

SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION (SDSSA)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, July 20, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Arrowwood Cedar Shore Resort—Chamberlain/Oacoma, SD

AGENDA:

1. Call the meeting to order.

President Guffin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.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; Kraig Steinhoff, Region 7

Joel Bailey, SASD Executive Board Representative; Wayne Wormstadt AASA Governing Board Rep.; Donovan DeBoer, Federal Relations Coordinator; and Rob Monson, SASD Executive Director, were also present.

Members absent excused: Dave Hutchison, Region 1;

2. Approve the agenda. (m)

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

3. Public Input

None - No Action

4. Approve the minutes from the April 8, 2025, meeting. ([Minutes](#)) (m)

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

5. Approve the financial report. ([Financial Report](#) - July; [Budget Update](#); [annual report](#)) (m)

The SDSSA Treasurer shared his report of the outlined transactions.

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

6. SASD Report—Director Rob Monson.

Director Monson provided an overview of two groups working for public education. One group is

working on the strategic vision, while the other is a legislative group led by legislators. He shared that there are a few spots available in the Leadership Academy. There will be training this fall will KSB focused on best practices concerning plans of assistance. He provided an update concerning the Joint Convention. He also shared that there was an open position on the SASD board for a retired member.

7. Discussion Items.

a. SDSSA Summer Conference

Dr. Kindle provided an overview of the upcoming conference. Executive board members were assigned to various roles, beginning on Tuesday of the conference.

Motion Seiler, Second Thompson to contract Cedar Shore for the 2028 Conference (July 16-19). All present voted aye, and the motion carried.

b. SASD/ASBSD Public Relations (Monson/Lowery/Gardner/Bailey)

Director Monson shared an update on work with the communication lead concerning a legislative scorecard. Mr. Gardner reiterated the importance of telling our story. Dr. Guffin recommended a strategy used in Winona Area, MN. The strategy was for families to post a photo with their Why WAPS Story.

c. Legislative Summer Studies

Director Monson provided an update and overview of the Property Tax summer study. This is something that superintendents will be watching closely.

d. Superintendent Leadership Academy

Justin Downes provided an update on the leadership academy and the collaborative partnership with Compass and the Cook Center. The first academy will be held from October 15 to 17, with limited costs to districts for travel.

e. Other Topics.

none

8. New Business.

a. Set meeting dates for the 2025-2026 school year. (m)

- i. Wednesday, September 24, 2025, Zoom 9 am MT/10 pm CST
- ii. Tuesday, December 2, 2025, @ Arrowwood Cedar Shore @ 6:00 p.m. River Run Wetlands - need contract
- iii. Wednesday, December 3, 2025, @ Arrowwood Cedar Shore @ 10:00 a.m. (statewide meeting of superintendents) Hale/Oacoma Rm. - need contract
- iv. Tuesday, February 3, 2026 @ Pierre Ramkota @ 10:00 a.m. (K. Brandlee has contract)
- v. Wednesday, February 4, 2026 @ Ramkota - [contract](#)
- vi. Tuesday, April 7, 2026, @ Arrowwood Cedar Shore @ 10:00 a.m. CST (before SASD Executive Board meeting)
- vii. Sunday, July 19, 2026 @ Arrowwood Cedar Shore @ 6:00 p.m. - [contract](#)

Trent Osborne motioned to approve the 2025-2026 dates as presented; second, George Seiler. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

b. Webmaster—this past year, we paid Kara \$ 1,200 (an increase from \$ 1,000 in 2023 to \$ 1,200) to maintain and update our SDSSA webpage. (m)

Orion Thompson motioned to approve the payment of \$ 1,500 for Kara Brandlee to update the SDSSA website; seconded by Wayne Kindle. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

- c. Member request for use of email list - Doctoral work (m)

Orion Thompson is working on his dissertation. He sought approval to utilize the emails from the SDSSA Superintendent listserv.

Blake Gardner motioned to approve the use of the superintendent listserv for research; seconded by George Seiler. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

9. Reports

- a. Federal/State Relations Report - (DeBoer)

AASA governing board members, the federal relations coordinator, and the president-elect attend the annual advocacy conference in Washington. The focus was on Title funds and the importance of releasing the funds. Our representatives communicated with our federal representatives, sharing the importance of these funds for students in South Dakota.

The "Big Beautiful Bill" will need to be monitored closely, as it resulted in a tax credit rather than a voucher. The IRS will need to write regulations, and then states will impact how the tax credit is implemented. It will be important to advocate for the tax credit to be available to both public school 501 (c) (3) foundations and private schools.

The team recommended connecting with AASA's advocacy app and AASA's Public School Promise.

- b. AASA Governing Board Report— (Guffin/Wormstadt)

Please see above notes.

- c. SD Legislative Issues, Survey, and State Meeting of Superintendents in December (Schultz/Monson).

Dr. Kindle will collaborate with Dr. Lowery concerning the agenda for our December all-superintendent meeting. He will work to bring key legislators into the group to discuss legislation and policy. He is specifically interested in discussing the unintended consequences of the teacher accountability bill.

- d. Other

Jennifer Lowery and Rob Monson shared that the American Heart Association will be working on legislation requiring a plan for emergencies such as a heart attack.

10. Adjournment

George Seiler motioned to adjourn; seconded, Joel Jorgenson. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Next meeting—Wednesday, September 24, 2025, via Zoom (9 am MT/10 am CST)