



**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SDHSAA OFFICE BUILDING**

**March 4, 2026**

**10:30 AM CT**

**Pierre, South Dakota**

The Board of Directors held a regular meeting on March 4, 2026 at the SDHSAA Office Building in Pierre, South Dakota with members present as follows:

Dr. Jeff Danielsen	Billy Clanton	Ryan Rollinger	Chad Allison	Chuck Wilson
Chris Long	Jeff Kusters	Jordan Bauer	Randy Hartmann	

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

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Danielsen at 10:33 A.M., followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Item #1-Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Kusters second by Rollinger, to approve the agenda as amended, adding item 9.5- first reading of constitutional amendment.

*Motion carried 9-0.*

**Item #2- Public Forum**

President Danielsen reviewed the SDHSAA Public Forum protocol and invited speakers.

- There were no speakers.

**Item #3- Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting held January 2021, 2026 and special meeting held February 19, 2026.**

Motion by Clanton, second by Hartmann, to approve the minutes as presented.

*Motion carried 9-0.*

**Item #4- Approval of Finance Reports**

SDHSAA Finance Director Ryan Mikkelsen reported on the income statements and balance sheets for January of 2026, the cash flow report, and Reinke Grey report.

Motion by Allison, second by Long, to approve the Finance Reports as presented.

*Motion Carried 9-0.*

### **Item #5- Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Vouchers for January of 2026.
- B. Requests from Pine Ridge to petition up to Class A in wrestling, beginning with the 2026-27 school year.

Motion by Bauer, second by Kusters, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

*Motion carried 9-0.*

### **Item #6- Reports**

The board heard reports on the following:

- State tournament recaps
  - Dual and Individual Wrestling from Randy Soma
  - Gymnastics from Kristina Sage
  - One-Act Play from Brooks Bowman
  - ESports from Dan Swartos
- Basketball and gymnastics advisories from Kristina Sage
- In and Out of Season and Wrestling advisories from Randy Soma
- Music and Speech Advisories from Brooks Bowman
- ESports Advisory from Dan Swartos
- Success Factor Subcommittee from Dan Swartos
- Wrestling Duals Subcommittee from Dan Swartos
- Board Goals Report from Dan Swartos
- SDHSAA Foundation Report
- SDIAAA Report

President Danielsen declared the Board in recess at 12:30 PM and out of recess at 12:58 PM.

### **Item #7- First Reading, Sports Classifications and Alignments for 2026-27 and 2027-28**

Proposed alignments in spreadsheet and map form can be found at

<https://sdhsaa.com/proposed-athletics-alignments/>

The board heard the proposed alignments as a first reading.

### **Item #8- First Reading, Fine Arts Classification and Alignments for 2026-27, and 2027-28**

Proposed alignments in spreadsheet and map form can be found at

<https://sdhsaa.com/proposed-activities-alignments/>

The board heard the proposed alignments as a first reading.

**Item #9- Second reading of staff submitted constitutional changes.**

Motion by Bauer, second by Clanton, to acknowledge a second reading of Proposed Amendments 1 and 2 for inclusion on a ballot to the schools.

*Motion carried 9-0.*

**Amendment 1.) Amend Chapter 1, Part IV, Section 1, Subsections C and D By-Laws.**

*C. Eight Semester/Twelve Trimester Rule. A student shall be eligible for four first semesters and four second semesters OR twelve trimesters of interscholastic competition while enrolled in grades 9-12. For the purpose of this subsection, enrollment and attendance in school or participation in one or more contests shall count as a semester/trimester of eligibility. Once a student enrolls as a ninth grader, all semesters/trimesters must be consecutive unless waived as per Article VII, Section 3 (I), page 18 of the Constitution.*

*D. Four Semester/Six Trimester Middle School Participation Rule. Middle school students shall be eligible for four consecutive semesters OR six consecutive trimesters of high school interscholastic competition while enrolled in grades 7-8. The four semesters/six trimesters begins when the student enrolls as a 7th grader or is a student enrolled in alternative instruction as set forth in SDCL 13-27-3, must be consecutive, and are not dependent upon actual participation in high school level interscholastic competition (the four semesters/six trimesters start at enrollment/recognition as a 7th grader, not upon participation in high school competition). Upon initial completion of the 8th grade (four semesters/six trimesters of 7th and 8th grade), the student shall begin their eight semesters/twelve trimesters of high school eligibility. No "redshirt" or "reclassification" years will be recognized.*

*NOTE: Attendance Defined: If the student is used in the ADM count, full or partial day, they are considered to have attended school.*

**Amendment 2.) Amend Chapter II, Part I, Section 1, Subsection J of the SDHSAA By-Laws as follows:**

*J. The eligibility of a student is not affected by a transfer from a school that closes. The transfer cannot occur until the date of the school closure or the end of the school year in which the school closes. End of school year would include the end of all SDHSAA state championships for the school year. A student living in a district that does not support and maintain a high school may be declared eligible at a high school that regularly serves that district to which the student commutes daily.*

**Item #9.5 – First Reading- staff submitted constitutional change**

Amend Chapter I, Part III, Section 4 of the SDHSAA By-Laws as such:

**SECTION 4. POST GRADUATE PARTICIPATION.** Student eligibility terminates at graduation, with the exceptions listed below. Graduation means graduation from a traditional school setting, graduation from an alternative instruction setting, graduation from an online school setting, or completion of a GED program.

Exceptions:

1. Students who graduate at the end of the first semester/first or second trimester are eligible until the first day of the second semester/second or third trimester.

2. High school graduates are permitted to participate in inter-school meets or tournaments sanctioned by the SDHSAA during the summer months immediately following a second semester/third trimester graduation date.

~~Notwithstanding Section 1 of this chapter, high school graduates may be permitted to participate in inter-school meets or tournaments sponsored by the Association during summer months immediately following such graduation, unless the Board of Directors rules otherwise in the case of any such tournament or meet.~~

The board held a first reading on the proposed amendment.

#### **Item #10- Legislative update for the 2026 session**

Swartos gave an update to the Board on HB's 1039, 1073, and 1187 from the 2026 legislative session.

#### **Item #11- Board Sharing**

- Chris Long enjoyed state wrestling and noted that it was intense but fun, he is looking forward to the remainder of the winter championships.
- Chad Allison also enjoyed state wrestling and is looking forward to the winter championships
- Billy Clanton enjoyed state wrestling and noted how it reminded him of life-long relationships that are built through these events.
- Jeff Kusters enjoyed state wrestling and is looking forward to the winter championships.
- Jordan Bauer thanked everyone for their work and is looking forward to winter championships.
- Ryan Rollinger thanked everyone for their work, appreciated the sportsmanship shown at state gymnastics, and is thankful for opportunities. He shared feedback he's received from ESports parents thankful for the participation opportunities being afforded and the connections to friends and school being developed.
- Randy Hartmann thanked everyone for their work and encouraged people to share more good news rather than just reaching out to others when bad things happen.
- Jeff Danielsen shared thanks and shared appreciation for all those who host SoDak 16 games and serve as hosts for state events.

#### **Item #12- Executive Session**

Motion by Rollinger, second by Bauer to enter into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2.1.

*Motion carried 9-0.* Danielsen declared the Board in executive session at 1:48 PM and out at 2:43 PM.

#### **Item #23- Adjourn**

Motion by Bauer, second by Clanton, to adjourn.

*Motion carried 9-0.* President Danielsen declared the meeting adjourned at 2:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Daniel Swartos  
SDHSAA Executive Director