

DAKTRONICS INC /SD/  
Form DEF 14A  
July 01, 2009

**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:

[ ] Preliminary Proxy Statement  
 [ ] Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))  
 [X] Definitive Proxy Statement  
 [ ] Definitive Additional Materials  
 [ ] Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**Daktronics, Inc.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i) and 0-11.
- 1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
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  - 3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computer pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
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- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
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  - 2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
  - 3) Filing Party:
  - 4) Date Filed:
- 

**DAKTRONICS, INC.**

201 Daktronics Drive

Brookings, South Dakota 57006

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

**TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2009**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Annual Meeting") of Daktronics, Inc. (the "Company") will be held at the Company's headquarters, 201 Daktronics Drive, Brookings, South Dakota 57006 on Wednesday, August 26, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time, for the following purposes:

1. To elect three Directors to serve for a three-year term that expires on the date of the Annual Meeting of Shareholders in 2012 or until their successors are duly elected;

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2. To ratify the appointment by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2010; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Only the shareholders of record of our common stock at the close of business on June 29, 2009 (the "Record Date") are entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting. If an insufficient number of votes is present for a quorum or is cast to approve or ratify any of the foregoing proposals at the time of the Annual Meeting, the Annual Meeting may be adjourned or postponed to allow further solicitation of proxies by the Company.

**All shareholders are invited to attend the Annual Meeting in person. However, to ensure your representation at the Annual Meeting, you are urged to vote as soon as possible. Shareholders may vote their shares over the Internet or via a toll-free telephone number. If shareholders have received a paper copy of a proxy card by mail, they may vote by completing, signing, dating and returning the proxy card as promptly as possible in the postage-prepaid envelope provided for that purpose. See the instructions on the proxy card for your vote options. Any shareholder attending the Annual Meeting has the right to revoke that shareholder's proxy card and vote in person even if he or she has previously returned a proxy.**

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Carla S. Gatzke  
Corporate Secretary

Brookings, South Dakota

July 10, 2009

**IMPORTANT: WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE VOTE BY PHONE, BY INTERNET, OR IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A PAPER COPY OF THE PROXY CARD, BY SIGNING, DATING AND RETURNING THE PROXY CARD AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE DAKTRONICS, INC. ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 26, 2009:**

This notice, the accompanying proxy statement and our fiscal year 2009 Annual Report to Shareholders, which includes our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended May 2, 2009, are available at our website at <http://www.daktronics.com>. Additionally, and in accordance with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, shareholders may access these materials at the cookies-free website indicated in the Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials that you receive in connection with this notice and the accompanying proxy statement.

**Daktronics, Inc.**

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## **DAKTRONICS, INC.**

### **PROXY STATEMENT**

#### **FOR 2009 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

### **PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

#### **General**

The enclosed proxy is solicited by and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Daktronics, Inc., a South Dakota corporation (the "Company") for use at our Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at Daktronics, Inc., 201 Daktronics Drive, Brookings, South Dakota at 7:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time, and at any adjournment or postponement thereof (the "Annual Meeting"), for the purposes set forth herein and in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders. This Proxy Statement and the accompanying form of proxy, together with our fiscal year 2009 Annual Report to Shareholders, are being made available to shareholders on the Internet or are being mailed on or about July 11, 2009 to all shareholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

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

#### **Record Date**

Shareholders of record at the close of business on June 29, 2009 (the "Record Date") are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. As of the Record Date, there were 40,776,594 shares of our common stock outstanding and entitled to vote held by 513 shareholders of record.

### **Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials**

We are making proxy materials for the Annual Meeting available over the Internet. As a result, we are mailing to the majority of our shareholders a notice about the Internet availability of the proxy materials instead of a paper copy of the proxy materials. The notice is entitled "Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials." All shareholders receiving the notice will have the ability to access the proxy materials over the Internet and request to receive a paper copy of the proxy materials by mail. Instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet or to request a paper copy may be found on the notice. Our proxy materials may also be accessed on our website at <http://www.daktronics.com> by selecting "Investors" and then "Proxy Materials." We are providing some of our shareholders, including shareholders who have previously requested to receive paper copies of the proxy materials, with paper copies of the proxy materials instead of a notice about the Internet availability of the proxy materials.

### **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 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 cast a number of votes equal to the number of Directors to be elected at the Annual Meeting multiplied by the number of shares the shareholder is entitled to vote. Shareholders may cast all votes for one nominee or divide the votes as they choose among two or three 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.

### **Vote Requirements**

A plurality of the votes cast is required for the election of Directors. This means that the Director nominee with the most votes for a particular slot is elected for that slot. Only votes "for" or "withheld" affect the outcome. Abstentions are not counted for purposes of the election of Directors.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock represented at the Annual Meeting, either in person or by proxy, assuming a quorum is present, is required to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2010. Abstentions and, if applicable, broker non-votes, are not counted as votes "for" or "against" these proposals.

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### **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 as follows:

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- § If the shareholder has received a paper copy of a proxy card, by completing, dating and signing the proxy and returning it to us in the postage-paid envelope provided for that purpose; or
- § By written ballot at the meeting; or
- § By phone, by calling 1-800-690-6903; or
- § By Internet, at <http://www.proxyvote.com>.

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 Daktronics, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the “401(k) Plan”) who hold our common stock in the 401(k) Plan are entitled to instruct the trustee of the 401(k) Plan how to vote their shares. Each participant will receive a notice about the Internet availability of the proxy materials, similar to the Notice received by the registered holders described above. Each participant will have the ability to access the proxy materials over the Internet and request to receive a paper copy of the proxy materials by mail. Instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet or to request a paper copy may be found on the notice as described above. The participants can vote on matters as described above, including instructions. The votes will then be tabulated and submitted for vote by the trustee. If a participant does not timely vote, the trustee will vote the shares allocated to that participant in the same proportion as the shares that are voted by all other participants under the 401(k) Plan.

### **Proxies**

All shares entitled to vote and represented by properly submitted 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 submitted 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:

- § delivering a written notice of revocation,
- § submitting another proxy bearing a later date,
- § voting by telephone or via the Internet after your prior telephone or Internet vote, or
- § attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person (although attendance at the Annual Meeting will not itself revoke a proxy).

### **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. Our Directors, officers and employees 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 13, 2010 and must otherwise comply with the requirements of Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

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 2010 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 26, 2010 and advise shareholders in the 2010 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 26, 2010. Notices of intention to present proposals at the 2010 annual meeting of shareholders should be addressed to Corporate Secretary, Daktronics, Inc., 201 Daktronics Drive, Brookings, South Dakota 57006.

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**Other Business**

At the date of this Proxy Statement, management knows of no other business that may properly come before the Annual Meeting. However, if any other matters properly come before the Annual Meeting, the individuals named in enclosed form of the proxy will vote the proxies received in response to this solicitation in accordance with their best judgment on such matters.

**Financial Information**

Our fiscal 2009 Annual Report to Shareholders, including, but not limited to, the consolidated balance sheets as of May 2, 2009 and April 26, 2008 and the related consolidated statements of income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended May 2, 2009, accompanies these materials. A copy of the fiscal 2009 Annual Report to Shareholders may be obtained without charge upon request to the Company. The fiscal year 2009 Annual Report to Shareholders can also be accessed on our website at <http://www.daktronics.com> by selecting "Investors," then "Financials" and then "Annual Reports." In addition, we will provide without charge to any shareholder, upon the shareholder's written request, a copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended May 2, 2009 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Requests should be directed to Investor Relations, Daktronics, Inc., 201 Daktronics Drive, Brookings, South Dakota 57006.

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

The following table sets forth information regarding the beneficial ownership of common stock as of June 29, 2009, 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.



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Name and Address of Beneficial Owners	Note	Amount and Nature of	Percentage of	
		Beneficial Ownership <sup>(1)</sup>	Outstanding Shares <sup>(2)</sup>	
5% Beneficial Owners:				
Barclays Global Investors NA	(15)	2,208,549	5.3	%
Named Officers and Directors:				
Dr. Aelred J. Kurtenbach	(3)	2,818,705	6.8	%
James B. Morgan	(4)	1,611,558	3.9	%
Frank J. Kurtenbach	(5)	786,159	1.9	%
Byron J. Anderson	(6)	33,000	*	
Robert G. Dutcher	(7)	67,616	*	
Nancy D. Frame	(8)	92,116	*	
John L. Mulligan	(9)	59,026	*	
Dr. Duane E. Sander	(10)	1,010,898	2.4	%
James A. Vellenga	(11)	94,000	*	
William R. Retterath	(12)	82,613	*	
Reece A. Kurtenbach	(13)	377,232	*	
Bradley T. Wiemann	(14)	173,864	*	
<b>All Directors and executive officers as a group</b>				
<b>(12 persons, consisting of those named above)</b>		7,206,787	17.4	%

\* Less than 1%

- (1) Each person has sole voting and sole dispositive power with respect to all outstanding shares, except as noted. The individuals holding restricted shares have the power to vote but not the power to dispose of such shares.
- (2) Based on 40,776,594 shares of common stock outstanding as of June 29, 2009. Such number does not include 160,482 shares of common stock subject to stock options outstanding as of June 29, 2009. Each figure showing the percentage of outstanding shares owned beneficially has been calculated by treating as outstanding and owned the shares upon which could be purchased by the indicated person(s) on June 29, 2009 or within 60 days of June 29, 2009 upon the exercise of stock options.
- (3) Includes 30,504 shares issuable pursuant to currently exercisable stock options, 1,689 shares held through the 401(k) Plan, 1,263,610 shares held by his spouse and 50,000 shares held in the Al and Irene Kurtenbach Foundation (the "Kurtenbach Foundation"). The shares in the Kurtenbach Foundation are the same shares shown as being owned by Reece A. Kurtenbach through the Kurtenbach Foundation in footnote (13), as voting control is shared.
- (4) Includes 67,800 shares subject to options and 42,218 shares held through the 401(k) Plan.
- (5) Includes 2,070 shares held through the 401(k) Plan and 222,350 shares held by his spouse.
- (6) Includes 32,000 shares subject to options.

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- (7) 66,494 shares subject to options and 1,122 shares of restricted stock which vest on August 27, 2009.
- (8) Includes 42,494 shares subject to options and 1,122 shares of restricted stock which vest on August 27, 2009.

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- (9) Includes 33,108 shares subject to options and 1,122 shares of restricted stock which vest on August 27, 2009.
- (10) Includes 33,108 shares subject to options, 413,944 shares held in Phyllis A. Sander Living Trust, 541,522 held in trust for the benefit of Dr. Sander and 1,122 shares of restricted stock which vest on August 27, 2009.
- (11) Includes 60,000 shares subject to options and 5,000 shares held by spouse.
- (12) Includes 65,600 shares subject to options and 9,373 shares held through the 401(k) Plan.
- (13) Includes 44,600 shares subject to options, 18,550 shares held through the 401(k) Plan, 32,000 shares held by his children, and 50,000 shares held in the Kurtenbach Foundation. The shares in the Kurtenbach Foundation are the same shares shown as being owned by Dr. Aelred J. Kurtenbach through the Kurtenbach Foundation in footnote (3), as voting control is shared.
- (14) Includes 110,600 shares subject to options, 26,282 shares held through the 401(k) Plan and 400 shares held by his spouse.
- (15) Reflects information as of December 31, 2008 derived from Schedule 13G filed with the SEC by Barclays Global Investors NA, on February 5, 2009. As set forth in the Schedule 13G, as amended, Barclays Global Investors NA Investors has sole voting and dispositive power as to 2,208,549 shares. The principal business address of Barclays Global Investors NA is 400 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-2228.

### PROPOSAL ONE

#### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

##### General

Our business and affairs are managed under the direction of our Board of Directors, which currently consists of nine persons, divided into three classes serving staggered three-year terms of office. There are three Directors (Byron J. Anderson, Frank J. Kurtenbach and James A. Vellenga) whose terms expire at the 2009 Annual Meeting or until their successors are named, three Directors (James B. Morgan, John L. Mulligan and Dr. Duane E. Sander) whose terms expire at the 2010 annual meeting of shareholders or until their successors are named, and three Directors (Dr. Aelred J. Kurtenbach, Robert G. Dutcher and Nancy D. Frame) whose terms expire at the 2011 Annual Meeting or until their successors are named. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has recommended to the Board of Directors that Mr. Anderson, Mr. F. Kurtenbach and Mr. Vellenga be nominated as the Directors to be elected at the 2009 Annual Meeting, and the Board of Directors has approved that recommendation. All nominees have indicated a willingness to serve if elected. If any nominee becomes unable to serve before the Annual Meeting, the proxies received in response to this solicitation will be voted for a replacement nominee selected in accordance with the best judgment of the proxy holders named in the proxy.

##### Vote Required

See "Procedural Matters – Vote Requirements" for a description of the votes required for the election of Directors.

**The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that the shareholders vote For the election of the nominees for the Directors named below.**

##### Directors and Nominees for Director

The following table sets forth the name, age and certain other information about each nominee for Director as of the Record Date:

Name	Age	Principal Occupation	Committees Served On
Byron J. Anderson	65	Retired	Nominating and Corporate Governance; Compensation
Frank J. Kurtenbach	71	Vice President, Sales	None
James A. Vellenga	74	Retired	Compensation and Audit

**Byron J. Anderson** is currently retired. Before his retirement, from 1999 to 2004 he served in various capacities at Agilent Technologies, Inc., most recently as Senior Vice President managing business groups located in the United States, Europe, Japan and Asia, which included worldwide sales and service activities. Before working with Agilent, he held various senior positions with Hewlett-Packard Company, ending his career there as a vice president responsible for a business unit serving the communications industry. He holds an MBA from Harvard University and an electrical engineering degree from South Dakota State University. He has been a Director of the Company since 2005.

**Frank J. Kurtenbach** joined the Company in 1979 as Sales Manager of the Standard Scoreboard Division, 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 a Vice President since 1993. Currently Mr. Kurtenbach is employed on a part-time basis with the Company. Mr. Kurtenbach has an M.S. degree in Health Science and recreation from South Dakota State University. Aelred Kurtenbach and Frank Kurtenbach are brothers.

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**James A. Vellenga** was elected as a Director in 1997 and is currently retired. He spent 46 years in the computer and integrated circuit industry in various senior management positions involved in product development and operations. His most recent position was as President and Chief Executive Officer of BSFX Corp., a company involved in the research of fibers for reinforcing concrete. He holds a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from South Dakota State University.

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

**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 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 currently Strategic Advisor Lead Member of MEDRAD, Inc. From April 2008 through March 2009, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Cardiovascular Division of MEDRAD, Inc., an affiliate of Bayer AG, since April 2008. Prior to this, he was the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Possis Medical, Inc., a publicly-held medical device company located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which was acquired by MEDRAD, Inc. in April 2008. Before joining Possis Medical in 1985, he was with Medtronic, 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 a Director of the Company since 2002.

**Nancy D. Frame** was 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 a B.S. degree from South Dakota State University. She has been a Director of the Company since 1999.

**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 1993, he has been employed by a number of financial institutions as a financial advisor and Vice President. He has been employed by UBS since May 2008 and, from 1999 through May 2008, he was with Morgan Stanley. From 1967 to March 1990, he served as President, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Director of American Western Corporation, a publicly-held company. 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. From 1990 to 1999, he served as Dean of Engineering at South Dakota State University, where he taught electrical engineering courses and directed biomedical research projects. Dr. Sander has been retired since 1999.

#### **Independent Directors**

Our Nominating and Governance Committee has determined that each of Messrs. Sander, Vellenga, Mulligan, Dutcher and Anderson and Ms. Frame are "independent," as that term is defined in Rule 4200(a)(15) of the Marketplace Rules of The NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc. ("NASDAQ"). Accordingly, the Board is composed of a majority of independent Directors as required by the NASDAQ Marketplace Rules.

### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

#### **Meetings of the Board of Directors and Committees**

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 2009, the Board of Directors held four regularly scheduled meetings; and the Audit Committee met five times, the Compensation Committee met three times, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met three times. All of the incumbent Directors attended at least 75% of the aggregate of all meetings of the Board of Directors and committees, if any, upon which they served. There was one action taken by the Board of Directors by unanimous written consent during the year. All Directors being nominated to serve as Directors attended the annual meeting of shareholders held in 2008.

### **Executive Sessions of the Board**

The Board has formally adopted a policy of meeting in executive session, with only independent Directors being present, on a regular basis. During fiscal 2009, the independent Directors of the Board met in executive session four times.

### **Annual Meeting Attendance Policy**

As set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, members of the Board of Directors are expected to devote sufficient time and attention to prepare for, attend and participate in Board meetings, shareholder meetings and meetings of Committees of the Board on which they serve.

### **Code of Conduct**

The Board of Directors has adopted our Code of Conduct, which applies to all of our employees, officers and Directors as provided in our 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 on our website at <http://www.daktronics.com>.

### **Policy and Procedures with Respect to Related Person Transactions**

Our Board of Directors has adopted a written policy and procedure with respect to related person transactions, which the Audit Committee oversees. Under the policy, a “related party transaction” is a transaction, arrangement or relationship in which the Company was, is or will be a participant, the amount involved exceeds \$120,000, and in which any “related person” had, has or will have a direct or indirect material interest. The policy generally defines a “related person” as a Director, executive officer or beneficial owner of more than 5% of any class of our voting securities and any immediate family member of any of the foregoing persons.

Under the policy, prior notice must be provided to our Corporate Counsel of the facts and circumstances involved in the potential related person transaction. If the Corporate Counsel determines that the transaction is a related person transaction, he must submit it to the Audit Committee or the Chair of the Audit Committee for review and, if appropriate, approval. The policy provides that, on an annual basis, the Audit Committee shall review any previously approved related person transaction that is ongoing. The policy also provides that proposed charitable contributions or pledges of charitable contributions of at least \$120,000 by the Company made to or at the request of a related person are subject to prior review by the Audit Committee or the Chair of the Audit Committee.

### **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.

*Audit Committee.* During fiscal 2009, our Audit Committee consisted of Mr. Mulligan (Chairperson), Ms. Frame and Mr. Vellenga. The Board of Directors has determined that each Audit Committee member is independent under Rule 4200(a)(15) of NASDAQ's Marketplace Rules and Rule 10A-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"). The Board has determined that Mr. Mulligan is qualified as an "audit committee financial expert," as that term is defined in Item 401(h)(2)(i) of Regulation S-K. The Audit Committee assists the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities for the quality and integrity of our financial reports and related filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). In fulfilling this role, the Audit Committee, among other things, oversees the accounting and financial reporting process and audits of the financial statements and related SEC filings, appoints and provides for the compensation of the independent registered public accounting firm, reviews the scope and findings of the completed audit, reviews the adequacy and effectiveness of our accounting policies and system of internal accounting controls and oversees our policy and procedures with respect to related person transactions. A copy of the Audit Committee's Charter is available on our website at <http://www.daktronics.com>.

*Compensation Committee.* During fiscal 2009, our Compensation Committee consisted of Mr. Dutcher (Chairperson), Mr. Anderson and Mr. Vellenga. All of the Compensation Committee members satisfy the independence requirements of The NASDAQ Global Market, as determined by the Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee annually reviews and acts upon the Chief Executive Officer's compensation package, reviews and approves the compensation policy for the other executives, and acts upon management's recommendations for executives concerning employee equity incentives, bonuses and other compensation and benefit plans. A copy of the Compensation Committee's Charter is available on our website at <http://www.daktronics.com>.

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*Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.* During fiscal 2009, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (the "Nominating Committee") consisted of Ms. Frame (Chairperson), Mr. Anderson and Dr. Sander. The Board of Directors has determined that all of the Nominating Committee members satisfy the independence requirements of The NASDAQ Global 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, oversees our Code of Conduct and provides oversight with respect to corporate governance and ethical conduct. It also oversees the annual review of the performance of the Board of Directors. The responsibilities of the Nominating Committee are set forth in the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter. Copies of the Nominating Committee's Charter and our Corporate Governance Guidelines are available on our website at <http://www.daktronics.com>.

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 our business environment and willingness to devote adequate time to Board duties. The Nominating Committee will seek to ensure that at least a majority of the Directors are independent under the rules of The NASDAQ Global Market, that members of the Audit Committee meet the financial literacy requirements under the rules of The NASDAQ Global 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) other board memberships; (c) such person's written consent to being named in the proxy statement as a nominee and to serving as a Director, if elected; (d) 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 (e) a statement as to the qualifications of the nominee. Shareholder proposals should be submitted by the March 13, 2010 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. To date, we have not received any shareholder proposals to nominate a Director.

*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. The 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.

**Board Nominees for the Annual Meeting**

The Board nominees for this Annual Meeting – Byron J. Anderson, Frank J. Kurtenbach and James A. Vellenga – were selected by the Board of Directors unanimously in May 2009 upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee.

**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**

Shareholders wishing to contact our Directors may do so by writing to them at the following address: Corporate Secretary, Daktronics, Inc., 201 Daktronics Drive, Brookings, South Dakota 57006. All letters received will be forwarded to the Directors.

**Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

During fiscal 2009, none of our executive officers served on the board of directors or compensation committee of another company that had an executive officer serve on our Board of Directors or our Compensation Committee. Dr. Sander was a part-time employee during the Company's early years. Through fiscal year 2001, he served as Corporate Secretary of the Company but was not an employee or executive officer of the Company.

**Director Compensation**

The following table sets forth information about the compensation paid to and earned by our Directors for the fiscal year ended May 2, 2009:

**FISCAL YEAR 2009 DIRECTOR COMPENSATION**

Name <sup>(1)</sup>	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash <sup>(2)</sup>	Stock Awards <sup>(3)</sup>	Option Awards <sup>(4)(5)</sup>	Total Compensation
Byron J. Anderson	\$24,000	\$ —	\$ 66,070	\$ 90,070
Robert G. Dutcher	22,000	6,667	39,002	67,669
Nancy D. Frame	28,000	6,667	39,002	73,669
John L. Mulligan	26,000	13,334	56,229	95,563
Dr. Duane E. Sander	22,000	13,334	56,229	91,563
James A. Vellenga	26,000	—	66,070	92,070

(1) As employees of the Company, James B. Morgan, the President and Chief Executive Officer, Aelred J. Kurtenbach, Chairman of the Board, and Frank J. Kurtenbach, Vice President, received no Director fees from us during fiscal year 2009 and are therefore not included in the table.

(2) Consists of fees earned for fiscal year 2009 and paid in fiscal year 2009 or fiscal year 2010.

(3) On August 28, 2008, Mr. Mulligan, Dr. Sander, Mr. Dutcher and Ms. Frame each received 1,122 restricted shares with a grant date fair value of \$20,000 which vest on August 27, 2009. The value of the stock awards is the amount that we recognize for financial reporting purposes under Statement of Financial Accounting Standard ("SFAS") No. 123(R). Refer to "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Critical accounting policies and estimates – Equity-based compensation" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 2, 2009 for a discussion of the assumptions used in calculating the expense under SFAS No. 123(R). This portion of the Annual Report on Form 10-K is included in our 2009 Annual Report to Shareholders.

(4) As of May 2, 2009, the following non-employee directors had outstanding options to purchase the following number of shares of our common stock, all of which had been granted under our 1993 Outside Directors Stock Option Plan, 2001 Outside Directors Stock Option Plan or 2007 Stock Incentive Plan: Mr. Anderson (32,000 shares, which were all exercisable), Mr. Dutcher (79,481 shares, of which options to purchase 60,000 shares were exercisable), Ms. Frame (55,481 shares, of which options to purchase 36,000 shares were exercisable), Mr. Mulligan (37,661 shares, of which options to purchase 28,554 shares were exercisable), Dr. Sander (37,661 shares, of which options to purchase 28,553 shares were exercisable) and Mr. Vellenga (60,000 shares, which were all exercisable).



(5) On August 28, 2008, Mr. Dutcher and Ms. Frame each received a stock option award with a grant date fair value of \$6.93 per share (19,481 shares). The grant date fair values were computed in accordance with SFAS No. 123(R). The value of the stock options is the amount that we recognize for financial reporting purposes under SFAS No. 123(R). Refer to “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Critical accounting policies and estimates – Equity-based compensation” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 2, 2009 for discussion of the assumptions used in calculating the expense under SFAS No. 123(R). This portion of the Annual Report on Form 10-K is included in our 2009 Annual Report to Shareholders.

**Independent Director Fees.** For fiscal 2009, each independent Director received an annual retainer of \$12,000, plus \$2,000 per meeting, for each Board of Directors meeting attended in person and the following annual retainers for committee membership:

	Other	
	Chair	Members
Audit Committee	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,000
Compensation Committee	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,000
Governance and Nominating Committee	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,000

The retainers for Board and committee service are included in the table above entitled “Fiscal Year 2009 Director Compensation”.

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**1993 and 2001 Directors Stock Option Plans.** The 1993 Outside Directors Option Plan and the 2001 Outside Directors Option Plan (the “Directors Plans”) were intended to assist us in attracting, motivating and retaining well-qualified individuals to serve as our Directors. The Directors Plans provided for the automatic grant of options up to a predefined level. The only individuals eligible to receive options under the Directors Plans were members of our Board of Directors who were not our employees. The Directors Plans provide that the total number of shares of our common stock that may be purchased upon the exercise of options could not exceed 800,000 shares, subject to adjustment. The Directors Plans were administered by our Board of Directors through our Compensation Committee.

During the terms of the Directors Plans, all grants of stock options were automatically awarded at or below the maximum level permitted by the Directors Plans, which was up to 36,000 shares upon their initial appointment or re-election to the Board of Directors. In connection with the implementation of the 2007 Stock Incentive Plan, the Board of Directors terminated the right to grant any additional options under the Directors Plans. As of June 29, 2009, options to purchase 236,000 shares were outstanding under the Directors Plans.

All options granted to non-employee Directors under the Directors Plans were non-qualified options not intended to qualify as incentive stock options under Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Payment for shares upon exercise of any automatic or discretionary options granted to non-employee Directors under the Directors Plans may be made in cash, in shares of our common stock that have been owned for more than six months having an aggregate fair market value on the date of exercise which is not less than the exercise price of the shares of common stock being purchased, partly in cash and partly in such shares, or by the delivery of irrevocable instructions to a broker to sell shares of common stock obtained upon the exercise of an option and to deliver to us an amount out of the proceeds of such sale equal to the aggregate exercise price of the shares being purchased.

**2007 Stock Incentive Plan.** The 2007 Stock Incentive Plan (the “2007 Plan”) is intended to attract and retain executives, employees, Board members and consultants and enable such individuals to participate in our long-term success and growth by granting various types of equity incentive which create a proprietary interest in the Company.

The 2007 Plan permits the Board of Directors to award various forms of equity compensation, including options, restricted stock, restricted stock units and deferred stock, to eligible recipients, including members of the Board. Under the 2007 Plan, the Board has provided for the automatic grant of options to each non-employee Director upon his or her initial appointment at a regular meeting of the shareholders and upon re-election to the Board of Directors and for the automatic grant of restricted stock to each non-employee Director upon his or her initial appointment at a regular meeting of shareholders and upon re-election to the Board and each year thereafter during the Director's term of appointment.

The number of shares underlying the options automatically granted under the 2007 Plan to non-employee Directors is determined in accordance with SFAS No. 123(R) such that the total grant date fair value of the options equals \$45,000. The automatic options vest over three years, beginning one year after grant, and they generally have the same terms and conditions as the automatic options granted under the Directors Plans. The 2007 Plan requires that all options granted under the 2007 Plan have an exercise price equal to the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant. All options granted to non-employee Directors under the 2007 Plan are non-qualified options not intended to qualify as incentive stock options under Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Payment for shares upon exercise of any automatic or discretionary options granted to non-employee Directors under the 2007 Plan may be made in cash, in shares of our common stock that have been owned for more than six months having an aggregate fair market value on the date of exercise which is not less than the exercise price of the shares of common stock being purchased, partly in cash and partly in such shares, or by the delivery of irrevocable instructions to a broker to sell shares of common stock obtained upon the exercise of an option and to deliver to us an amount out of the proceeds of such sale equal to the aggregate exercise price of the shares being purchased.

The number of shares of restricted stock automatically granted to non-employee Directors under the 2007 Plan is also determined in accordance with SFAS No. 123(R), such that the total grant date fair value of the restricted stock equals \$20,000. The restricted stock vests one year following the grant date. These grants are included in the table above entitled "Fiscal Year 2009 Director Compensation".

During fiscal 2009, Ms. Frame and Mr. Dutcher each received automatic grants of options under the 2007 Plan to purchase 19,481 shares of stock and Mr. Mulligan, Dr. Sander, Ms. Frame and Mr. Dutcher received automatic grants of 1,122 shares of restricted stock. These grants are included in the table above entitled "Fiscal Year 2009 Director Compensation."

**Stock Ownership and Retention Guidelines.** In January 2007, the Board of Directors implemented stock ownership guidelines for Directors. Under these guidelines, each Director is expected to achieve a target of 5,000 shares, excluding shares subject to options. Directors were granted five years from January 2007 to achieve this level of ownership.

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## Executive Officers

The following discussion sets forth information as of July 1, 2009 about our executive officers who are not Directors.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Positions with the Company</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Officer</b>
William R. Retterath	Chief Financial Officer	48	2001	
Bradley T. Wiemann	Vice President – Commercial and Transportation	46	2004	
Reece A. Kurtenbach	Vice President – Live Events and International	44	2004	

**William R. Retterath** joined the Company in 2001 as Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. During 2001, before joining the Company, Mr. Retterath served as the Chief Financial Officer of MQSoftware, Inc. From 1999 through 2000, he was Vice President of Finance for Computer Associates, Inc. through its acquisition of Sterling Software Inc. Prior to that time, Mr. Retterath served as the Chief Financial Officer for various public and private companies and worked for a number of years with Deloitte & Touche LLP. Mr. Retterath holds a B.S. in accounting from the University of Minnesota.

**Reece A. Kurtenbach** joined the Company in 1991 as an applications engineer on large display projects. In 1994, he became the manager of what is today our video products engineering group and, in 2004, was appointed Vice President, Video Systems. In 2007, he was named Vice President, Live Events and International. Mr. Kurtenbach received a B.S. degree from South Dakota State University in electrical engineering, with minors in math and computer science. Mr. Kurtenbach is the son of Aelred Kurtenbach.

**Bradley T. Wiemann** joined the Company in 1993 as an engineer focusing in our commercial and transportation products after spending a number of years with Rockwell International Corporation, where he was involved in flight control systems. In 2004, he was appointed Vice President, Commercial and Transportation, which is an area where he has provided leadership for a number of years. Mr. Wiemann holds an M.S. degree in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Iowa and a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from South Dakota State University.

#### **SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires that our Directors, executive officers, and persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities ("10% Shareholders") file with the SEC initial reports of ownership on Form 3 and reports of change in ownership on Form 4 or Form 5. Such Directors, executive officers and 10% shareholders are also required by rules of the SEC to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms that they file. To our knowledge, based solely on a review of copies of such forms submitted to us or written representations from certain reporting persons, we believe all required reports were filed on a timely basis during fiscal 2009.

#### **COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

##### ***Compensation Philosophy and Components***

We compete in a competitive market for personnel, both for executives and for non-executive employees. Desirable candidates for employment may also have opportunities from many other attractive employers, such as multi-national companies, venture-backed or fast-growing technology companies and manufacturing institutions. Our long-term success depends on our ability to develop and market innovative visual display systems. In addition, the competitive nature of our business pressures us to continually improve productivity across our operations. To achieve these goals, it is critical that we be able to attract, motivate and retain highly talented individuals at all levels of the organization.

The Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors bases its executive compensation programs on the same objectives that guide us in establishing all of our compensation programs:

- § Compensation should be based on the level of job responsibility, individual performance and Company performance. As employees progress to higher levels in the organization, an increasing proportion of their pay should be linked to our performance because they are more able to affect our results.
- § Compensation should reward performance, and the objectives of pay-for-performance and retention must be balanced.
- § Compensation should reflect the value of the job in the marketplace. To attract and retain a highly skilled work force, we must remain competitive with the pay of other premier employers who compete with us for talent.

- § Although compensation and benefit programs and individual pay levels will reflect differences in performance, job responsibilities, geographies and marketplace considerations, the overall structure of compensation and benefit programs should be broadly similar across the organization.
- § To be effective, performance-based compensation programs should measure the achievement of objectives that are critical for driving our success.

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- § Except for benefits and programs that are available to all our employees or a broad selection of our general employee population, our executives should receive few perquisites, if any, and those that are provided should receive specific approval and meet a defined business purpose of the Company.

The Compensation Committee is responsible for assuring that compensation for our executives is consistent with our compensation philosophy. The Compensation Committee reviews our compensation philosophy and trends in our industry to ensure that our executive compensation program is competitive and attracts and retains talented management, motivates our executives to achieve short- and long-range corporate objectives, and aligns the motivation and interests of the executives with the interests of our shareholders.

The Compensation Committee administers our equity-based compensation and management incentive programs and other compensation initiatives identified by the Board. The Compensation Committee reviews and approves each executive's base pay, bonus and equity incentives annually, as well as our annual incentive plan under which executive officers may receive cash bonus payments.

We view the various components of compensation as related but distinct. Although the Compensation Committee reviews and considers total compensation for each executive officer, we do not believe that significant compensation derived from one component of compensation should necessarily negate or reduce compensation from other components. We determine the appropriate level for each compensation component based in part, but not exclusively, on the following factors:

- § internal equity and consistency;
- § individual performance;
- § the executive compensation paid by other companies with which we compete for executive talent; and
- § Company performance.

The Compensation Committee has not adopted any formal policies or guidelines for allocating compensation between long-term and currently paid-out compensation, between cash and non-cash compensation, or among different forms of non-cash compensation, although it has a preference for a material amount of "at risk" compensation based on our financial goals.

For fiscal year 2009, our named executive officers were Dr. Aelred J. Kurtenbach, Chairman of the Board, James B. Morgan, Chief Executive Officer, William R. Retterath, Chief Financial Officer, Reece A. Kurtenbach, Vice President and Bradley T. Wiemann, Vice President (the "Named Executive Officers").

#### ***Role of Executive Officers in Compensation Decisions***

During meetings with the Compensation Committee held throughout the year, our Chief Executive Officer presents to the Compensation Committee his recommendations regarding changes in his compensation and the compensation for our Chief Financial Officer and all vice presidents. The Compensation Committee discusses these recommendations and accepts or adjusts them, in whole or in part, generally in November of each year. The Chief Executive Officer is not present during the Compensation Committee's final discussions or determination of his compensation, but he participates in the discussions regarding other executive officers' compensation. The Vice President of Human Resources may also be present for discussions regarding compensation. The other executive officers are not present during the Compensation

Committee's discussions of their compensation. The chair of the Compensation Committee presents the Committee's findings regarding compensation for executive officers to the Board of Directors at one or more meetings to obtain the Board's input and ratification. Based on such input at these meetings, the Board of Directors approves and adopts executive compensation, including executive salaries, the bonus compensation, stock awards and the parameters of the annual incentive plan.

### *Setting Executive Compensation*

In making decisions regarding elements and amounts of compensation, the Compensation Committee considers compensation paid to executive officers at similar levels and with similar experience and responsibilities at public companies that exhibit characteristics similar to us in terms of revenue, market capitalization, complexity and profitability. We compile the list of companies from the lists of the Forbes 200 Best Small Companies, with a focus on technology and manufacturing, as that group of companies includes companies that exhibit the growth rates and profitability characteristics that are similar to us.

We supplement the list with public companies that we believe to be fitting comparables within our geographical region that are involved in technology and manufacturing and, in some cases, industry related companies. Finally, we review compensation data from the Economic Research Institute and salary.com, which takes into consideration geographical considerations but excludes equity incentive compensation information. Generally, any material changes to the compensation of any executive officer is based on changes in that individual's position and responsibilities to the Company or changes to conform that executive's compensation structure as compared to similar executives in the peer group list.

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The following table sets forth the companies comprising the peer group list:

#### **Forbes 200 Best Small Companies**

Middleby Corp., Heico Corp., American Vanguard Corporation, Ladish Co., Inc., The Gorman Rupp Company, Diodes Incorporated, Gentex Corporation, Tennant Company, MTS Systems Corporation, Badger Meter, Inc., Raven Industries, Inc., Comtech Telecommunications, Inc., Cymer, Inc., CIRCOR International, Inc., Lufkin Industries, Inc., Dril-Quip, Inc., Under Armor, Inc.

#### **Regional Public and Other Companies**

Possis Medical, Inc., Cree, Inc. Standard Microsystems Corporation, Twin Disc, Inc., Cantel Medical Corp., inVentiv Health Inc., FormFactor Inc., Multi-Fineline Electronix, Inc., FLIR Systems, Inc., Dolby Laboratories, Inc., Ceradyne, Inc., National Instruments Corporation

The Compensation Committee reviewed base salary along with cash and equity incentive forms of compensation that were included in these companies' respective SEC filings.

The Compensation Committee is also mindful of maintaining compatibility between executive compensation and compensation for employees of the Company as a whole. The Compensation Committee has deemed it appropriate to keep cash compensation levels for executives in the lower one-third of the companies in the peer group list. To date, we have not retained any consulting firms to assist us in determining executive

compensation.

#### *Base Salary*

Executive officers receive a base salary to compensate them for services rendered during each year. Base salary is determined by assessing the executive's sustained performance and his or her individual job responsibilities, including the impact of such performance on our business results, in addition to market data and comparisons to other Company officers.

Salary levels are considered annually as part of our performance review process. Increases in the salary of the Chief Executive Officer are determined by the Compensation Committee based on its assessment of his performance, achievement of goals, and executive officers' compensation at comparable companies as described above. The Committee also takes into account our financial performance, understanding that these measures need to be considered in light of current economic conditions, business opportunities and other factors. As such, the Compensation Committee does not generally focus on a limited and narrow set of financial measures in determinations of compensation.

#### *Non-Equity-Based Incentive Compensation Plan*

The purpose of our non-equity-based incentive compensation plan is to provide a direct financial incentive in the form of an annual cash bonus to our executive officers and key managers. The Committee recommends to the Board, and the independent Directors of the Board determine, the annual incentive bonus of the Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and other executive officers. The non-equity-based incentive compensation plan is a formula-based performance cash bonus plan, consisting of 30% of the maximum bonus amount if after tax-earnings exceed 13% of shareholders' equity at the beginning of the fiscal year, and increasing linearly with performance to a maximum bonus which varies for each executive officer if after-tax earnings exceed 20% of beginning shareholders' equity. The maximum level of the bonus varies from 4.5 months' compensation to 7 months' compensation for each officer. The maximum amount is determined by the Compensation Committee based on reference to the comparable companies identified above, current economic conditions, opportunities for increased earnings, and projected results for the year. The Compensation Committee selected return on equity as the measure of corporate financial performance because it believed it was the most appropriate indicator of performance that will drive long-term shareholder value. Furthermore, we have used this same measure for a number of years and found it to be a meaningful measure of performance that is closely aligned to long-term shareholder value.

The non-equity-based incentive compensation plan is administered by the Board of Directors and Compensation Committee, which have the right, at any time and at their discretion, to amend the plan, increase or decrease individual payout amounts, whether earned or unearned, or terminate the plan, in whole or in part. Changes in the plan in recent years have been limited to changes in the targeted return on equity and the maximum bonus levels. Changes in the maximum level of return on equity have been made to more appropriately reflect changes in expected net income performance such that the achievement of the maximum bonus would result in higher than expected earnings for the Company over the long-term and have been applied to all executive officers. The maximum amount of the bonus for each executive officer has changed based primarily on factors described above, and it varies for each executive officer. We also follow applicable laws and regulations regarding recovery of any bonus, other incentive-based or equity-based compensation and profits realized from the sale of securities, resulting from any misconduct.

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During fiscal 2009, the Chief Executive Officer was eligible for non-equity-based incentive compensation equal to approximately 63% of his base salary, and the Chief Financial Officer was eligible for non-equity-based incentive compensation equal to approximately 46% of his base salary. The Chairman of the Board of Directors was eligible for non-equity-based incentive compensation equal to approximately 25% of his base salary and all other Named Executive Officers were eligible for non-equity-based incentive compensation equal to 42% of their base salaries.

*Equity-Based Compensation Program*

Grants of stock option awards have been the primary vehicles for offering long-term incentives to executive officers and key employees. The objectives of our equity-based compensation program are to advance our longer-term interests, complement incentives tied to annual performance and align the interests of employees more closely with those of our shareholders. We believe that long-term incentives provided by stock option awards are especially significant in motivating our executives and retaining their services.

Each year, the Board of Directors, based on recommendations of the Compensation Committee, determines the number of shares that may be subject to option awards for each Named Executive Officer and sets the total number of shares available subject to option awards for other key managers and employees as a whole. The Chief Executive Officer determines the grants of option awards to key employees within these limits, keeping in mind the factors described in the foregoing paragraph. The Compensation Committee approves grants of options based on, among other factors, historical grants, the value of past grants, the Company's performance and how the grants compare to grants to all other employees. The grants are further constrained by the Board's desire to limit dilution to shareholders to levels consistent with our historical levels. In granting stock option awards, the Compensation Committee and Chief Executive Officer consider trends in equity-based compensation and whether they are consistent with our compensation philosophy. They also consider our "overhang" percentage, that is, the number of our shares that are subject to outstanding options and awards and that are available for the grant of options and awards as a percentage of the number of our shares outstanding. To facilitate the grant of stock options to employees and executive officers, the Board of Directors authorized James B. Morgan to grant individual stock options during fiscal 2009 to such employees and executive officers, subject to the guidelines and limitations imposed on him by the Compensation Committee.

Grants of stock option awards to executive officers are considered at the Board and Compensation Committee meetings held in November of each year. Options are not typically granted at other times of the year for new employees or others. The exercise price of all stock options granted is equal to the fair market value of the Company's common stock as reported on The NASDAQ Global Market on the date of grant, which is defined in the 2007 Plan as the closing price of the common stock as reported on The NASDAQ Global Market on the date of grant. All options also contain five-year vesting provisions, with 20% of the shares underlying the stock option vesting each year following the date of grant.

*Deferred Compensation Arrangements*

We have deferred compensation arrangements to reward the Named Executive Officers who were employed by us as of August 1990, consisting of James B. Morgan and Aelred J. Kurtenbach. The arrangements are designed to fund annual payments upon retirement based on the value of amounts credited to each person's account. The Compensation Committee administers these arrangements and approves on an annual basis the amounts credited to each participant's account. The amounts credited are equal to the interest earned on the account at a rate equal to the five-year United States Treasury Note rate as of the first day of each plan year.

Additional participation in this plan by other Named Executive Officers and key employees is not under consideration at this time by the Compensation Committee or the Board of Directors. The purpose of the arrangement when it was implemented was to protect us from the loss of a key employee during our formative years in the early 1990s when the risk of loss was greater than it currently is. These arrangements are funded through an increase in the cash surrender value of life insurance policies on the lives of the participants. These arrangements are evidenced by deferred compensation agreements and are described in the table entitled "Non-qualified Deferred Compensation – Fiscal 2009".

Vesting under the deferred compensation arrangements occurs upon reaching retirement age, defined as the earlier to occur of age 65, or age 55 and the completion of 20 years of service to the Company, or in the event of death or disability. Participants may withdraw benefits in the plan that are vested after the employee ceases employment with the Company, provided that termination of employment is not for cause. Upon a termination of employment for cause, the participant's vested and non-vested interests in the plan are terminated. Upon termination, other than for cause, the participant may elect to receive benefits in the form of a lump sum payout or on an installment basis over a five- or ten-year period. Upon a change in control, all benefits under the plan are payable unless a majority of the Board of Directors agrees to continue the plan.

### *Benefits*

Our Named Executive Officers are eligible for all benefits generally available to our full-time permanent employees. Other than the deferred compensation plan described above, we do not provide pension arrangements, post-retirement health coverage, or similar benefits for our executives or employees. Any benefits that could be provided only to Named Executive Officers would be directly related to unique features of that executive's position, such as being an expatriate, or when the executive officer undertakes actions at our request, such as relocating. The benefits we provided in fiscal 2009 to executive officers are described below.

All employees, including the Named Executive Officers, are entitled to participate in the Daktronics, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the "401(k) Plan"), which is qualified under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Each employee that is at least 21 years of age may, commencing on the first day of the month after which the employee has attained three months of service, elect to contribute to the 401(k) plan through payroll deductions of up to 100% of his or her salary, subject to certain limitations. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, we may make matching contributions equal to a percentage of the salary deduction contributions or other discretionary amounts. We paid \$1.8 million in matching and discretionary contributions in fiscal 2009, \$1.9 million in fiscal 2008 and \$1.5 million in fiscal 2007. Contributions to the 401(k) Plan on behalf of the Named Executive Officers are described in the "Summary Compensation Table – Fiscal 2009."

All employees, including the Named Executive Officers, are entitled to participate in the Daktronics, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan ("ESPP"), which is intended to qualify under section 423 of the Internal Revenue Code. The ESPP allows employees to purchase shares of our common stock, subject to annual limitations, at a price equal to 85% of the lower of the fair market value of the common stock at the beginning or the end of each six-month offering period.

### *Accounting and Tax Treatment*

We account for equity-based compensation paid to employees under SFAS No. 123(R) promulgated by the Financial Accounting Standards Board, which requires us to estimate and record an expense over the service period of the award. Thus, we may record an expense in one year for awards granted in earlier years. We adopted SFAS No. 123(R) on April 30, 2006 and, therefore, fiscal 2007 was the first year in which we recorded an expense related to employee stock options, other stock awards and the ESPP. Accounting rules also require us to record cash compensation as an expense at the time the obligation is accrued.

With respect to option awards, we generally can deduct the gain recognized by employees and directors from non-qualified options. However, to the extent that an option is an incentive stock option, we cannot deduct the gain recognized by the optionee if there is no disqualifying disposition by the optionee.

With respect to restricted stock awards, we generally can deduct the gain recognized by employees and directors as ordinary income. This gain typically occurs upon vesting and is equal to the value of the stock on the vesting date. Alternatively, if the recipient were to make an election under Section 83(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, we would be entitled to a deduction on the date of grant equal to the value of the restricted stock on the date of grant.



Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 generally disallows a tax deduction to public companies for compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to the companies' chief executive officer and four other most highly-paid executive officers. Qualifying performance-based compensation will not be subject to the deduction limitation if certain requirements are met. Because the potential amount of base salary and non-equity-based incentive compensation that the executive officers can earn is less than \$1 million, Section 162(m) has not been material to our compensation decisions.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, during periods in which the economy is adversely impacting our performance, it has been our practice to consider freezing or decreasing base salaries and various other components of compensation for executive officers regardless of the foregoing practices. During fiscal year 2009, executive officers voluntarily offered to the Compensation Committee to forgo any increases in their base salaries for fiscal year 2009 and 2010. Therefore, there were no increases in base salary for executive officers during fiscal year 2009.

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The following table sets forth information about compensation awarded to, earned by or paid to our principal executive officer and principal financial officer during the fiscal years ended May 2, 2009, April 26, 2008 and April 28, 2007 and to our three other most highly compensated Named Executive Officers whose total compensation was greater than \$100,000 for the fiscal year ended May 2, 2009.

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## SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE – FISCAL 2009

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary	Option Awards <sup>(1)</sup>	Non-Equity			Total
				Incentive Plan Compensation <sup>(2)</sup>	All Other Compensation <sup>(3)</sup>		
<b>James B. Morgan</b>	2009	\$ 316,655	\$ 79,908	\$ 85,861	\$ 5,999	\$ 488,423	
Chief Executive Officer,	2008	301,788	81,233	127,838	5,996	516,855	
President and Director	2007	276,194	63,712	140,246	8,479	488,631	
<b>Dr. Aelred J. Kurtenbach</b>	2009	\$ 152,885	\$ -0-	\$ 16,582	\$ 5,694	\$ 175,161	
Chairman of the Board and	2008	150,050	-0-	26,452	6,167	182,669	
Director	2007	149,400	3,024	35,574	6,276	194,274	
<b>William R. Retterath</b>	2009	\$ 196,487	\$ 74,078	\$ 39,070	\$ 4,735	\$ 314,370	
Chief Financial Officer	2008	188,176	73,848	56,661	8,646	327,331	
	2007	166,123	60,878	64,310	7,015	298,326	

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<b>Bradley T. Wiemann</b> Vice President	2009	\$ 180,404	\$ 55,270	\$ 32,611	\$ 7,115	\$ 275,400
	2008	177,280	66,463	46,820	7,084	297,647
	2007	140,862	42,641	39,131	5,410	228,044
<b>Reece A. Kurtenbach</b> Vice President	2009	\$ 184,685	\$ 55,270	\$ 33,385	\$ 6,128	\$ 279,468
	2008	179,635	66,463	47,931	6,087	300,116
	2007	145,401	42,641	40,127	4,993	233,162

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- (1) Consists of stock options granted under the 2007 Stock Incentive Plan. The options vest and become exercisable as to 20% of the shares one year after the date of grant and as to an additional 20% in each succeeding year, but only if the Named Executive Officer is then an employee of the Company. The value of the option awards is the amount of the awards that we recognize for financial reporting purposes under SFAS No. 123(R). Refer to "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended May 2, 2009 for a discussion of the assumptions used in calculating the expense under SFAS No. 123(R).
  - (2) For fiscal 2009, consists of cash bonuses earned for fiscal 2009 and paid in fiscal year 2010. For fiscal year 2008, consists of cash bonuses earned for fiscal 2008 and paid in fiscal 2009. For fiscal 2007, consists of cash bonuses earned for fiscal 2007 and paid in fiscal 2008. The annual incentive bonus provides that our executive officers are eligible to earn annual cash bonuses tied to the level of achievement of net income compared to beginning stockholders' equity. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Setting Executive Compensation — Annual Incentive Bonus."
  - (3) Consists of matching and discretionary contributions made by us under the Daktronics, Inc. 401(k) Plan, which is intended to qualify under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

#### Retirement Savings Plan

We maintain the 401(k) Plan, which is intended to qualify under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"). The 401(k) Plan covers substantially all employees. Each employee may elect to contribute to the 401(k) Plan through payroll deductions of up to 100% of his or her salary, subject to certain limitations. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, we may make matching and other discretionary contributions equal to a percentage of the salary reduction contributions or other discretionary amounts. We paid \$1.8 million in matching and other discretionary contributions in year 2009, \$1.9 million in fiscal 2008 and \$1.5 million in fiscal 2007. The contributions we made to the 401(k) Plan on behalf of the Named Executive Officers in fiscal years 2007, 2008 and 2009 are described in the Summary Compensation Table.

#### 2007 Stock Incentive Plan and Incentive Option Plans

The 2007 Plan is intended to assist us in hiring and retaining well-qualified employees, consultants and other service providers by allowing them to participate in our ownership and growth through the grant of incentive and non-statutory stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units and deferred stock. All grants of equity compensation after August 15, 2007 have been made under the 2007 Plan. We terminated the 2001 Daktronics Incentive Option Plan and the 1993 Daktronics Incentive Option Plan (the "Option Plans") effective as of August 15, 2007, and we are no longer authorized to grant additional options or any other forms or equity compensation under the Option Plans. However, the outstanding options under the Option Plans as of August 15, 2007 were not affected by such termination. On July 1, 2009, options to purchase an aggregate of 3,019,586 shares were outstanding under the Option Plans and the 2007 Plan.

The following is a summary of the terms of the 2007 Plan which is qualified by reference to the 2007 Plan. The principal terms of the Option Plans are substantially similar to those of the 2007 Plan described below, except as otherwise noted.

**Administration.** The 2007 Plan is administered by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors, which determines when and which employees, consultants and other service providers will be granted options and other awards under the 2007 Plan. Subject to the provisions of the 2007 Plan, the Compensation Committee also determines the amount and terms of awards (including restrictions) and makes all other determinations necessary or advisable for the administration of the 2007 Plan.

Employees of the Company and any of its affiliates are eligible for selection to receive options qualified as incentive stock options (“ISOs”) under Section 422 of the Code. Employees, consultants and other service providers of the Company or its affiliates may be granted non-qualified options (“NQOs”) under the 2007 Plan.

**Shares Subject to the Option Plans.** The Option Plans provided that the total number of shares of our common stock that could be purchased upon the exercise of options could not exceed 3,200,000 shares, subject to adjustment. The 2007 Plan provides for a total of 4,000,000 shares, also subject to adjustment. In the event of a stock dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, reclassification, combination, exchange of shares or other similar recapitalization of our common stock, there is an appropriate adjustment made, without the consent of any award recipient, to the number and kind of shares of our common stock subject to and reserved under the 2007 Plan, including any limits on shares established, the exercise or purchase price of each share subject to an award and any other affected terms of such awards.

**Stock Options.** Upon the grant of an option under the 2007 Plan, the Compensation Committee fixes the number of shares of our common stock that the optionee may purchase upon exercise of the option and the exercise price at which the shares may be purchased. With regard to ISOs, the exercise price cannot be less than the “fair market value” of the common stock at the time the ISO is granted or 110% of such fair market value in certain cases. Further, the aggregate fair market value of common stock (determined at the time the ISO is granted) subject to ISOs granted to an employee under all of our option plans that became exercisable for the first time by such employee during any calendar year cannot exceed \$100,000. Under the Option Plans, the exercise price of non-qualified options could be less than the fair market value of the common stock but not less than 85% of fair market value. Under the 2007 Plan, the exercise price of non-qualified options cannot be less than fair market value. Each option granted under the 2007 Plan is exercisable by the optionee only during the term fixed by the Compensation Committee, with such term ending not later than 10 years after the date of grant in the case of ISO or five years after the date of grant in certain cases. Payment for shares upon exercise of any option can be made in cash, in shares of our common stock that have been owned for more than six months having an aggregate fair market value on the date of exercise which is not less than the exercise price of the option, or by a combination of cash and such shares, as described in the 2007 Plan.

Options granted under the Option Plans and 2007 Plan are non-transferable except to the extent permitted by the agreement evidencing such option. However, no ISO is transferable by any optionee other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution. If, under the agreement evidencing any option, such option remains exercisable after the optionee’s death, it could be exercised to the extent permitted by such agreement by the personal representative of the optionee’s estate or by any person who acquired the right to exercise such option by bequest, inheritance or otherwise by reason of the optionee’s death.

The following table sets forth information regarding grants of plan-based awards to the Named Executive Officers during fiscal 2009:

**GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS — FISCAL 2009**

Exercise Grant

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Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards <sup>(1)</sup>			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards <sup>(2)</sup>			or Base Price of Awards <sup>(3)</sup>	Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards <sup>(4)</sup>
		Threshold	Target	Maximum	Threshold	Target	Maximum		
James B. Morgan	12/04/08	\$ 58,253	\$ 194,175	\$ 194,175	—	12,000	12,000	\$ 8.29	\$ 39,341
Aelred J. Kurtenbach	12/04/08	11,250	37,500	37,500	—	—	—	—	—
William R. Retterath	12/04/08	26,507	88,357	88,357	—	11,000	11,000	8.29	36,062
Bradley T. Wiemann	12/04/08	22,125	73,750	73,750	—	10,500	10,500	8.29	34,423
Reece A. Kurtenbach	12/04/08	22,650	75,500	75,500	—	10,500	10,500	8.29	34,423

- (1) Consists of cash bonuses under our annual non-equity-based incentive compensation plan. The amounts in these columns reflect the minimum payment level, if an award is achieved, the target payment level and the maximum payment level under the plan. For additional information concerning our annual non-equity-based compensation program, see the section of this proxy statement entitled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis."
- (2) Consists of stock options granted to the Named Executive Officers in fiscal 2009 under the 2007 Plan. The options vest and become exercisable as to 20% of the shares one year after the date of grant and as to an additional 20% in each succeeding year, but only if the Named Executive Officer is then an employee of the Company.
- (3) The exercise price of all options was equal to the closing price of the common stock as quoted on The NASDAQ Global Market on the date of grant.
- (4) Represents the full grant date fair value determined pursuant to SFAS No. 123(R) as reflected in our financial statements, based on the numbers of shares subject to option awards granted and the closing price of the common stock as quoted on The NASDAQ Global Market on the date of grant, which was \$8.29 per share.

The following table sets forth information about unexercised options that were held at May 2, 2009 by the Named Executive Officers:

**OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END — FISCAL 2009**

Name	Option Awards <sup>(1)</sup>		Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable		

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James B. Morgan	20,000	—	\$ 5.7725	11/20/2012
	20,000	—	\$ 8.8500	11/19/2013
	12,800	3,200	\$ 12.8350	11/22/2014
	8,400	5,600	\$ 13.5950	11/16/2015
	4,400	6,600	\$ 34.0650	11/15/2016
	2,200	8,800	\$ 20.0700	11/14/2017
	—	12,000	\$ 8.2900	12/03/2018
Dr. Aelred J. Kurtenbach	22,504	—	\$ 3.8281	11/15/2010
	8,000	—	\$ 3.7700	11/12/2011
William R. Retterath	20,000	—	\$ 5.7725	11/20/2012
	20,000	—	\$ 8.8500	11/19/2013
	11,200	2,800	\$ 12.8350	11/22/2014
	8,400	5,600	\$ 13.5950	11/16/2015
	4,000	6,000	\$ 34.0650	11/15/2016
	2,000	8,000	\$ 20.0700	11/14/2017
	—	11,000	\$ 8.2900	12/03/2018
Bradley T. Wiemann	20,000	—	\$ 2.5625	11/17/2009
	26,000	—	\$ 3.8281	11/15/2010
	20,000	—	\$ 3.7700	11/12/2011
	14,000	—	\$ 5.7725	11/20/2012
	12,000	—	\$ 8.8500	11/19/2013
	8,000	2,000	\$ 12.8350	11/22/2014
	6,000	4,000	\$ 13.5950	11/16/2015
	2,800	4,200	\$ 34.0650	11/15/2016
	1,800	7,200	\$ 20.0700	11/14/2017
	—	10,500	\$ 8.2900	12/03/2018
Reece A. Kurtenbach	14,000	—	\$ 5.7725	11/20/2012
	12,000	—	\$ 8.8500	11/19/2013
	8,000	2,000	\$ 12.8350	11/22/2014
	6,000	4,000	\$ 13.5950	11/16/2015
	2,800	4,200	\$ 34.0650	11/15/2016
	1,800	7,200	\$ 20.0700	11/14/2017
	—	10,500	\$ 8.2900	12/03/2018

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- (1) Options vest and become exercisable as to 20% one year after date of grant and as to an additional 20% in each succeeding year, but only if the Named Executive Officer is then an employee of the Company.

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The following table sets forth information regarding the exercise of stock options during fiscal 2009 by the Named Executive Officers:

**OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED – FISCAL 2009**

Name	Option Awards	Value
	Number of	Realized
	Shares	on
	Acquired on	on
	Exercise	Exercise <sup>(1)</sup>
Reece A. Kurtenbach	20,000	\$ 257,800

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(1) Consists of the difference between the closing price of our common stock on the date of exercise and the exercise price of the option multiplied by the number of shares acquired upon exercise.

The following table sets forth information about our defined contribution plans for the Named Executive Officers subject to such plans for fiscal 2009:

**NON-QUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION – FISCAL 2009**

Name	Executive	Registrant	Aggregate		Aggregate
	Contributions	Contributions	Earnings	Aggregate	Balance at
	in Last	in Last Fiscal	in Last Fiscal	Withdrawals/	Last Fiscal
	Fiscal Year	Year	Year <sup>(1)</sup>	Distributions	Year End
James B. Morgan	—	—	\$ 2,630	—	\$ 106,881
Dr. Aelred J. Kurtenbach	—	—	\$ 10,411	—	\$ 423,110

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(1) The amounts reported in this column are not included and are not required to be included in the Summary Compensation Table because the earnings reported do not constitute above-market or preferential earnings on compensation that is deferred within the meaning of Item 402(c)(2)(viii)(B) of Regulation S-K.

**Employee Stock Purchase Plan**

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The Daktronics, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "ESPP") permits eligible employees to make voluntary contributions through payroll deductions to be used to purchase our common stock. The ESPP provides for periodic offerings, and each offering period is for six months (an "Offering Period"). An employee may elect to have up to a maximum of 15% deducted from his or her regular salary for purposes of purchasing shares under the ESPP during each Offering Period. The price at which the employee shares are purchased will be the lower of (i) 85% of the closing price of our common stock on the day that an Offering Period commences under the ESPP or (ii) 85% of the closing price of our common stock on the day that such Offering Period terminates. With certain exceptions, employees are eligible to participate in the ESPP. The ESPP provides for the issuance of up to 1,000,000 shares of common stock, and it is administered by the Board of Directors through the Compensation Committee. Through May 2, 2009, 491,496 shares had been issued under the ESPP and, as of May 2, 2009, 508,504 shares were available for purchase under the ESPP. During fiscal 2009, various Named Executive Officers participated in the ESPP, and the shares they hold through the ESPP are reflected in the table entitled "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management".

### Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans

The following table sets forth certain information as of May 2, 2009 with respect to our equity compensation plans:

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### EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION

Plan category	Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (a)	Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (b)	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders:			
1993 Incentive Stock Option Plan	271,214	\$ 3.33	—
2001 Incentive Stock Option Plan	1,641,938	14.59	—
2001 Outside Director Stock Option Plan	236,000	11.90	—
Employee Stock Purchase Plan <sup>(1)</sup>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
2007 Stock Incentive Plan	879,410	14.31	3,117,406
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	—	—

Total	3,028,562	\$ 13.29	3,117,406
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(1) Under the ESPP, shares are acquired at the time of investment by the participating employees at the applicable discount.

## Post-Employment Compensation

### *Potential Payments upon Termination of Employment or Change in Control*

The table below reflects the compensation that would be paid to each of our Named Executive Officers in the event of termination of such executive's employment. The amounts of compensation payable to each Named Executive Officer upon retirement are shown below and are in addition to the amounts due as described in the table entitled "Non-qualified Deferred Compensation – Fiscal 2009". The amounts shown assume that such termination was effective as of May 2, 2009, include amounts earned through such time and are estimates of the amounts which would be paid out to the executives upon their termination. The actual amounts to be paid out can be determined only at the time of such executive's separation from the Company. In addition, there may be re-negotiation of the payments upon any termination of employment or change in control.

Under the Option Plans and the 2007 Plan, all options immediately vest upon a change in control as defined in the Option Plans and the 2007 Plan. Upon a termination of employment for any reason, and consistent with our employment policies which apply to all employees, we are obligated to pay for accrued and unused vacation time, which would then be payable in a lump sum.

Name	Benefit	Termination due to change in control <sup>(1)</sup>	Termination	Termination	Death
			without cause or for good reason	for cause or for good reason	
James B. Morgan	Equity Vesting Acceleration	\$ 8,040	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
	Vacation Pay	35,848	35,848	35,848	35,848
Dr. Aelred J. Kurtenbach	Equity Vesting Acceleration	—	—	—	—
	Vacation Pay	28,846	28,846	28,846	28,846
William R. Retterath	Equity Vesting Acceleration	7,370	—	—	—
	Vacation Pay	21,362	21,362	21,362	21,362
Bradley T. Wiemann	Equity Vesting Acceleration	7,035	—	—	—
	Vacation Pay	20,253	20,253	20,253	20,253
Reece A. Kurtenbach	Equity Vesting Acceleration	7,035	—	—	—
	Vacation Pay	20,910	20,910	20,910	20,910

(1) For option awards, consists of the difference between the closing market price of the common stock as reported on The NASDAQ Global Market as of May 2, 2009 less the exercise price of the option multiplied by the number of shares subject to the option.



***Other Post-Employment Payments***

We do not provide pension arrangements, post-retirement health coverage or non-qualified defined contribution plans.

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in any of our previous or future filings under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that might incorporate future filings by reference, including this proxy statement, in whole or in part, the following report of the Compensation Committee shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any such filings and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under such acts.*

The compensation committee has reviewed and discussed the section of this proxy statement entitled “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” with management. Based on such review and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to our Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

By the Compensation Committee:

Robert G. Dutcher, Chair

James A. Vellenga

Byron J. Anderson

**PROPOSAL TWO**

**RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED**

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has appointed Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm to audit our consolidated financial statements for fiscal 2010 and recommends that the shareholders vote for ratification of such appointment. Ernst &

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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.

### Audit and Other Professional Fees

The aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by Ernst & Young LLP for the audit of our annual financial statements for last two fiscal years and fees billed for other services rendered by Ernst & Young LLP related to those years are set forth in the following table:

	Fiscal Year Ended	
	May 2, 2009	April 26, 2008
Audit fees <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 471,627	\$ 435,162
Audit-related fees <sup>(2)</sup>	26,926	26,926
Tax fees <sup>(3)</sup>	—	—
All other fees <sup>(4)</sup>	3,000	3,000
Totals	\$ 501,553	\$ 465,088

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- (1) Audit fees consist of fees related to professional services rendered in connection with the audit of our annual financial statements, the audit of our internal control over financial reporting, the reviews of the interim financial statements included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and other professional services provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.
  - (2) Audit-related fees are fees for assurance and related services performed by Ernst & Young LLP that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the Company's financial statements.
  - (3) Tax fees are fees for professional services performed by Ernst & Young LLP with respect to tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning. This includes preparation of original and amended tax returns for us, any refund claims, payment planning, tax audit assistance, tax advice related to mergers and acquisitions, and tax work stemming from audit-related items.
  - (4) All other fees are fees for other permissible work performed by Ernst & Young LLP that does not meet the above category descriptions.

As provided in the Audit Committee's charter, all engagements for any non-audit services by our independent registered public accounting firm must be approved by the Audit Committee before the commencement of any such services. The Audit Committee may designate a member or members of the Audit Committee to represent the entire Audit Committee for purposes of approving non-audit services, subject to review by the full Audit Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

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The Audit Committee considers the provision of services by Ernst & Young LLP to us, over and above the external audit fees, to be compatible with Ernst & Young LLP ability to maintain its independence.

### Shareholder Approval

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of our common stock represented at the Annual Meeting, either in person or by proxy, assuming a quorum is present, is required to ratify the appointment by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Ernst & Young LLP as our

independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending May 1, 2010. If the shareholders do not approve the selection of Ernst & Young LLP, the Audit Committee will reconsider its selection.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT THE SHAREHOLDERS VOTE “FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP AS THE COMPANY’S INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MAY 1, 2010 AS SET FORTH IN PROPOSAL 2.**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in any of our previous or future filings under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that might incorporate future filings by reference, including this proxy statement, in whole or in part, the following report of the Audit Committee shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any such filings and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under such acts.*

The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing our financial reporting process, systems of internal controls, the audit process and compliance with laws and regulations. Management has the responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process, including the systems of internal controls, which it reviews with the Audit Committee. In this context, the Audit Committee has met and held discussions with management and our independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee also has the authority and responsibility to select, evaluate and, when it deems it to be appropriate, replace the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee is also responsible for overseeing the Company’s Policy and Procedures with Respect to Related Person Transactions.

The Audit Committee has established procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by us regarding accounting controls or auditing matters and the confidential, anonymous submission by our employees of any accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and the confidential, anonymous submission by our employees of any concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters. The Audit Committee operates under a formal written charter that has been adopted by the Board of Directors and is available on the Company’s website at <http://www.daktronics.com>.

The Audit Committee is composed of three Directors who are independent as provided in Rule 4500(a)(15) of NASDAQ’s Marketplace Rules and Rule 10A-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The members of the Audit Committee are appointed annually by the Board of Directors. John L. Mulligan, Nancy D. Frame and James A. Vellenga served as members of the Audit Committee throughout fiscal 2009. The Audit Committee members are not professional accountants or auditors, and their role is not intended to duplicate or certify the activities of our management and our independent registered public accounting firm, nor can the Audit Committee certify that the independent registered public accounting firm is “independent” under applicable rules. The Audit Committee serves a Board-level oversight role in which it provides advice, counsel and direction to management and the independent registered public accounting firm on the basis of the information it receives, discussions with management and the independent registered public accounting firm, and the experience of the Audit Committee’s members in business, financial and accounting matters.

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with management our audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended May 2, 2009; discussed with management significant accounting policies applied by us in our financial statements, as well as alternative treatments; reviewed and discussed our policies with respect to risk assessment; discussed with our independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by the statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (AICPA, *Professional Standards*, Vol. 1, AU section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T; discussed with our independent registered public accounting firm their respective audits and assessments, including internal control testing under Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002; received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent registered public accounting firm’s communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the firm’s independence; reviewed and pre-approved fees charged by the independent registered public accounting firm; considered whether the independent registered public

accounting firm's provision of non-audit services to us is compatible with the auditor's independence; and discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm its independence. The Audit Committee also met in executive session following each of the formal Audit Committee meetings with representation of our independent registered public accounting firm.

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The Committee has concluded that the independent registered public accounting firm is independent from the Company and its management. The Committee discussed with our independent registered public accounting firm the overall scope and plans for their respective audits. The Committee meets with the independent registered public accounting firm, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, the evaluations of our internal controls, and the overall quality of our financial reporting.

Based on the review and discussions described above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that our audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended May 2, 2009 be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

By the Audit Committee:

John L. Mulligan, Chair

Nancy D. Frame

James A. Vellenga

#### **HOUSEHOLDING OF ANNUAL DISCLOSURE DOCUMENTS**

We have adopted a procedure called "householding," which has been approved by the SEC. Under this procedure, we are delivering only one copy of our Annual Report, this Proxy Statement and our Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to multiple shareholders who have requested paper copies of the Annual Report and Proxy Statement and also share the same address, unless we have received contrary instructions from one or more of the shareholders. Shareholders who participate in householding will continue to be able to access and receive separate proxy cards or voting instruction cards. In addition, some banks, brokers and other intermediaries may be participating in this practice of "householding" our Annual Report, this Proxy Statement and our Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. This practice benefits us and our shareholders because it reduces the volume of duplicate information received at a shareholder's house and helps reduce the Company's expenses.

Shareholders that have previously received a single set of our Annual Report, this Proxy Statement and our Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials disclosure documents may request their own copies this fiscal year or in future years by contacting their bank, broker or other nominee record holder. We will also deliver separate paper copies of our Annual Report, this Proxy Statement and our Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to any shareholder upon written request sent to Daktronics, Inc., 201 Daktronics Drive, Brookings, South Dakota 57006, Attention: Investor Relations, or upon verbal request by calling (605) 692-0200.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

The Annual Report to Shareholders for the fiscal year ended May 2, 2009, including financial statements, is being mailed with this Proxy Statement. The Annual Report to Shareholders is not incorporated in this Proxy Statement and is not deemed to be a part of this Proxy Statement.

**Any person whose proxy is solicited by this Proxy Statement will be provided, upon request and without charge, with a copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 2, 2009. Please submit such requests to Daktronics, Inc., 201 Daktronics Drive, Brookings, South Dakota 57006, Attention: Investor Relations, or by calling (605) 692-0200.**

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Carla S. Gatzke

Corporate Secretary

