



**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SDHSAA Office Pierre, South Dakota**

April 22-23, 2026 Following the Annual Meeting Pierre, South Dakota

The SDHSAA Board of Directors held a regular meeting on April 22-23, 2026. The meeting was held at the SDHSAA office with Board and Membership participation allowed via Zoom and completed in person and via Zoom. The following members were present:

Dr. Jeff Danielsen	Jeff Kosters	Chuck Wilson	Randy Hartmann
Ryan Rollinger	Adam Shaw	Billy Clanton	Chris Long
Jordan Bauer (via Zoom both days)			

Staff members present included Dr. Dan Swartos, Mrs. Kristina Sage, Mr. Randy Soma, Mr. Brooks Bowman, and Mr. Ryan Mikkelsen.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Dr. Jeff Danielsen at 12:06 P.M.

Item #1-Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Kosters, second by Wilson, to approve the agenda as amended, with a staff request to hear Item #15 before Item #7.

Motion carried 9-0.

Item #2-Open Forum

Dr. Danielsen explained the Open Forum procedure and asked for speakers. There were no speakers.

Item #3-Conduct a first reading on proposed changes to the SDHSAA Athletics Handbook, proposed changes from the Sports Officials Advisory Council, and the Sports Medicine Advisory Council, as submitted by the various Advisory Committees/Councils. Explanations and rationales for all proposals can be found in the April 22-23 Board of Directors Agenda on the SDHSAA website.

Basketball-

Following discussion on proposal #1- Increase number of allowable contests to 22, Dr. Danielsen asked for a motion. Proposal #1 died for lack of motion.

Competitive Cheer

Motion by Bauer, second by Rollinger, to approve the following Competitive Cheer proposal as a first reading:

- Competitive Cheer Proposal #1- Stunting category changes for rubric
- Competitive Cheer Proposal #2- Revision of Co-Ed criteria
- Competitive Cheer Proposal #2a- Clarification of awards distribution

Motion carried 9-0.

Competitive Dance

Motion by Clanton, second by Kusters, to approve the following Competitive Dance proposals as a first reading:

- Competitive Dance Proposal #1- Restructure tiebreaker for grand champion
- Competitive Dance Proposal #2- Change in difficulty rubric
- Competitive Dance Proposal #3- Additions to dance rubric

Motion carried 9-0.

Football-

Motion by Kusters, second by Rollinger, to approve the following Football proposals as a first reading:

- Football Proposal #1- Handbook language changes regarding forfeitures
- Football Proposal #2- Tiebreaker cleanup in handbook
- Football Proposal #3- New seed point system
- Football Proposal #6- Profit/Loss language update in handbook

Motion carried 9-0.

President Danielsen asked if there was any motion for Football Proposals #4- Implementing Crew of Seven Officials, or #5- Mandating microphones be available for referees at all high school games. No motion was made; proposals die for lack of motion.

Golf

It was moved by Long, second by Hartmann, to approve the following Golf proposal as a first reading:

- Golf Proposal #2- Changing the dates for posting of SDHSAA State Meet participants (Class AA)

Motion carried 9-0.

President Danielsen asked if there was any motion for Golf Proposal #1- Coaches golf carts at state and region meets (Class A). No motion was made, so it died for a lack of motion. Staff will clarify region language to with club approval in the handbook.

Gymnastics

It was moved by Hartmann, second by Allison, to approve the following Gymnastics proposal as a first reading:

- Gymnastics Proposal #1- Individual day in-season qualifiers language
- Gymnastics Proposal #2- Entry form mandate for all regular season meets
- Gymnastics Proposal #3- Require meet referee for Class A Region and Class AA Qualifying meets

Motion carried 9-0.

Soccer-

Dr. Danielsen asked if there was any action on soccer Proposal #1 – Addition of 3rd/4th place game on championship weekend. No motion was made, so it died for lack of motion.

Softball- There were no softball proposals this year.

Tennis

It was moved by Wilson, second by Clanton, to approve the following Tennis proposal as a first reading:

- Tennis Proposal #2- Expand team awards in Class AA to five at the state tournament.

Motion carried 9-0.

Dr. Danielsen asked if there was any action on Tennis Proposal #1- Increase Warm-Up Time at State Tournament. No motion was made, so it died for a lack of motion. Staff will try to address this at the State Tournament.

Track and Field/Cross Country-

It was moved by Clanton second by Allison, to approve the following Track and Field/Cross Country proposal as a first reading:

- T/F/XC Proposal #1- Use at two-pit pole vault system starting in 2027, pending logistics and funding.
- T/F/XC Proposal #2 – Maintain current starting heights process for state meeting in high jump and pole vault with the addition of games committee retaining the ability to adjust heights due to unforeseen circumstances.
- T/F/XC Proposal #4- Seed the top 12 teams in the fast heat for the 4 x 800 relay, with the rest going to the slow heat, provided there are at least eight teams in the slow heat.

Motion carried 9-0

It was moved by Jordan Bauer, second by Chuck Wilson to approve Track and Field Proposal #4- Eliminate the girls 100-meter hurdles deviation starting in the 2029 track season.

Motion carried 7-2, with Clanton and Kosters voting No.

Dr. Danielsen asked for Motion on track and field proposal #5- Add a unified 4x100 relay as a scored event for the 2028 season. No motion was made, it died for lack of motion.

Volleyball-

Dr. Danielsen asked for motion on volleyball proposal #1- Move the second round of regions into a seeded Round of 32. No motion was made; it died for lack of motion.

Wrestling

It was moved by Allison, second by Hartmann, to approve the following Wrestling proposals as a first reading:

- Wrestling Proposal #1- Discontinue the State Dual event at the end of the 25-26 school year.
- Wrestling Proposal #2- One-year exemption for an additional weigh in for those who qualify for the SDWCA Duals event to accommodate the transition from SDHSAA to SDWCA.
- Wrestling Proposal #3- State tournament seeding clarification.
- Wrestling Proposal #4- Two-year weigh in increase for girls wrestling.

Motion carried 8-1, with Rollinger voting No.

In/Out of Season & AD Advisory Committee

It was moved by Kusters, second by Bauer, to approve the following In/Out of Season/AD Advisory Committee proposals as a first reading:

- In/Out Proposal #1- Change Open Gym wording in handbook
- In/Out Proposal #2- Change wording in golf handbook pertaining to AJGA events.

Motion Carried 9-0

Sports Medicine Advisory – No proposals this year.

Sports Officials Advisory Committee

It was moved by Bauer, second by Long, to approve the following proposals as a first reading:

- Sports Officials Proposal #1- Funding to Football Officials Alliance for training
- Sports Officials Proposal #2- Eliminate sit out rule for basketball
- Sports Officials Proposal #3- Approve the use of red, yellow, green cards by track and field starting team to communicate decisions at the start line.

Motion carried 8-1, with Danielsen voting No.

Item #4-Consider request for a hold on approved changes to Class AA One Act Play for 26-27

It was moved by Bauer, second by Rollinger, to hold off on implementation of the AA One Act Play Region system until 2026-27 to allow for continued discussion on alternative ways to address festival time issues with judges.

Motion carried 6-3, with Kusters, Long, and Hartmann voting No.

Item #5-Conduct a first reading on proposed changes to the SDHSAA Fine Arts Handbook. Explanations and rationales for all proposals can be found in the April 22-23 Board of Directors Agenda on the SDHSAA website.

Music- It was moved by Hartmann, second by Wilson, to approve the following music handbook proposals as a first reading:

- Music Proposal #1- Audition change for All-State Orchestra- scores not docked for concertmaster auditions.
- Music Proposal #2- Late fee for additions and errors for All-State Band
- Music Proposal #3- Create a subcommittee to select four pieces of music to be used on a rotation for one of the two combined music selections at ASC&O.

Motion carried 9-0.

Speech- It was moved by Allison, second by Clanton, to approve the following Speech advisory proposal:

- Speech Proposal #1- Form a committee to review Oral Interp rankings chart.

Motion carried 9-0

Debate- It was moved by Rollinger, second by Hartmann, to approve the following proposals as a first reading:

- Debate Proposal #1- Change to debate handbook- No competition held on Sunday for any state sanctioned event.
- Debate Proposal #2- Change debate handbook language regarding the pull up from tabroom to a seeded model.
- Debate Proposal #3- Change to allowable entrants.
- Debate Proposal #4- Clarifying that you cannot strike a community judge.

Motion carried 9-0.

Journalism- It was moved by Long, second by Kusters, to approve the following Journalism rules proposal as a first reading:

- Journalism Proposal #1- Add a photo with caption requirement to Newswriting category.

Motion carried 9-0.

Visual Arts- It was moved by Koters, second by Allison, to approve the following visual arts proposal as a first reading:

- Visual Arts Proposal #1- Include cyanotype as an allowable submission to photography.

Motion carried 9-0.

Student Council- There were no student council proposals this year.

E-Sports-

It was moved by Hartmann, second by Rollinger to approve the following E-Sports proposal as a first reading:

- E-Sports Proposal #1- Update handbook to specify team vs individual titles.

Motion carried 9-0.

Item #6-Consider request from Sioux Falls Christian to withdraw their petition up to Class AA in the sport of tennis due to conflicts with the postseason and academic calendar.

It was moved by Long, second by Wilson, to approve the request of Sioux Falls Christian to withdraw their request to petition up to Class AA in boys and girls tennis due to conflicts with their graduation date and the state tournament.

Motion carried 7-1, with Allison voting No.

President Danielsen declared the Board in recess at 2:13 PM and out of recess at 2:20 PM.

President Danielsen directed the Board to move to Item #15- Consent Agenda.

Item #15-Consent agenda

It was moved by Rollinger, second by Clanton to approve the consent agenda:

- a) February and March vouchers
- b) Dissolve Wall, Kadoka, Philip gymnastics cooperative.
- c) Add boys and girls wrestling to Elkton-Lake Benton in 26-27
- d) Add girls soccer to Lennox in 26-27
- e) Request for Dupree to offer boys and girls golf beginning in 25-26 and place in region 6B
- f) Cooperative request from Leola and Frederick Area for boys and girls cross country beginning in 26-27.
- g) Request to dissolve the Douglas/RCC wrestling cooperative beginning in 26-27 and form the St. Thomas More/Rapid City Christian cooperative in boys and girls wrestling and boys and girls soccer, beginning in 26-27.

Motion carried 9-0

President Danielsen Directed the Board back to Item #7.

Item #7-Second Reading to adopt alignments in all athletic activities effective the 26-27 and 27-28 school years.

It was moved by Clanton, second by Kusters, to approve the athletic alignments as presented, with changes as necessary from the consent agenda.

Motion carried 9-0.

Athletic alignments can be found at <https://sdhsa.com/proposed-athletics-alignments/>

Item #8-Second reading to adopt alignments in all fine arts activities effective the 26-27 and 27-28 school years.

It was moved by Kusters, second by Allison, to approve the activities alignments as presented.

Motion carried 9-0.

Activities alignments can be found at <http://sdhsaa.com/proposed-activities-alignments/>

Item #9-Discussion on All-State Band Auditions

The Board and staff held a discussion on the current weather contingency policy with All-State Band auditions. It has been in place for two years, and when it passed the Board wanted to revisit it after two years to determine its effectiveness. They will continue to discuss the policy at their June 2026 meeting.

No action was taken, discussion only.

Item #10-Approval of minutes from the March 4, 2026 meeting of the Board.

It was moved by Clanton, second by Kusters, to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2026 meeting of the Board as presented.

Motion carried 9-0.

President Danielsen directed the Board to move to Item #18.

Item #18-Executive session per SDCL 1-25-2.1 and 1-25-2.4

It was moved by Clanton, second by Kusters, to go into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2.1 and 1-25-2.4.

Motion carried 9-0.

President Danielsen noted that the Board would be in recess for the day following executive session and that there would be no action following executive session. He declared the Board in executive session at 3:19 PM and out of executive session at 3:36 PM.

President Danielsen declared the Board at recess for the day (April 22) at 3:37 PM and out of recess at 8:30AM the following day (April 23).

Item #11-Financial Report

It was moved by Clanton, second by Kusters, to approve the financial reports, including income statements and balance sheets from February and March of 2026, the cash flow chart, the Reinke Gray report, financial reports from Region Wrestling and Girls and Boys Basketball, and state event financial reports as presented.

Motion carried 9-0.

Item #12-First Reading of site selection committee recommendations for 2029-30 and changes to sites in 2026-27 through 2028-29

The board heard a first reading on site selection committee recommendations for the following:

- 2027 Dual Wrestling- Pierre (pending rules proposal results)
- 2027 Softball- A/B Sanford Complex Sioux Falls, AA Augustana University
- 2028 Gymnastics- Mitchell High School
- 2028 Debate- Watertown
- 2029 Debate- Brookings
- 2028 Oral Interp- Sturgis Brown
- 2029 Girls B Basketball- Huron
- 2029-30 Recommendations-
 - Boys A Golf- Aberdeen
 - Boys AA Golf- Spearfish (Spearfish Canyon)
 - Girls Tennis- Sioux Falls
 - Soccer- Brookings (SDSU)
 - Journalism- Vermillion (USD)
 - Cheer and Dance- Sioux Falls (Premier Center)
 - Cross Country- Sioux Falls
 - Chorus and Orchestra- Rapid City
 - Football- Vermillion (USD)
 - Combined Volleyball- Rapid City
 - Oral Interp- Watertown
 - One-Act Play- Mitchell
 - Gymnastics- Pierre
 - Dual Wrestling- TBD
 - E-Sports- TBD
 - Individual Wrestling- Rapid City
 - Debate/IE- Aberdeen
 - B Girls BB- Brookings (SDSU)
 - A Girls BB- Watertown

- AA Girls BB- Rapid City
- B Boys BB- Aberdeen (Northern)
- A Boys BB- Rapid City
- AA Boys BB- Sioux Falls
- All-State Band- O’Gorman
- Student Council- Rapid City
- Visual Arts- Aberdeen (ARCC)
- Jazz Band/Show Choir- Mitchell
- Boys Tennis- Rapid City
- Track and Field- Sioux Falls
- Softball- TBD
- Boys/Girls B Golf- Rapid City
- Girls A Golf- Madison
- Girls AA Golf- Aberdeen

Item #13-Set travel allowance for 2026 Summer Meeting in Salt Lake City

It was moved by Wilson, second by Clanton, to set the travel allowance for Board members for the 2026 NFHS Summer Meeting in Salt Lake City.

Motion carried 9-0.

Item #14-First Reading of Board of Directors Times/ Dates for 2026-27

The Board held a first reading on Board of Directors Times/Dates for 2026-27

*All times Central, all meetings held at SDHSAA office in Pierre, SD

- July 29, 2026 Strategic Planning- 10:30 AM (NFHS Week 4)
- July 30, 2026 Regular Meeting- 8:30 AM (NFHS Week 4)
- November 4, 2026 Regular Meeting- 10:30 AM (NFHS Week 18)
- January 20, 2027 Regular Meeting- 9:00 AM (NFHS Week 29)
- March 3, 2027 Regular Meeting- 10:30 AM (NFHS Week 35)
- April 21, 2027 Annual Meeting – 9:00 AM (NFHS Week 42)
- April 21-22, 2027 Regular Meeting- 10:00 AM and 8:30 AM if needed (NFHS Week 42)
- June 16, 2027 Regular Meeting- 8:30 AM (NFHS Week 50)

Motion carried 9-0.

Note- the intention is to hold the April meeting in one day rather than two, with an earlier start for the annual meeting.

*Item #15 was completed the prior day.

Item #16-Reports

The Board heard the following reports:

- Dr. Swartos confirmed the schedule for the June 17, 2026 Board of Directors meeting
- State Debate, Visual Arts, All-State Band, and Student Council report from Dr. Swartos
- State Basketball Reports from Kristina Sage, Dan Swartos, and Randy Soma
- Advisory reports for Site Selection, Sports Medicine and Sports Officials
- An update to the Success Factor study by Dr. Swartos
- NFHS Board Meeting/Legal Meeting/ SMAC report by Dr. Swartos
- Finance Committee update by Dr. Swartos
- Board Goals update from Dr. Swartos
- SDHSAA Foundation Update from Cassie Stoesser of the South Dakota Community Foundation
- SDIAAA Report from Chuck Wilson and Jordan Bauer

Item #17-Board Sharing

The Board was asked if they had any items to share or report on.

- Chad Allison had nothing to report, thanked everyone for their work.
- Billy Clanton thanked the staff for their work and SDPB for the great coverage of state events.
- Jeff Kusters noted his appreciation for the State Basketball tournaments and is looking forward to the Spring championships.
- Chris Long noted his appreciation for all of the work done by all who contribute.
- Chuck Wilson wished everyone luck on their end of year school events and thanked the staff for their work.
- Ryan Rollinger noted the great experiences had by students and fans at state basketball.
- Jordan Bauer thanked everyone and is looking forward to the Spring championships.
- Randy Hartmann thanked everyone for their work.
- Jeff Danielsen thanked the staff and board and noted his thankfulness that we all work together as a team for the betterment of the Association and for kids.

*Item #18 was completed the prior day.

Item #19-Staff Contracts for 2026-27

It was moved by Rollinger, second by Allison, to table Item #19 until the June Meeting, as requested by staff.

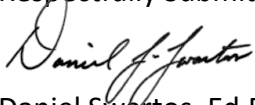
Motion carried 9-0, item #18 was tabled.

Item #20- Adjournment

It was moved by Kusters, second by Hartmann, to adjourn. *Motion carried 9-0.*

Seeing no more business at hand, President Danielsen declared the Board adjourned at 10:14 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Swartos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Daniel Swartos, Ed.D.

SDHSAA Executive Director