2019 Nominating Committee Report and Voter Guide for KASB President-Elect Designee

The KASB Nominating Committee met on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019, in Topeka to interview candidates for the office of KASB President-Elect Designee. The KASB Nominating Committee has endorsed Brad Bergsma as a candidate, and has prepared this Voter Guide to help you make an informed decision about your vote.

This document serves as the KASB Nominating Committee Report to the KASB membership.

2019 KASB Nominating Committee Members

Region 1: Tracey Hannah, Basehor-Linwood USD 458
Region 2: Lauren Tice-Miller, Shawnee Heights USD 450
Region 3: Wes Smith, Woodson USD 366
Region 4: Eric Gerstner, Vermillion USD 380
Region 5 Bryce Matteson, Haven USD 312
Region 6: Greg Tice, Renwick USD 267
Region 7: Kevin Milner, Republic Co USD 109
Region 8: Ki Gamble, Kiowa County USD 422
Region 9: Kristina Lemman, Colby USD 315
Region 10: Tim Cruz, Chair, Garden City USD 457
Region 11: Tom Mitchell, Blue Valley USD 229
Region 12: Sara Goodburn, Shawnee Mission USD 512
Region 13: Janey Humphries, Kansas City USD 500
Region 14: Stan Reeser, Wichita USD 259
Region 15: Brian Geary, Olathe USD 233

KASB Nominating Committee’s Responsibility

“The president of the association shall each year appoint a nominating committee of one member from each region whose responsibility it will be to report one or more nominees at the delegate assembly held in conjunction with the annual convention for the election of the president-elect. Such nominating committee shall report to the board of directors in writing at least 60 days prior to the delegate assembly. The board of directors shall report in writing the nominee or nominees to the basic units at least 30 days prior to the delegate assembly. Other nominations may thereafter be made from the floor provided that such other nominations shall be supported in writing by at least 10 of the basic units of the association.

Nominations from the floor shall be made and written notice given to the board of directors at least 45 days prior to the delegate assembly.”

KASB Constitution, Article V, Section 2

Voter Guide
Candidate Profile
Brad Bergsma
Goodland USD 352
Board of Education

Vice-President
Athletics and Technology
Northwest Kansas Technical College
Goodland, Kansas

I am a fifth-generation western Kansan who has spent time throughout the entire state. My family still owns and operates a small 1000 acre farm in Sherman Co. which allows us the opportunity to spend a great deal of time outdoors with the family. I graduated high school in Syracuse, KS and then from the University of Kansas (BGS-Environmental Studies). I still enjoy golfing, hunting, and fishing, however, most of my free time is spent traveling to watching one of my four children in their activities.

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Candidate Application Essay Brad Bergsma

1. Why are you interested in this position, and if nominated, what are your future plans?
   The current leadership of KASB has fostered a culture of leadership and is attempting to engage more of our members. I would like to see this continue. I would like to see the regional events continue to grow, increasing the involvement of our rural districts, while also encouraging the larger districts to be engaged with the small. I would like to see an increased emphasis on career and technical education, because it impacts so many of our communities, large or small, in so many ways. I also believe that our advocacy efforts at the state level are unmatched and our superintendent training/recruitment programs affect all districts, large or small, which ultimately help us as an organization improve the opportunities of every student in Kansas.

2. What is your vision for KASB?
   It is my belief that the organization is invaluable to all school boards across the State. I see particular benefits to the smaller or rural districts with not only the legal assistance department but also the leadership and clerk training. Ultimately, it is my opinion, our smaller/rural districts are the “canary in the coal mine” for our entire state. They are more likely to see or feel the shifts in demographics, funding, and staffing shortages that will ultimately greatly impact our large districts through economies of scale. My hope is that we can bridge the two groups to prevent these types of problems before they become issues at a state level.

   It is my absolute opinion that we (KASB) need to promote both family and community because ultimately these are the two things that have made our schools, towns, and state so great.

3. In your opinion, what is/are the major issues(s) facing education in Kansas and what solutions would you propose?
   At the risk of oversimplification, the growing role that education has taken socially, and the costs associated, are hurdles that we will continue to face. There seems to be a bubble floating to the surface regarding medical reimbursement. As the line continues to blur between services our schools are asked to be provide, services formerly offered as health care, who is going to cover the cost?

   Access to services will be an issue as districts are asked to provide more, with fewer teachers, social workers, bus drivers, etc. available. We will need to not only improve our recruitment internally, but look at avenues that will bring people to our state. We need to understand that the “talent” shortage impacts both younger growing districts, aging rural districts, and larger districts experiencing demographic shifts.

4. Describe other relevant experiences or activities which prepare you for this position.
   I have coached at all levels PK-College, helped institutions across the state (K-20) with curriculum development and technology integration, lived/taught CTE, and been asked to travel across the state and country to share my experiences with other organizations like the Leadership Kansas, the Higher Learning Commission and Apple.

Candidate Video
View this candidate’s videotaped statement at the following link: www.youtube.com/user/KASBVideo

Election Information
Voting will take place during the KASB Delegate Assembly: Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019 in Wichita, Kansas.
Candidate Profile Brad Bergsma (continued from page 1)

Local School Board Participation

I was elected in April 2015, and am running unopposed again in November 2019. In that time I have sat on nearly every committee in our district. Oddly, in our district, the calendar committee is more cantankerous than negotiations.

KASB Participation and Activities

I have been involved with KASB (excluding work) for four years, and was encouraged to run for the Region 9 Vice-President by my predecessor, Tracy Rogers, nearly three years ago. I have been involved in KASB advocacy prior to my term on the school board, by coordinating/facilitating meetings in my role at the college.

National Education Participation and Activities

Admittedly very little in the K-12 space, but have experience with the accreditation process on several occasions with the Higher Learning Commision (HLC), and have worked with the USDA for workforce development.

Other Education-Related Activities

- Apple Distinguished Educator/Apple Distinguished School 2011-Current
- GJSHS Coach -Basketball and Football 1999-2011
- USD 352 - Network Administrator 2005-2011
- Organized/Hosted Small School Alliance (Superintendents Council for NW Ks) 2012-2017

Leadership, Professional or Community Service

- Actively involved with the Kansas Water Office’s “Water Technology Farms” program
- Actively involved with the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture and Kansas Dept. of Commerce workforce development
- Kansas Farm Bureau college chapter advisor
- BPOE #1528 (Elks)
- Harvest E -Free Church campus ministry (Challenge)
- Rotary Club
2019 KASB Annual Conference
Schedule At-A-Glance

Friday, December 6, 2019
7:30 a.m. REGISTRATION OPENS for Pre-Conference
- Meeting All Kids Needs District Tours
- Winter School Law Conference
- Foundations of Boardsmanship 1.0
- Poverty Paradigm Simulations
- KSSA Day @ KASB
8 a.m. Meeting All Kids Needs Briefing
8:15 a.m. Meeting All Kids Needs Buses Depart
9 a.m. Pre-Conference Onsite Meetings Begin
12 p.m. Lunch
4 p.m. Meetings Adjourn
4 p.m. REGISTRATION OPEN for Annual Conference
 Networking Reception
6 p.m. Evening Adjourns
Sign-Up Dinner

Saturday, December 7, 2019
7:30 a.m. REGISTRATION OPEN for Annual Conference
8 a.m. General Session Welcome and Opening Remarks
- KASB President
- KASB Executive Director
- KASB Nominating Committee Report
8:45 a.m. Keynote Speaker: Tim Hodges
*The State of Our Schools: Public Opinion and Best Practices for Addressing the Challenges Facing Education*
10 a.m. Break and Trade Show Opens
10:45 a.m. Breakout Sessions
11:30 a.m. Networking and Solutions Lunch
 Leadership for Tomorrow Lunch and Graduation
1:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions
2:30 p.m. Break
3:15 p.m. Breakout Sessions
4:30 p.m. General Session
 Featured Speaker: Randy Watson
5:30 p.m. Networking Reception
7:30 p.m. Adjourn

Sunday, December 8, 2019
7:30 a.m. REGISTRATION OPEN for Delegate Assembly
 Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Regional Elections
9 a.m. Delegate Assembly Begins
 Roundtable Discussions Begin
10:00 a.m. Break and Entertainment Begins
10:30 a.m. Closing Featured Speaker: Chad E. Foster
*Blind Ambition: Circumstances Are Far Less Relevant Than the Stories We Tell Ourselves*
Noon Annual Conference Adjourns