



**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 **July 16, 2021.**

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

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.

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.

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.

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) 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
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-Harrod, 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 **July 16, 2021.**

- Eric Denning, Mount Vernon
- Jeff Kusters, Frederick Area

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.

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.

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!