On April 17, SEDOL held its second collaboration meeting of the year. At this meeting, SEDOL’s Strategic Plan was reviewed and updated goals were presented. Click here to see a detailed update on goals.

Progress continues to be made to address the increases in student enrollment including the shifting of programming. South School (formerly SEDOL’s Transition Center South) in Mundelein is set to house students in grades 6, 7 and 8 previously at Gages Lake School or Cyd Lash Academy. The Community and Support Transition Programs will be housed at John Powers Center and the “Explore” vocational program will be housed at Cyd Lash Academy.

Also during the collaboration meeting, participants learned of various advisory committees being formed (see chart below). The SEDOL Executive Board and District Administration would love to have you join one of the advisory committees to share your opinions and feedback. If you are interested in joining, please email Doris Marcinkus at dmarcinkus@sedol.us with your name, contact information, and which advisory committee you would like to join.

| SEDOL Parent Teacher Advisory | Open to parents of current SEDOL students and SEDOL certified staff  
• Review SEDOL policies for the Executive Board and District Administrative Team |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SEDOL Strategic Achievement   | Open to anyone interested in student achievement  
• Review SEDOL policies for the Executive Board and District Administrative Team  
• Provide feedback to the District Administrative Team on the Strategic Plan specific to student achievement including identifying outcomes for each program |
| SEDOL Partnerships            | Open to anyone interested in community partnerships and increasing community outreach  
• Provide feedback to the District Administrative Team on the Strategic Plan specific to resources  
• Plan activities for outreaching to the SEDOL community |
| SEDOL Community Building      | Open to SEDOL staff  
• Provide feedback to the District Administrative Team on the Strategic Plan specific to staff morale  
• Plan activities for building up the SEDOL community |
| SEDOL Communication           | Open to anyone interested in sharing more about SEDOL  
• Provide feedback to the District Administrative Team on the Strategic Plan specific to resources/communication  
• Plan activities for communicating about SEDOL (e.g., Social Media, SEDOL News) |

(Continued on page 2)
SEDOL Collaboration - Strategic Goals

On April 28, the IDEA Planning Committee, consisting of superintendents, business officials, and special education administrators, came together for a third time to continue to plan for the shift of IDEA funding from SEDOL distribution to member district distribution. The committee reviewed the member district survey results regarding planning for changes to the Articles of Joint Agreement. Based on those results, consensus was achieved and the committee’s recommendation to the Executive Board is to continue with shared costs for audiological services and that the O&M assessment be based on one-third EAV, one-third district enrollment and one-third SEDOL building enrollment. After being drafted, the proposed amendments will be reviewed by the Executive Board and each member district Board of Education, with final approval by the SEDOL Governing Board in 2020.

Additionally, a subcommittee will be created to review procedures and services offered by the SEDOL Audiology Department. The committee is charged with developing procedures to increase communication between SEDOL and member districts regarding audiological services, to ensure compliance with state/federal laws and that the services being provided are aligned to an educational service model. As part of this committee, we are seeking business officials and special education administrators to join SEDOL administration and staff. If you are interested in joining this committee, please let me know via email.

Thank you to all of the committee and advisory members for their time, feedback and expertise to ensure a successful plan to support Lake County students into the future.

CAAEL

CAAEL (Chicago Area Alternative Education League) is a nonprofit organization that helps at risk/special education students succeed. CAAEL offers events in Illinois that help students from alternative schools become motivated to come to school, complete assignments, and behave appropriately. At Cyd Lash Academy, the sports offered to both middle school and high school students include soccer, football, basketball, volleyball, softball, and chess. In order to participate in CAAEL, students need to have passing grades for the week, no major behavioral issues for the week, good attendance, and have to be on level 3 or higher to play in the game. CAAEL emphasizes sportsmanship, leadership, and teamwork both on and off the court. At each event, each team hands out an award to two players on the opponent’s team who showed sportsmanship and leadership in the game.

On March 23-24, Cyd Lash took a group of both high school and middle school athletes to Forest View Education Center in Arlington Heights to participate in CAAEL’s Annual State Basketball Tournament. This is CAAEL’s 41st year and is the largest state basketball tournament for alternative schools. For this tournament, CAAEL partnered up with Cyd Lash Art Teacher Brian Sonders to coordinate the 2nd annual CAAEL Art Fair that showcases artwork from students of alternative schools across Illinois. Over the weekend, many Cyd Lash students received awards both on and off the court in sportsmanship, respect, athleticism and artistic awards (painting, multimedia, digital art, sculpture, and drawing). CAAEL gives students the opportunity to be part of a team and motivation to succeed.

Business Education Team (BET)

The Business Education Team (BET) lunch is a celebration of our local business partners. These businesses provide community-based training to students throughout Lake County. Supporting businesses include but are not limited to Six Flags, Walmart and Olive Garden. Olive Garden will serve as one of the partners that will cater the lunch as well as allow students to job shadow and serve on the day of the event. This event acknowledges approximately 50 businesses that support SEDOL students throughout the school year and for summer work training experiences. This year’s event will take place May 30 at State Bank of the Lakes, located in Grayslake from 11:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Four SEDOL teachers received $250 Agriculture in the Classroom grants from the Lake County Farm Bureau. Please enjoy some highlights from the projects below.

Robin Wantoch & Sandra Halevy (Milburn Middle School)
Students in Robin Wantoch's LASSO 2 and Sandra Halevy's ELS classrooms enjoyed sharing their Plant of the Month project with SEDOL Superintendent Valerie Donnan and three guests from the Lake County Farm Bureau. This STEM focused project looked at the unique properties of four different plants, which included succulents, bamboo, houseplants and flowering spring bulbs. On the day of the visit, students discussed the unique properties of bamboo, its uses as a building material as well as vocations in the field of agriculture.

Tina Borges (CLA)
Students in Tina Borges's Biology class stimulated their senses (sight, smell, touch and taste) by growing plants with therapeutic properties. Students learned that plants, such as lavender, can provide calming sensory experiences that can positively impact their physical and emotional wellbeing. The plan is to replant some of the plants and create a sensory garden space as part of the CLA butterfly garden. Additional plants that were grown include sage, mint, lemon balm, rosemary, basil and aloe.

Mary Beth Hutting (West Oak Middle School)
Students in Mary Beth Hutting's TAB classroom learned gardening basics by growing vegetables and flowering plants. As part of a service-learning project, they will be gifting their yield to others, including parents and seniors. One take-away from the project was to illustrate that gardening is an alternative and rewarding way to handle everyday stressors and a viable and enjoyable hobby option for students outside of the classroom. Some of the flowers and vegetables planted include daisies, poppies, carnations, chrysanthemums and lettuce varieties.

Deb Thomas (North Chicago High School)
Students in Deb Thomas's ELS class are getting the farm to table experience as they learn about a variety of farms, farming techniques and organic gardening methods. Students are growing herbs and vegetables from seed. They will use the herbs, (parsley, oregano, cilantro and basil) and vegetables (radishes, collards, zucchini, cherry tomatoes, peas) in recipes to make meals that promote healthy eating habits. The project is very student driven and aims to connect students with the natural world and help them better understand food origins and their role in the ecosystem.

JOHN POWERS CENTER CAREER DAY

John Powers Center had its Career Day! The students listened to an electronics engineer, massage therapist, forensic scientist and a physical education teacher who were all deaf. This was a perfect day for our students to see that anything is possible!
**CAREER PORTFOLIO DAY**

SEDOL’s 11th annual Career Portfolio Interviewing Conference was held on May 9 at the SEDOL Admin building. This year there were approximately 40 business from Lake County that conducted mock interviews with approximately 70 students. Conference activities included; resume review and feedback; Job search strategies; mock interviews with business professionals; on-site interviews for current openings at Goodwill and Great Lakes Naval Base; and informational workshops such as “What’s your elevator pitch?”, “Work skills challenge” and “CSI Reality Check”.

**BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Governing Board Meeting**
- June 5, 2019 at 7PM at Laremont School Gym.

**Executive Board Meetings** - 9:30AM in the Bay Room.
- May 23, 2019 and June 27, 2019

**SAVE-THE-DATE**

- **Cyd Lash Academy High School Graduation**
  Wed., May 15, 1:00PM Cyd Lash Academy Gym

- **Cyd Lash Academy Middle School Graduation**
  Thu., May 16, 1:00PM Cyd Lash Academy Gym

- **Celebration ART night**
  Thu. May 16, 6-9PM Gages Lake School Gym

- **Transition Recognition Night**
  Thurs. May 16, 7-8PM Gages Lake School Gym

- **Laremont Graduation**
  Fri. May 17, 1:00PM Laremont School Gym

- **Transition Orientation Meeting**
  Thu. April 18, 6-8PM SEDOL Administration Bay Room

- **Gages Lake School 6 grade send off**
  Tue. May 21, 1:00PM Gages Lake School commons

- **Project SEARCH Exit Ceremony**
  Wed. May 22, 2019 6:30-8:30PM Sedgebrook in Lincolnshire, IL [Directions]

- **DHH Grayslake North High School Graduation**
  Thu. May 23, 7-9:00PM at Grayslake North HS

- **John Powers Center 8th Grade Graduation**
  Tue. May 28, 6:00PM Vernon Hills High School

**2019 RETIREMENT CELEBRATION**

Come Celebrate the 2019 SEDOL Retirees!
Thursday, May 23 at 4pm
SEDOL Administration Building in the Bay Room

**2019 RETIRES:**

- **Brandon Abear**
  Teacher - Cyd Lash Academy

- **Bonnie Bloom**
  Receptionist - Laremont School

- **Janice Bridgman**
  Teacher - Gages Lake School

- **Geri Feldman**
  Teacher - Grayslake Central HS

- **Lynn Furth**
  Teacher - Cyd Lash Academy

- **Paul Greiner**
  Teacher - Transition Program

- **Virginia Irwin**
  Orientation & Mobility Teacher

- **Susan Jakaitis**
  Administrative Assistant - HR

- **Debra Loehrke**
  Paraprofessional

- **Bridget Matayoshi**
  Registered Nurse

- **Joyce Meuth**
  Supervisor

- **Carol Nielsen**
  Paraprofessional

- **Terri Nilson-Bugella**
  Teacher - Laremont School

- **Stacey Pyne**
  Teacher - Gages Lake School

- **Julie Rohrbach**
  Transition Coach

- **Sharon Saracco**
  Speech Language Pathologist

- **Michael Sullivan**
  Teacher - Laremont School

- **Cathy von Ehrenkrook**
  Teacher - Gages Lake School

**NEW POSITIONS FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR:**

- **Judith Assmann** - Director of Special Services
- **Heather Carey** - Administrative Assistant for HR
- **Meagen Dwyer** - Sector Supervisor
- **Pamela Evans** - Principal of John Powers Center & Transition Services
- **Tia Martinez** - Principal of South School in Mundelein
- **Dr. Kelly Olsen** - Asst. Director of Curriculum and Assessment
- **Allison Schmitt** - Sector Supervisor
- **Tegan Dittmer** - Supervisor
- **Nicole Richter** - Behavior Specialist
- **Michelle Langreck** - Behavior Specialist Assistant

On February 7, 2019, SEDOL had the privilege of hosting the Building Social Relationships through Evidence Based Social Skills Programming for Youth with ASD seminar with Scott Bellini, Ph.D., HSPP. Many SEDOL employees, as well as member district staff, were able to attend this professional development. Attendees learned new strategies to teach social skills and were provided a book for future reference. Dr. Bellini was very engaging and used great analogies to shine a light on social skills training; the importance of social skills, the five basics to implement a program effectively, assessment, and many specific strategies that will be used with students.
Janet Ognibene, Speech/Language Pathologist was recognized as March’s Employee of the Month. Pictured L-R with Janet Back Row Speech/Language & Audiology Coordinator Dr. Ann Gear and Speech/Language Liaison, Lyn Edwards. Front Row - Superintendent Valerie Donnan, Sector Classroom Teacher Veronica Carbonara, Janet and her husband Perry.

S.T.A.R.S Award Winners

February - Hector Juarez

Hector Juarez, a 10th grade student from North Chicago High School District #187 was selected as the STARS student for February. Hector attends ELS program at North Chicago High School. Pictured with Hector (l-r) are: North Chicago HS Principal Lilith Werner, Teacher Debra Thomas, Hector’s Mom, Hector, Social Worker Kristen Balogh and Superintendent Val Donnan.

March - George Rateike

George Rateike, a student from Grant High School District #124, was selected as the STARS student for March. George attends Transition Center South. Pictured in front row (l-r) are: Superintendent Val Donnan, George, and his grandparents. Pictured in the back row are: Dr. Christy Sefcik, Executive Board member and Superintendent of Grant High School #124; Supervisor Pam Evans; George’s dad; Teacher Eileen Shaugnessy; Teacher Deb Settle; and Paraprofessional Amber Swiderek. The lady just behind George’s grandparents is another relative.

April - Daniel Granados

Daniel Granados, an 8th grade student from Oak Grove District #68, was selected as the STARS student for April. Daniel attends the LASSO-1 Program at John Powers Center. Pictured with Daniel in front row (l-r) are: Daniel’s grandma and Teacher Therese Oliveri. In the back row (l-r) are: Daniel’s uncle, his dad and his aunt; Dr. Lonny Lemon, Executive Board Member and Superintendent of Oak Grove #68; Superintendent Val Donnan, and Terri Nilson-Bugella, Principal of John Powers Center.
As Pucks for Autism continues to grow, our need for volunteers continues to grow. Pucks for Autism is an adult hockey tournament with all the proceeds benefiting programming for children and young adults with Autism. The tournament will take place June 21 – 23 at four different locations this year – Vernon Hills, Pleasant Prairie, Buffalo Grove and Lake Forest.

We are looking for volunteers to score keep and run the clock for a three hour shift (two games). It is REALLY easy and a lot of fun. No prior experience necessary – the refs will help you and there will be two people on each shift. Anyone high school age or older can help – this is a great way to get a jump on service hours.

Questions? Contact Ann Subry asubry@sedol.us

To Register or Donate: www.firstgiving.com/sedolfoundation/pucksforautism2019

REMINDER: GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR THE SEDOL FOUNDATION ARE DUE FRIDAY, MAY 31!