

SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. CST

Cedar Shore - Oacoma, SD

AGENDA:

1. Call the meeting to order—Dr. Becky Guffin, President.

President Guffin called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. CST. A quorum was established with the following members present: Becky Guffin, president; Wayne Kindle, president-elect; Joel Jorgenson, past president; Orion Thompson, treasurer; Jennifer Lowery, secretary; George Seiler, Region 2; Quinton Cermak, Region 3; Blake Gardner, Region 4; Trent Osborne, Region 5; and Justin Downes, Region 6.

Joel Bailey, SASD Executive Board Representative; Mark Naugle, AASA Governing Board Rep.; and Rob Monson, SASD Executive Director, were also present.

Members absent excused: Dave Hutchison, Region 1; Kraig Steinhoff, Region 7

2. Approve the agenda. (m)

Justin Downes, seconded by George Seiler, moved to approve the agenda. All present voted aye, and the motion carried.

3. Public Input

None - No Action

4. Secretary Report - Dr. Jennifer Lowery, Secretary (enclosed). (m)

The SDSSA Secretary shared the enclosed minutes from the last executive board meeting (February 2025). She provided the updated link to the Executive Board Communication Hub. A motion was made by Blake Gardner, second Joel Jorgenson, to approve the minutes from the February 2025 Executive Board meeting as presented. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

5. Treasurer Report - Mr. Orion Thompson (enclosed). (m)

The SDSSA Treasurer shared his report of the outlined transactions.

Quinton Cermak motioned to approve the financial report as presented; second, Trent Osborne. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

6. Old Business

- a. Forrest Connor Loan

Mr. Naugle shared that no requests had been made.

- b. Legislative Reception 2026 - Student Connection

Dr. Lowery shared a concept that had been brainstormed with Dr. Steinhoff to include student programming in our 2026 Legislative reception. The proposal is for the Huron student orchestra to provide background music at the 2026 reception.

Justin Downes made a motion, seconded by George Seiler, to invite and financially support the Huron Public Schools Orchestra, providing background music at the 2026 Legislative reception. All present voted aye. The motion carried.

- c. 2025 Summer Conference Update

Dr. Kindle provided an update on the 2025 conference. All speakers have been confirmed, and there has been strong sponsorship. Dr. Lowery will move forward with registration and room list information.

7. New Business

a. Nominations:

I. Nomination for 2025 - 2026 President-elect

Wayne Kindle motioned for the SDSSA Executive Board to nominate Justin Downes for SDSSA president-elect at the annual meeting, and Orion Thompson seconded. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

II. Nomination for 2025 - 2028 Secretary

George Seiler motioned for the SDSSA Executive Board to nominate Jennifer Lowery as secretary at the annual meeting, and Joel Jorgenson seconded. All present voted aye. The motion carried.

III. Superintendent Leadership Academy and Professional Development update

Justin Downes shared an update on the fall superintendent leadership academy. Compass and the Cook Center will host the academy from October 15 to 17. This is a three-year opportunity, with 30 superintendents and their spouses attending each academy. Superintendents will be expected to provide their transportation. When reviewing registrations, a focus on new-to-profession superintendents will be made.

b. SASD Executive Board

SDSSA members were asked if they were interested in serving on the SASD Executive Board on behalf of SDSSA. The superintendents who responded were interested. The SDSSA Executive Board reviewed the list and appointed Joe Schwan for a three-year term.

c. Annual Appointments

i. Legislative Committee

Motion by Jorgenson seconded Thompson to appoint Dr. Glodt, Dr. Guffin, and Dr. Danielsen as SDSSA representatives on the SASD Legislative Committee.

ii. Professional Service Committee

Motion by Jorgenson seconded Thompson to appoint Dr. Weber, Mr. Hutchison, and Dr. Schwan as SDSSA representatives on the SASD Professional Service Committee.

d. Superintendent Awards

SDSSA Executive Board selected the following 2025 award winners: SDSSA Outstanding Superintendent - Jeff Danielsen; SDSSA Community Leader of the Year - Justin Downes; SDSSA Innovator of the Year - Summer Schultz; SDSSA Distinguished Superintendent - Tim Graf; SDSSA Rookie of the Year - Louie Krogman

8. Committee/Board updates

- A. *Director Monson and Dr. Guffin provided a Legislative update focusing on the bills passed. Discussions were had concerning property tax, SB71, and SB74, as well as the district impact and adjustment to policy. The education lobbyists will form listening groups to work on communication with our communities this summer from a regional perspective.*
- B. *Mr. Bailey, Mr. Gardner, Dr. Lowery, and Director Monson provided an update on public relations work and the importance of connecting with your community. The group emphasized the importance of providing contact information of positive individuals in their community to collaborate on this work.*
- C. *Director Monson provided an update from SASD. He briefly updated on upcoming professional development opportunities, including Wild West. He also shared that Compass and SASD support 30 aspiring administrators in a Leaders and Innovators in Education program.*
- D. *Mr. Naugle and Dr. Guffin provided an update on the AASA Governing Board. The focus was on information from AASA advocacy resources concerning the Department of Education. The board members recommend utilizing the AASA advocacy app and website as a resource. Additionally, AASA has a public relations launch coming called Public Education Promise—The American Dream in Action. They also noted that the newly elected president of AASA is LaTonya Goffney from Texas.*

9. Other Business

a. *none*

11. Adjournment.

Orion Thompson motioned to adjourn at 11:30 am, second Quinton Cermak. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer N Lowery