DAKTRONICS INC /SD/ Form PRE 14A June 22, 2005

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#### UNITED STATES

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C 20549

## **SCHEDULE 14A**

## Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant[X] Filed by a Party other than the Registrant []
Check the appropriate box:
<ul> <li>[X ] Preliminary Proxy Statement</li> <li>[ ] Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))</li> <li>[ ] Definitive Proxy Statement</li> <li>[ ] Definitive Additional Materials</li> <li>[ ] Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12</li> </ul>
Daktronics, Inc.  (Name of Registrant as specified in its charter)  (Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)
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## DAKTRONICS, INC.

331 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Brookings, South Dakota 57006

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2005

The 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the Annual Meeting ) of Daktronics, Inc. (the Company ) will be held at the Company s headquarters, 331 32nd Avenue, Brookings, South Dakota 57006 on Wednesday, August 17, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time, for the following purposes:

- 1. To elect three Directors of the Company to serve for a three-year term that expires on the date of the Annual Meeting of Shareholders in 2008 or until their successors are duly elected;
- 2. To approve the amendment and restatement of our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation;
- 3. To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young, LLP, our independent auditors for fiscal year 2006; and
- 4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

Only the shareholders of record of our common stock at the close of business on June 20, 2005, (the Record Date ) are entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting.

You are cordially invited to attend the meeting. It is important that your shares be represented at the meeting. Therefore, whether or not you expect to attend the meeting, **please complete**, **date and sign the enclosed proxy and return it promptly in the enclosed envelope.** If you later desire to revoke your proxy, you may do so at any time before it is exercised. Shareholders who are present at the meeting may withdraw

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 20205

their proxy and vote in person if they so desire.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Carla S. Gatzke Corporate Secretary

Brookings, South Dakota July 6, 2005

IMPORTANT: WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE SIGN THE PROXY AND RETURN IT IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

#### Daktronics, Inc.

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## DAKTRONICS, INC.

## PROXY STATEMENT FOR 2005 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

#### PROCEDURAL MATTERS

#### General

This Proxy Statement is being furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Daktronics, Inc. (the Company ) for use at our Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Wednesday, August 17, 2005, at Daktronics, Inc., 331 32nd Avenue, Brookings, South Dakota at 7:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time, and at any adjournment thereof (the Annual Meeting ), for the purposes set forth herein and in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

These proxy solicitation materials, together with our fiscal year 2005 Annual Report to Shareholders, were mailed on or about July 15, 2005, to all shareholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

In this Proxy Statement, Daktronics, Company, we, us, and our refer to Daktronics, Inc.

#### **Record Date**

Shareholders of record at the close of business on June 20, 2005 (the Record Date ) are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. As of the Record Date, 19,187,527 shares of our common stock were issued and outstanding.

#### **Voting at the Annual Meeting**

The holders of a majority of the shares of common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote at the 2005 Annual Meeting, present in person or represented by proxy, will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If a quorum is not present, the Annual Meeting may be adjourned from time to time until a quorum is present. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be treated as shares that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. Each share is entitled to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote. However, with respect to the election of Directors, every shareholder shall have the right to vote, in person or by proxy, the number of shares owned by the holder for each Director to be elected, or to cumulate the holder s votes by giving one candidate the number of votes which is equal to the number of Directors to be elected multiplied by the number of the holder s shares, or by distributing such cumulated votes among any number of nominees. Shares abstaining will be treated as not voted. If a broker indicates on the proxy that it does not have discretionary authority as to certain shares to vote on a particular matter, those shares will not be considered as present and entitled to vote with respect to that matter.

#### How Votes are Submitted

If the shares of our common stock are held directly in the name of the shareholder, he or she can vote on matters to come before the meeting in two ways:

By completing, dating and signing the enclosed proxy and returning it to us in the enclosed postage-paid envelope; or By written ballot at the meeting.

Shareholders whose shares of our common stock are held in street name must either direct the record holder of their shares as to how to vote their shares of common stock or obtain a proxy from the record holder to vote at the meeting. Street name shareholders should check the voting instruction cards used by their brokers or nominees for specific instructions on methods of voting, including by telephone or using the Internet.

Participants in the Company s 401(k) Plan (the Plan ) who hold common stock of the Company in the Plan are entitled to instruct the trustee of the Plan how to vote their shares. Each participant will receive a voting instruction card to direct the trustee to vote his or her shares. If a participant does not timely return a completed voting instruction card, the trustee will vote the shares allocated to that participant in the same proportion as the shares which are voted by all other participants under the Plan.

#### **Proxies**

All shares entitled to vote and represented by properly executed proxies received before the Annual Meeting will be voted at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the instructions indicated on those proxies, if they are not revoked before the vote as described below. If no instructions are indicated on a properly executed proxy, the shares represented by that proxy will be voted as recommended by the Board of Directors. If any other matters are properly presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting, the proxy holders will have discretion to vote on those matters in accordance with their best judgment.

#### **Revocability of Proxies**

Any proxy given pursuant to this solicitation may be revoked by the person giving it at any time before it is voted. A proxy may be revoked by either (i) delivery of a written notice of revocation or a duly executed proxy to the Corporate Secretary of the Company bearing a date later than the prior proxy relating to the same shares, or (ii) attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person (although attendance at the Annual Meeting will not itself revoke a proxy). To be effective, any written notice of revocation or subsequent proxy must be received by our Corporate Secretary before the taking of the vote at the Annual Meeting.

#### **Expenses of Solicitation**

All expenses of this solicitation, including the cost of preparing and mailing this Proxy Statement, will be borne by us. We may reimburse brokerage firms, custodians, nominees, fiduciaries and other persons representing beneficial owners of stock for their reasonable expenses in forwarding solicitation material to such beneficial owners. Directors, officers and employees of the Company may also solicit proxies in person or by telephone, e-mail, letter or facsimile. Such Directors, officers and employees will not be additionally compensated, but they may be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in connection with such solicitation.

#### **Procedure for Submitting Shareholder Proposals**

Shareholders may present proper proposals for inclusion in our proxy materials for consideration at the next annual meeting of our shareholders by submitting their proposals to us in a timely manner. In order to be included in our proxy materials for the next annual meeting, shareholder proposals must be received by us no later than March 28, 2006, and must otherwise comply with the requirements of Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ).

For any proposal that is not submitted for inclusion in next year s Proxy Statement but is instead sought to be presented directly at the 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, management may vote proxies in its discretion if we: (a) receive notice of the proposal before the close of business on May 23, 2006 and advise shareholders in the 2006 Proxy Statement about the nature of the matter and how management intends to vote on such matter; or (b) do not receive notice of the proposal before the close of business on May 23, 2006. Notices of intention to present proposals at the 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders should be addressed to Corporate Secretary, Daktronics, Inc., 331 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Brookings, South Dakota 57006.

#### PROPOSAL ONE

#### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

#### General

Our Board of Directors currently consists of nine persons, divided into three classes serving staggered three-year terms of office. There are three Directors (Aelred J. Kurtenbach, Robert G. Dutcher, and Nancy D. Frame ) whose terms expire at the 2005 Annual Meeting or until their successors are named, three Directors (Frank J. Kurtenbach, Roland J. Jensen, and James A. Vellenga) whose terms expire at the 2006 Annual Meeting or until their successors are named, and three Directors (James B. Morgan, John L. Mulligan, and Duane E. Sander) whose terms expire at the 2007 Annual Meeting or until their successors are named. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has recommended to the Board of Directors that Dr. A. Kurtenbach, Mr. Dutcher and Ms. Frame be nominated as the Directors to be elected at the 2005 Annual Meeting, and the Board of Directors has approved that recommendation.

#### **Vote Required**

See Procedural Matters Voting at the Annual Meeting for a description of the votes required for election of Directors.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote For the election of all nominees for the Directors named below.

#### **Directors and Nominees for Director**

The following table sets forth the name, age and certain other information regarding each nominee for Director.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	Principal Occupation	Committees Served On	
Aelred J. Kurtenbach	71	Director and Chairman of the Board	None	
		Chairman, President and CEO of Possis Medical,		
Robert G. Dutcher	60	Inc.	Compensation	
Nancy D. Frame	60	Retired	Audit, Nominating and Corporate Governance	
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Aelred J. Kurtenbach, Ph.D. is a co-founder of the Company and has served as a Director and Chairman of the Board since its incorporation in 1968. He also served as President of the Company until 1999, Chief Executive Officer until 2001, and Treasurer until 1993. Dr. Kurtenbach holds B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, the University of Nebraska and Purdue University, respectively.

**Robert G. Dutcher** is the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Possis Medical, Inc, a publicly-held medical device company located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Prior to joining Possis Medical in 1985, he was with Medtronics, Inc. for 12 years, most recently as Director of Research and Development. He previously worked in an engineering capacity for Control Data Corporation and Honeywell, Inc. Mr. Dutcher holds a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from South Dakota State University and an M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Minnesota. He has been Director of the Company since 2002.

*Nancy D. Frame* was a Deputy Director of the United States Trade and Development Agency in Washington, D.C., a position she held from 1986 to 1999 when she retired. From 1976 to 1986, she held various positions in the legal profession, specializing in international trade and commercial law. She obtained her law degree from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. and has been a Director of the Company since

1999.

The identity of the remaining Directors and certain information about them as of the Record Date are set forth below:

Roland J. Jensen is currently retired. Prior to his retirement, from 1996 to 2000, he served as President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Louisiana Energy Services, which was in the business of enriching uranium for the civilian nuclear power industry. From 1960 to 1990, he was with Northern States Power Company, a publicly-held electric and natural gas utility, ending his service as Senior Vice President of Power Supply. From 1990 to 1994, he was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of NRG Energy, Inc., a Minneapolis-based energy services company. He has served as a Director of the Company since 1994. Mr. Jensen holds a B. S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from South Dakota State University and an M.S. degree in Industrial Management from the University of Minnesota.

*Frank J. Kurtenbach* joined the Company in 1979 as Sales Manager of the Standard Scoreboard Division of the Company, which was expanded to include other products in 1981. He served as Sales Manager for the Company from 1982 through 1993, as a Director since 1984 and as Vice President, Sales since 1993. Mr. Kurtenbach has a M.S. degree in Physical Education and Recreation from South Dakota State University. Aelred Kurtenbach and Frank Kurtenbach are brothers.

*James B. Morgan* joined the Company in 1969 as a part-time engineer while earning his M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from South Dakota State University. He became President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company in 1999 and Chief Executive Officer in 2001. He served as its Vice President, Engineering, with responsibility for product development, contract design, project management and corporate information systems, from 1976 to 1999. Mr. Morgan has also served as a Director of the Company since 1984.

*John L. Mulligan* was elected as a Director in 1993. Since 1999, he has been employed as a Vice President and financial advisor with Morgan Stanley in the same capacity as when he was employed with Mesirow Financial from late 1990 through mid 1993 and again from 1994 through 1998. In 1993 and 1994, he served as principal of Mulligan Financial, a financial services firm that he founded. From 1967 to March 1990, he served as President, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and a Director of American Western Corporation. Mr. Mulligan is also a certified public accountant.

**Duane E. Sander, Ph.D.** is a co-founder of the Company and has served as a Director since its incorporation. He also served as Corporate Secretary from incorporation until 2001. Since 1999, he has been employed by the South Dakota State University Foundation as its Director of Special Projects. From 1990 to 1999, he served as Dean of Engineering at South Dakota State University, and he has taught electrical engineering courses and directed biomedical research projects since 1967.

James A. Vellenga was elected as a Director in 1997. He is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer of BSFX Corp., a company involved in the research of fibers for reinforcing concrete, and he has served in such capacity since early 2003. From 1988 to 2002, he held senior management positions with Aetrium, Inc. and UpTech Automation, Inc., both of which were involved in the design and development of integrated circuit test handlers. At Uptech Automation, Inc., he served as the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board. Prior to joining Aetrium, Inc. and UpTech Automation, Inc., Mr. Vellenga was a founder and Vice President of Operations of Lee Data Corporation. From approximately 1957 to 1979, he worked at Remington Rand, Univac, Control Data Corporation and Data 100 Corporation, where he was involved in the design and management of computer products. He holds a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from South Dakota State University.

#### CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

#### **Board of Directors Meetings**

Members of the Board of Directors are kept informed regarding our business through discussions with the Chairman, the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, and key members of management, by reviewing materials provided to them and by participating in meetings of the Board of Directors and its committees.

During fiscal 2005, the Board of Directors held four meetings (including regularly scheduled and special meetings), and all of the incumbent Directors attended 75% or more of the meetings of the Board of Directors and committees, if any, upon which such Directors served.

#### **Annual Meeting Attendance Policy**

We do not have a policy with regard to Directors attendance at annual meetings of shareholders. All Directors attended our 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

#### **Code of Conduct**

The Board of Directors has formally adopted our Code of Conduct, which applies to all of our employees, officers and Directors as provided in our company annual report to Shareholders. Included in the Code of Conduct are ethics provisions that apply to our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and all other financial and accounting management employees. Copies of the Code of Conduct are available free of charge by contacting the Corporate Secretary, Daktronics, Inc., 331 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Brookings, SD 57006.

#### **Committees of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors currently has three standing committees: an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

<u>Audit Committee.</u> During fiscal year 2005, our Audit Committee consisted of Mr. Mulligan (Chairperson), Ms. Frame, and Mr. Vellenga. Each Audit Committee member satisfies the audit committee independence standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market. The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Mulligan is qualified as an audit committee financial expert, as that term is defined in the applicable regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). The Audit Committee appoints and provides for the compensation of the independent auditors, reviews the scope and findings of the completed audit, and reviews the adequacy and effectiveness of our accounting policies and system of internal accounting controls. A copy of the Audit Committee s Charter was included in our fiscal year 2003 Proxy Statement. The Audit Committee met seven times during fiscal year 2005.

<u>Compensation Committee.</u> During fiscal year 2005, our Compensation Committee consisted of Mr. Jensen (Chairperson), Dr. Sander and Mr. Dutcher. All of the Compensation Committee members satisfy the independence requirements of the NASDAQ Stock Market. The Compensation Committee annually reviews and acts upon the Chief Executive Officer's compensation package, reviews compensation policy for the other employees, and acts upon management recommendations concerning employee stock options, bonuses and other compensation and benefit plans. The Compensation Committee met three times during fiscal year 2005.

<u>Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.</u> During fiscal year 2005, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (the Nominating Committee ) consisted of Ms. Frame (Chairperson), Mr. Jensen and Dr. Sander. All of the Nominating Committee members satisfy the independence requirements of the NASDAQ Stock Market. Our Nominating Committee advises and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors on all matters concerning the selection of candidates as nominees for election as Directors, develops and recommends to the Board of Directors corporate governance guidelines, and provides oversight with respect to corporate governance and ethical conduct. The responsibilities of the Nominating Committee are set forth in the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter. A copy of the Nominating Committee s Charter was included in our fiscal year 2004 Proxy Statement. The Nominating Committee met four times during fiscal year 2005.

The information below describes the criteria and process that the Nominating Committee uses to evaluate future candidates to the Board of Directors:

#### Criteria for Nomination to the Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee will consider the appropriate balance of experience, skills and characteristics required of members of the Board of Directors. Nominees will be selected on the basis of their depth and breadth of experience, wisdom, integrity, ability to make independent analytic inquiries, understanding of the Company s business environment, and willingness to devote adequate time to Board duties. The Nominating Committee will seek to insure that at least a majority of the Directors are independent under the rules of the NASDAQ Stock Market, that members of the Audit Committee meet the financial literacy requirements under the rules of the NASDAQ Stock Market, and that at least one member of the Audit Committee qualifies as an audit committee financial expert under the rules of the SEC.

#### Shareholder Proposals for Nominees

The Nominating Committee will consider written proposals from shareholders for nominees for Director. Any such nominations should be submitted to the Nominating Committee in the care of our Corporate Secretary and should include (at a minimum) the following information: (a) all information relating to such nominee that is required to be disclosed in Schedule 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (including appropriate biographical information); (b) such person s written consent to being named in the Proxy Statement as a nominee and to serving as a Director, if elected; (c) the name(s) and address(es) of the shareholder(s) making the nomination and the number of shares of our common stock which are owned beneficially and of record by such shareholder(s); and (d) a statement as to the qualifications of the nominee. Shareholder proposals should be submitted by the March 28, 2006 deadline described under the caption, Procedural Matters Procedure for Submitting Shareholder Proposals above.

The Nominating Committee will not change the manner in which it evaluates candidates for Board nominees, including the applicable criteria set forth above, based on whether the candidate was recommended by a shareholder.

#### Process for Identifying and Evaluating Nominees

The process for identifying and evaluating nominees to the Board of Directors will be initiated by identifying candidate(s) who meet the criteria for selection as a nominee and have the specific qualities or skills being sought based on input from members of the Board and others to the extent determined by the Nominating Committee. These candidate(s) will be evaluated by the Nominating Committee by reviewing the candidates biographical information and qualifications and, if necessary, by checking references. Qualified nominees shall meet with at least one member of the Nominating Committee and with at least one other member of the Board. The Nominating Committee will decide which of the prospective candidates to recommend to the Board for selection as nominees to be presented for the approval of the shareholders or for appointment to fill a vacancy.

A similar process will be used to evaluate nominees recommended by shareholders. However, to date, the Company has not received any shareholder proposals to nominate a Director.

#### **Board Nominees for the 2005 Annual Meeting**

The nominees for this Annual Meeting, Aelred J. Kurtenbach, Robert G. Dutcher and Nancy D. Frame, were selected by the Board of Directors as a whole in May 2005.

#### **Board of Directors Evaluation**

On an ongoing basis, the Nominating Committee facilitates a process to determine whether the Board of Directors and its committees are functioning effectively. The results of this process are reported to the Board for discussion.

#### How to Contact the Board of Directors

We have a process for shareholders to send communications to our Board of Directors. Shareholders wishing to contact our Directors may do so by writing to them at the following address: Corporate Secretary, Daktronics, Inc., 331 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Brookings, South Dakota 57006. All letters received will be categorized and processed by the Company s Corporate Secretary and then forwarded to the Directors.

#### **Director Compensation**

Through the first quarter of fiscal year 2005, each non-employee Director received, for his or her services as a Director, \$1,500 for each meeting attended in person, \$500 for each committee meeting attended in person with (telephonic participation in all meetings counted at one-half rate), and reimbursement of all out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending meetings. Beginning on August 1, 2004, and throughout the remainder of fiscal year 2005, each non-employee Director received, for his or her services as a Director, an annual \$4,000 retainer and \$2,500 for each meeting attended in person. During this same period, the Chairman of the Audit Committee received a \$4,000 retainer while the other members of the Audit Committee received a retainer of \$1,000. The Chairpersons of the Compensation Committee and the Nominating Committee received a retainer of \$2,000, while the other members of these committees each received a retainer of \$1,000. All non-employee Directors also received reimbursement of all out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending meetings.

Non-employee Directors also receive stock options under the Company s 2001 Outside Directors Stock Option Plan upon their election to the Board of Directors. In August 2004, Mr. Mulligan and Dr. Sander each received under the 2001 Outside Directors Stock Option Plan options to purchase 4,000 shares for each of the three years of their term, for a total of 12,000 shares. The options are subject to vesting restrictions and have an exercise price of \$22.458 per share, which was equal to the per share fair market value of the Company s common stock on the date of grant as determined by the Board of Directors.

#### PROPOSAL TWO

## APPROVE THE COMPANY S AMENDED AND RESTATED

#### ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

#### **Background of Proposal**

The Board of directors approved and proposed for adoption by the shareholders the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation attached to this proxy statement as Appendix A. The Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, if approved by our shareholders, will replace our current Articles of Incorporation. The two purposes of the Amended and Restated Articles are to (1) conform our Articles with the new South Dakota Business Corporations Act (the Act ) as enacted by the South Dakota Legislature earlier in 2005 and which became effective on July 1, 2005 and (2) reflect changes to our Articles adopted by the shareholders in previous years. The significant changes proposed consist of the following:

- Adding an introductory statement clarifying the purpose of the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation;
- Deleting references to the former South Dakota Codified Law applicable to corporations, which are no longer accurate
  as a result of the new Act;
- Incorporating the changes to our Articles of Incorporation approved by shareholders on August 15, 2001, which resulted
  in increases in the number of our authorized shares;
- Revising the provisions related to elimination of the liability of our directors, to conform to the new Act;
- Adding Article 8 allowing the company to indemnify its officers and directors to the fullest extent permitted under the Act and others from time to time as determined by the Board of Directors;
- Updating the registered agent and principal office of the company;
- Increasing the requirement for a quorum of shareholders at a meeting to a majority of the shares entitled to vote, as required by the Act; and
- Eliminating current Articles 11 and 12 relating to control share acquisitions and business combinations, which are not included in the new Act.

If this proposal is adopted, the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation will not significantly expand or contract the rights of shareholders as they currently exist under the former South Dakota Codified Law and our current Articles of Incorporation.

#### **Purpose and Effect of the Amendments**

As part of our overall review of our corporate governance practices, the Board has reviewed and evaluated its corporate governance documents, including the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation. The substance of the Company s Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation has largely been left unchanged since 1994. In February 2005, the South Dakota Legislature passed and the Governor subsequently signed into law the new South Dakota Business Corporations Act, which became effective on July 1, 2005. In general, the Act applies to all South Dakota corporations, including Daktronics. Under the Act, many provisions remained essentially unaltered from previous statutes, while others were changed. The Board now seeks shareholder approval for its Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation to remove unnecessary and outdated references and to conform our Articles to certain provisions of the Act.

If this proposal is adopted, the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation will be as set forth in Appendix A to this proxy statement. If adopted, the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation will become effective upon filing with the South Dakota Office of the Secretary of State, which we would do promptly after the Annual Meeting. Previously, the Board amended and restated its Bylaws to also conform with the Act. We filed these Bylaws as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the effective date of the Act.

#### **Vote Required**

Approval of this proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the approval of the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation.

#### PROPOSAL THREE

### RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has appointed Ernst & Young LLP as our independent auditors to audit our consolidated financial statements for fiscal year 2006 and recommends that the shareholders vote for ratification of such appointment.

Ernst & Young LLP has audited our financial statements since fiscal year 2003. A representative of Ernst & Young LLP is expected to be present at the Annual Meeting, will have the opportunity to make a statement, and is expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

#### **Vote Required**

Ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent auditors will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. If the shareholders do not approve the selection of Ernst & Young LLP, the Audit Committee will reconsider its selection.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors for the fiscal year ending April 29, 2006.

#### SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth information regarding the beneficial ownership of common stock as of June 20, 2005, the Record Date, by each of our Directors, by each executive officer named in the Summary Compensation Table, by all Directors and executive officers as a group, and by each shareholder who is known by us to own beneficially more than 5% of our outstanding common stock:

		Amount and Nature of	Percent of
Name and Address of Beneficial Owners	<u>Note</u>	Beneficial Ownership (1)(2)	Outstanding Shares
Beneficial owners of more than 5% of the			
common stock:			
Daktronics Inc. 401(k) Plan <sup>(3)</sup>		1,007,896	5.1%
Named Officers and Directors:			
Dr. Aelred J. Kurtenbach	(4)	1,490,883	7.5%
James B. Morgan	(5)	842,040	4.2%
Frank J. Kurtenbach	(6)	528,408	2.7%
Robert G. Dutcher	(7)	12,000	*
Nancy D. Frame	(8)	45,000	*
Roland J. Jensen	(9)	11,600	*
John L. Mulligan	(10)	52,000	*
Dr. Duane E. Sander	(11)	667,106	3.9%
James A. Vellenga	(12)	52,000	*
William R. Retterath	(13)	17,789	*
Carla S. Gatzke	(14)	334,423	1.7%
Reece A. Kurtenbach	(15)	144,573	*
Seth T. Hansen	(16)	70,853	*
Bradley T. Wiemann	(17)	72,137	*
All Directors and executive officers as			
a group (14 persons)		4,340,811	21.9%

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 1%.

- (7) Consists of 12,000 shares issuable pursuant to exercisable stock options.
- (8) Includes 36,000 shares issuable pursuant to exercisable stock options.
- (9) Includes 6,000 shares issuable pursuant to exercisable stock options.
- (10) Includes 28,000 shares issuable pursuant to exercisable stock options.
- (11) Includes (i) 40,000 shares issuable pursuant to exercisable stock options, (ii) 265,632 shares held by his spouse and (iii) 298,122 held in trust for the benefit of Dr. Sander, and (iv) 43,260 shares held in the name of his son.
- (12) Includes 42,000 shares issuable pursuant to exercisable stock options.
- (13) Includes (i) 12,000 shares issuable pursuant to exercisable stock options and (ii) 3,082 shares held through the Plan.
- (14) Includes (i) 57,200 shares issuable pursuant to exercisable stock options, (ii) 40,916 shares held through the Plan, (iii) 36,402 shares held by her spouse through the Plan and (iv) 7,850 shares held by her children.
- (15) Includes (i) 44,000 shares issuable pursuant to exercisable stock options, (ii) 8,082 shares held through the Plan, (iii) 16,000 shares held by his children.

<sup>(1)</sup> For purposes of this table, a person or group of persons is deemed to beneficially own shares issuable upon the exercise of options that are currently exercisable or that become exercisable within sixty days after June 20, 2005.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Common Stock held by the Daktronics, Inc. 401(k) (the "Plan") and allocated to the Plan participants are voted by the trustee of the Plan, according to the instructions of the Plan participants. Shares held by the Plan are as of the most recent statement date of June 20, 2005.

<sup>(3)</sup> Address is 331 32nd Avenue, Brookings, South Dakota 57006.

<sup>(4)</sup> Includes (i) 170,000 shares issuable pursuant to currently exercisable stock options, (ii) 687,230 shares owned by spouse.

<sup>(5)</sup> Includes (i) 135,200 shares issuable pursuant to currently exercisable stock options, (ii) 18,748 shares held through the Plan and (iii) 1,600 shares held by his children.

<sup>(6)</sup> Includes (i) 12,400 shares issuable pursuant to currently exercisable stock options, (ii) 16,930 shares held through the Plan and (iii) 116,170 shares held by his spouse.

- (16) Includes (i) 46,200 shares issuable pursuant to exercisable stock options, (ii) 12,488 shares held through the Plan, (iii) 232 shares held by spouse through the Plan.
- (17) Includes (i) 49,400 shares issuable pursuant to exercisable stock options, (ii) 11,738 shares held through the Plan, (iii) 200 shares held by his spouse.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The following Summary Compensation Table sets forth certain information regarding the total compensation earned or awarded for each of the last three completed fiscal years to the Chief Executive Officer and four other most highly compensated executive officers (the Named Executive Officers ) whose annual salary and bonus was at least \$100,000 for fiscal 2005:

#### **Summary Compensation Table**

			Annual Compensation	Long-Term	
			Other	Compensation Awards	All
Name and Principal	Fiscal		Annual	Number of Securities	Other
Position	Year	<u>Salary</u>			