incomplete - focus for 2024-2025**

3.4 Ensure the paraprofessional role is clearly described during interviews and associated training to further understanding the role and encourage greater staff retention - **Partially complete**

4: Programming Offerings and Continuum of Services

4.1 Development of a student instructional model and framework that reflects continuum of services - **Incomplete**

5: Curriculum and Instruction

5.1 Create curriculum frameworks, with defined objectives and benchmarks, associated strategies and trainings - **In Progress**

5.2 Develop curriculum frameworks through curriculum committees for each program and associated trainings - **In Progress**

5.3 Review of instructional practices across practices, identify growth areas and associated PD - **Incomplete**

6: Assessment and Data

6.1 Provide staff with ongoing PD on data collection, analysis and utilization of data in instructional settings as well as trend data in student records and decision-making - **In Progress**

6.2 Assessment administration across the school year - **In Progress**

6.3 Share assessment data with staff and leaders and associated training to interpret results to inform instruction - **In Progress**

6.4 Development of a SEDOL-wide data policy to standardize data collection, details on potential uses and storage - **Incomplete**

7: Behavioral Systems

7.1 Crisis response team development across each SEDOL program and increased and sustained training for behavioral interventions - **In Progress**

7.2 Behavior specialists allocated across SEDOL programs - **In Progress**

8: Training and Professional Development

8.1 Design and implementation of professional development plan that focuses on priority areas of Instructional Practices, IEP development, Data collection, Paraprofessional and safety training - **In Progress**

8.2 Professional Development focus through Hiring or focus on development of a PD plan and associated coordination - **Incomplete**

8.3 Dedicated Paraprofessional coaching for each SEDOL program - **In Progress**

9: Policies and Procedures

9.1-1 Development of IEP processes and procedures, roles, associated criteria and training for procedures and timelines - **In Progress**

9.1B Establishment of expectations , parent and staff communication, records processes, data collection and IEP processes and monitoring - **In Progress**

9.1C Placement determination through the IEP process - **In Progress**

9.2 Development of a Parent Handbook that includes program description, school opportunities and instructional practices - **In Progress**

10: Finance and Budgets

10.1 Meetings to transition budgeting and reporting processes - **Incomplete**

10.2 Consider a grant writer for research on applicable grant - **Completed**

10.3 Development of a committee and process of SEDOL and District leaders to evaluate services, value and associated costs - **Incomplete**

Priority for Interim Superintendents

11: Parents and Community Relations

Development of a consistent SEDOL brand, parent handbook and updated website with current and effective external and internal information - **In Progress**

12: Member Districts

Design programs and services collaboratively between SEDOL and Member Districts and implementation with fidelity that reflect a high quality service to students across SEDOL community - **Incomplete**

Priority for Interim Superintendents

Next Steps:

This important summary serves as a springboard for our collective focus at SEDOL this year. Through collaborative efforts with various stakeholder groups, we are working on prioritizing several main areas of focus through the development of a SEDOL Continuous Improvement Plan that we will bring to the SEDOL Executive Board for approval on August 22nd. This plan will highlight goals, action steps and identified indicators of completion. Throughout the year, presentations to the respective SEDOL Boards, meetings with district superintendents and special education directors, SEDOL Foundation and other stakeholders will include updates referencing the designated CIP goal and aligned to one of the ELS review categories.

Progress updates will be communicated to both the SEDOL Executive Board and Governing Board, member districts and other SEDOL stakeholder groups. During this important year of transition, SEDOL will continue to consult with ELS as we build systems and processes to advance the work, focus on the most important priorities and establish systems and processes that will continue to build bridges for a brighter future.



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Co-Interim Superintendents

Building Bridges Together For A Brighter Future

SEDOL Interim Superintendent - First Month Highlights

August 5, 2024

July, 2024

Starting with our first days at SEDOL we enjoyed the opportunity to meet with staff and students attending ESY and visit SEDOL programs to see the exciting dimensions of student learning. We have learned much more of the many dimensions of SEDOL, discussing ideas and challenges from many different roles and perspectives and appreciate the enthusiasm and candor of messages conveyed. We have gathered great insight into the heart of SEDOL efforts, the strengths and challenges and a range of perspectives and ideas have been shared through a few of the following forums:

- Cookies and Conversation (4) sessions offered to SEDOL staff
- SEDOL Leadership meetings and discussion
- SEDOL Board meetings
- ELS consultant Zoom calls
- Member district visits with superintendents/team - 6 completed
- SEDOL Foundation meetings and discussions
- SEDOL central office cookout and networking
- Planning meetings for the beginning of the 2024-25 school year
- Building a calendar of priority meetings
- Principal interviews for Gages Lake School

Continued Focus August, 2024

- Development of an integrated Continuous Improvement Plan that includes perspectives and priorities emphasized in our discussions with several stakeholders
- Revised communication plan to provide timely SEDOL updates, expand opportunities for collaboration and shared decision-making on several areas of focus for the year
- Monthly updates to share upcoming SEDOL events, meetings, etc.
- Finalization of an inspiring Opening Day on Monday, August 19th
- Provide program supports for start of school, program SIPs and important connections with member districts
- Visit all programs on first days of school for 2024-2025
- Engage in SEDOL program and meetings with SEDOL community members