



**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION**

**2021 OFFICIAL AMENDMENT BALLOT**

The deadline for the return of this ballot is **May 31, 2021**. In order to pass, a proposal must receive a 60% favorable vote. Please refer to the accompanying document for the text of the amendment and the rationale that was given at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1**

Yes

No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Member School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Superintendent or Principal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (School Board President)

**Unless there are TWO signatures, this ballot will be unacceptable and declared void.**

**BALLOTS DUE: May 31, 2021**

**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION PROPOSED  
AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

**AMENDMENT NO. 1**

CONSTITUTION, PAGE 7 Article III Section II

**SECTION 2. BASIS FOR CLASSIFICATION BY ENROLLMENT.** When member schools are classified according to enrollment for participation in the various athletic or fine arts activities sponsored by the Association, Average Daily Membership (ADM) based on enrollment in grades 9-11, as documented by member schools on the SD SIMS NET Average Daily Membership Report form. The ADM shall be the basis upon which schools are classified. A copy of the enrollment data will be received from the Department of Education by the Executive Director of the South Dakota High School Activities Association on the first Friday in December of each reclassification/alignment year. Reclassification and alignments for all sports and fine arts activities shall be done at the same time so that the two-year periods are concurrent for all activities.

**Amend Article III, Section 2 of the SDHSAA Constitution as Follows:**

**SECTION 2. BASIS FOR CLASSIFICATION BY ENROLLMENT.** When member schools are classified according to enrollment for participation in the various athletic or fine arts activities sponsored by the Association, ~~Average Daily Membership (ADM) based on enrollment in grades 9-11, as documented by member schools on the SD SIMS NET Average Daily Membership Report form. The ADM shall be the basis upon which schools are classified. A copy of the enrollment data will be received from the Department of Education by the Executive Director of the South Dakota High School Activities Association on the first Friday in December of each reclassification/alignment year~~ reflective of actual figures collected by the South Dakota Department of Education on the last Friday in September of each reclassification/alignment year will be utilized to establish classifications. Reclassification and alignments for all sports and fine arts activities shall be done at the same time so that the two-year periods are concurrent for all activities.

**Rationale:** Due to changes within the South Dakota Department of Education's reporting mechanisms, the change was suggested to the SDHSAA Executive Staff as the Average Daily Membership (ADM) is becoming increasingly more difficult to determine and calculate within schools. Minimal changes and evaluations may be need to be made to the figures used for classification within sports to reflect the calculation date, but in general, the numbers already calculated in September are reflective of school rank and order as to the ADM calculation.



**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
2021 OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT  
DIVISION IV REPRESENTATIVE- ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY DIRECTOR  
TERM: JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2026**

**Division IV Representative-** To be filled by an Athletic/Activity Director.

This position is currently filled by Craig Cassens, Faulkton High School Principal. The Division IV nominee may be from any SDHSAA member school with a 2020-21 ADM from 121.422 to 2.000. The Division IV schools include Parker with a 2020-21 ADM of 121.422 to Elk Mountain with a 2020-21 ADM of 2.000. This position must be filled by an Athletic/Activity Director. The person elected will serve a five-year term on the SDHSAA Board of Directors and is unable to run for re-election. **Any member school may nominate a person for this position and all member schools have the opportunity to vote.** Member schools in the Division IV Representative Group include: Parker, Flandreau Indian, Rapid City Christian, Webster Area, Deuel, Bennett County, Parkston, Garretson, Stanley County, Dupree, Hanson, Bon Homme, Deubrook, McCook Central, Crow Creek, Elkton, Great Plains Lutheran, White River, Platte-Geddes, Lower Brule, Wolsey-Wessington, Miller, Chester Area, Howard, Ipswich, Gregory, Aberdeen Roncalli, Lyman, Viborg-Hurley, Timber Lake, Britton-Hecla, Irene-Wakonda, Northwestern, Philip, Clark, Arlington, Burke, Andes Central, Castlewood, Scotland, Bridgewater-Emery, Colman-Egan, Alcester-Hudson, Wall, Newell, Warner, New Underwood, Marty, Centerville, Rosholt, Florence, Avon, Faulkton, DeSmet, Crazy Horse, Plankinton, Kadoka, Mount Vernon, Highmore-Harrold, Gayville-Volin, Ethan, Waverly-South Shore, Kimball, Estelline, Aberdeen Christian, Woonsocket, Menno, Sully Buttes, Faith, Gettysburg, Canistota, Corsica-Stickney, Freeman, Lemmon, Wilmot, Frederick Area, Oelrichs, Wessington Springs, Colome, Wakpala, Takini, Willow Lake, Montrose, Hitchcock-Tulare, Armour, Dell Rapids St. Mary, James Valley Christian, Lake Preston, Edgemont, Iroquois, Summit, Henry, Jones County, McIntosh, Bowdle, Selby, Sanborn Central, Waubay, Tiospaye Topa, Harding County, Langford, Marion, Rutland, Oldham-Ramona, Tripp-Delmont, Eureka, Bison, McCrossan Boys Ranch, White Lake, Freeman Academy, Sioux Falls Lutheran, Herried, Leola, Dakota Christian, Edmunds Central, Hoven, Sunshine Bible Academy, Mitchell Christian, Doland, SD School for the Blind & Visually Impaired, and Elk Mountain. Avon and Wakpala are ineligible due to already having members on the Board of Directors.

You may vote for one candidate.

The deadline for the return of this ballot is **May 31, 2021.**

- Kyle Courtney, Rapid City Christian
- Eric Denning, Mount Vernon
- Jeff Kusters, Frederick Area
- Brent Mareska, Tiospaye Topa
- Jon Meyer, Waverly-South Shore

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Member School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Superintendent or Principal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (School Board President)

**Unless there are TWO signatures, this ballot will be unacceptable and declared void.**

## **Derek Barrios, Elk Point-Jefferson**

I am completing my 13<sup>th</sup> year in education, and all my experience as an educator and coach have been served throughout our great state. I taught science and coached JH Girls BB in Kimball for one year. I then taught science and coached football and track in Arlington for four years. Following that, I served as 7-12 Principal in Custer for three years. I then spent two years as Elementary Principal/Superintendent in Faulkton before settling into my current role as Superintendent at the Elk Point-Jefferson School District for the past three years.

My time as a student in the state of South Dakota has also played a role in my development as leader. I was involved with Fine Arts and Athletics throughout my years as a student in the Brookings School District. During my time in education, I have been involved in various capacities with AdvancED, SASD Delegate Assembly, SDHSAA Football Advisory Committee, and the SDHSAA COVID-19 Task Force, as well as various roles within the communities I have lived. These experiences, with different sized schools across many regions of the state, have contributed to my growth as an educator.

I have been married to my wife, Amanda, for almost 12 years. We have two children, Addilyn (4<sup>th</sup>) and Kroy (JK). The students of South Dakota are at the forefront of the many decisions we make as leaders in our state. I would be honored to continue my commitment to serving the students of South Dakota, as well as our member schools, as a member of the SDHSAA Board of Directors.



**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
2021 OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT  
DIVISION III REPRESENTATIVE- SUPERINTENDENT  
TERM: JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2023**

**Division III Representative-** To be filled by a SDHSAA member school Superintendent.

This position is currently held by by Dr. Jerry Rasmussen, Dakota Valley Superintendent. The Division III Representative nominee may be from any SDHSAA member school with a 2020-21 ADM from Todd County at 442.270 to Tiospa Zina at 126.777. The position must be filled by a Superintendent. **THIS IS A TWO (2) YEAR POSITION** and the person elected is unable to run for re-election in the Division III slot. **Any member school may nominate a person for this position and all member schools have the opportunity to vote.** Member schools in the Division III Group include: Todd County, Tea Area, Belle Fourche, West Central, Dakota Valley, Vermillion, Sioux Falls Christian, Lennox, Lakota Tech, Pine Ridge, Madison, Little Wound, Milbank, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, Custer, Tri-Valley, Chamberlain, Dell Rapids, Sisseton, Canton, Hot Springs, Beresford, Hamlin, Lead-Deadwood, Wagner, Elk Point-Jefferson, Red Cloud, Winner, Mobridge-Pollock, Sioux Valley, St. Francis, Flandreau, Redfield, McLaughlin, Groton Area, Baltic, Hill City, St. Thomas More, and Tiospa Zina. Groton Area is ineligible due to already having a member on the Board of Directors.

You may vote for one candidate.

The deadline for the return of this ballot is **May 31, 2021.**

Derek Barrios, Elk Point-Jefferson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Member School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Superintendent or Principal)

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Signature (School Board President)

**Unless there are TWO signatures, this ballot will be unacceptable and declared void.**

**Todd Palmer, Sturgis Brown**

My name is Todd Palmer and I am currently the Director of Activities for the Meade School District. My career in education started in the fall in 1992 when I was offered my first teaching/coaching contract at Stanley County. In the 29 years since, I have had the opportunity to serve the students of South Dakota as a teacher, coach, official and administrator. During those years I have also been fortunate to server the SDHSAA in many different capacities. I have served on the Native American Advisory Council as the official representative. I was the Region 5 officials coordinator for both basketball and volleyball. I served on the Calendar Committee that was commissioned by SDHSAA to look at revamping the calendar due to new NFHS protocols pertaining to football. I was asked by then Executive Director Wayne Carney to sit on one of the interviewing committees for the new Executive Director. As the AD in Chamberlain, I hosted numerous SoDak 16 contests in both Volleyball and Basketball. I currently serve as the Awards Chairperson for the SDIAAA and am the secretary for the Black Hill Conference. I am humbled to be nominated for the West River At-Large position as an AD and take the task of representing all the schools of South Dakota, as do all the sitting board members and former board members.

I was honored to be nominated with all of the quality individuals that were nominated at the Annual Meeting in Pierre on April 20, 2021. If you have any questions of myself, please feel free to email ([todd.palmer@k12.sd.us](mailto:todd.palmer@k12.sd.us)) or call (605-381-0698) and I would be happy to visit with you. To carry on the long-lasting servant leadership that all of those who have served our state as a member of the board is what I look forward to doing if your school would feel so inclined to cast your vote for myself. If one of the other very qualified nominees is chosen by the membership, I will support them 100 percent.



**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
2021 OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT  
WEST RIVER AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE  
TERM: JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2024**

**West River At Large Representative-** to be filled by an Athletic/Activity Director

This position is currently vacant. The West River At-Large nominee may be from any SDHSAA member school with a high school attendance center physically located West of the Missouri River in South Dakota. This position must be filled by an Athletic/Activity Director. This is a **THREE (3) YEAR POSITION. Any member school may nominate a person for this position and all member schools have the opportunity to vote.**

You may vote for one candidate.

The deadline for the return of this ballot is **May 31, 2021.**

- James Bagwell, Crazy Horse
- Cooper Garnos, Lyman
- Kelly Messmer, Harding County
- Todd Palmer, Sturgis Brown

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Member School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Superintendent or Principal)

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Signature (School Board President)

**Unless there are TWO signatures, this ballot will be unacceptable and declared void.**

### **James Bagwell, Crazy Horse**

My name is James Bagwell. I have been in the education field for 7 years. I have served as the Dean of Students/ Athletic Director at Crazy Horse School for the past 6 years. For the last 3 years I have also served as the region 7B boys' basketball chairman. I played collegiate basketball and received my undergraduate degree from the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. I also obtained a Master of Education Administration degree from Concordia University- Nebraska. Being a former student athlete myself, I understand the value of athletics and education. I look forward to continuing to serve the state of South Dakota and our athletes.

### **Cooper Garnos, Lyman**

Cooper Garnos is currently teaching, coaching, and serving as the Activities Director at Lyman High School in Presho. Cooper has thirty years of experience in the South Dakota educational system. Cooper is a graduate of Lyman High School and received his bachelors of education from DWU, his Masters from SDSU, and his Education Specialist degree from the University Sioux Falls. Over the course of his thirty-year career in education, Cooper has been a Head High School Coach for GBB, BBB, and Golf. He has also assisted with high school FB. Cooper played basketball collegiately at USD and DWU. At DWU he was honored to be one of the team captains for the Tigers. Cooper's K-12 experience is as follows: he has served seven years as a High School Principal, seven years as Activities Director, and four years as a Superintendent.

Cooper also served thirteen years in the South Dakota Legislature. Eight years in the House of Representatives and five years in the Senate. Cooper served in leadership roles as a Majority Whip and chaired the Senate Education and Taxation Committees. Cooper is married to wife Mary Jo and they have three children, Chesney, Cruz, and Canyon. Mary Jo works for the State of SD as a County Nurse for Lyman County.

### **Kelly Messmer, Harding County**

My name is Kelly Messmer and I am the Principal and Athletic Director at Harding County High School. I have been in education and athletics for 24 years, with my last 11 at Harding County. I have been a teacher, coach, and administrator in both large and small school districts, and I understand the dynamics of both settings. I have a passion for high school extra-curricular activities and believe students who participate in both fine arts and/or athletics become well-rounded adults and contributors to society.

I will always have an open ear and an honest answer for anyone wanting to give suggestions or ideas to make our great organization even better. I would be honored and humbled to be elected to the SDHSAA Board of Directors and be a voice for all members.



**Jeff Kusters, Frederick Area**

Greetings! My name is Jeff Kusters, and I am running for the Division IV Athletic Director position on the SDHSAA Board of Directors that is being vacated due to the end of Chairman Cassen's term. I will be entering my 26 th year in the field of education/athletics next fall (all in South Dakota) and am currently the Superintendent, High School Principal, and Athletic Director with the Frederick Area School District.

I feel my past experiences would serve me well if elected to this position. I currently serve as a Region representative with the South Dakota Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and also as Chairman of the Lake Region Conference. I will serve as our Region Chairman for Boys' Basketball next year, and I have also served as a Region Director with the South Dakota Football Coaches Association and several years as a Region Director for Golf; including one year as State Tournament Director with that activity. I spent 15 years in the US Army National Guard and US Army Reserve, and have also served municipal government roles in the communities I have called home; which included a 14-year stint as Mayor.

I have been married to my wife, Christine, for nearly 30 years; and all four of our children have benefited from being a part of both athletics and the arts. If elected to serve with this organization, I would hope to continue the past practice of affording our students the many wonderful choices of activity involvement outside the classroom. I would truly appreciate your vote and would consider it an honor to serve on the SDHSAA Board of Directors. Thank you for your time and consideration with this process!

**Brent Mareska, Tiospaye Topa**

My name is Brent Mareska and I am the current Supt/HS Principal/AD at Tiospaye Topa School in Ridgeview, SD. I have held that position for the past 6 years. Currently I reside in Timber Lake, SD where I taught for 11 years and served as Activities Director for 10 of those years. I have coached many sports over the years at all levels as well as been a certified basketball official for over 15 years. I am excited for this opportunity and it is an honor to be nominated.

**Jon Meyer, Waverly-South Shore**

Jon Meyer is currently the superintendent and athletic director at Waverly-South Shore School. He is in his fifteenth year in education, having worked two years at South Shore School and then the past thirteen at Waverly-South Shore. He is in fourth year as district superintendent, tenth year as athletic director, ninth year as student council advisor, and third year as chairman of the Eastern Coteau Conference. During his tenure as athletic director, Jon has served as region tournament chair in both volleyball and girls basketball.

Outside of school he has served for seventeen years on his church council, including the last fourteen as council chairman. His past service work includes eleven years on the South Shore town council, the last four of which he served as town mayor; six years on the Great Plains Lutheran High School Board of Directors; and three years on the Northeast Technical High School Board of Directors, including one year as vice-president. Jon and his family (his wife, Emily, and their children, Elizabeth, Matthew, Rachel, and Isaac) live in South Shore.

**Kyle Courtney, Rapid City Christian**

I was born and raised in Guthrie Center, Iowa (which is about an hour west of Des Moines). I was a two-sport athlete in basketball and baseball in both high school and college. I am a 2007 graduate of Pillsbury Baptist Bible College (Minnesota) and spent time as an Asst. Men's Basketball Coach for 2 seasons after graduating. I started my teaching/coaching career in Gardendale, AL at Tabernacle Christian School where I spent 2 years. From there I took a teaching/coaching position at Valley Christian Academy in Santa Maria, California where I spent 3 years. I got back closer to home when I came to Rapid City Christian and I am just finishing up my 7<sup>th</sup> year here where I serve as Activities Director and head boys' basketball coach. I have 12 years of experience in education, 14 years of experience in coaching, and 6 years as an Activities Director. I have been a Head Basketball Coach for 10 years (and an Assistant for 4 years before that) and have also coached baseball, golf, and track at various points in my career as well.

I believe extra-curricular activities (both athletics and fine arts) are a very important part of education and can play a vital role in shaping our young men and women. The ability to teach life lessons through these activities is something I am very passionate about. I love coaching because I am very competitive, but more so because of the ability to be a positive impact on young people's lives, which is also why I love being an Activities Director and working with extra-curricular activities every day! I have a great passion for Christian Education, which is why I have been in Christian schools throughout my career. My wife, Gloria, and I have been married for 13 years and we have 3 children: Grace, Colin, and Madelyn. We love living in the great state of South Dakota. If selected to this position I would consider it an honor to serve the SDHSAA member schools and their student athletes. Thank you for your consideration.

**Eric Denning, Mount Vernon**

My name is Eric Denning. I am finishing my 26th year at Mount Vernon High School. I currently serve as our 6-12 principal and well as the Activities Director for the MVP Cooperative. My experience and involvement in co-curricular activities is vast. I have served as our school's activity director for the last 16 years. I have been our boys' basketball coach for the last 24 years, and currently still serve in that capacity. I have guided our school through a complete sports consolidation, and have experience in both Class A and Class B. I have served as a Region Chair in both basketball and volleyball. I have also worked closely with the SDHSAA in leadership positions as part of both the basketball advisory board, as well as the in season/out of season committee. I also currently serve as the Region 5 Representative on the SDIAAA Executive Committee as well as the SDIAA Scholarship Selection Committee.