

METHODE ELECTRONICS INC
Form DEF 14A
July 28, 2015

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

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))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

Methode Electronics, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11

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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 the registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

Amount Previously Paid:

(1)

Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(2)

Filing Party:

(3)

Date Filed:

(4)

METHODE ELECTRONICS, INC.
7401 West Wilson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60706
(708) 867-6777

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

To the Shareholders of Methode Electronics, Inc.:

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of shareholders of Methode Electronics, Inc. will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 11:00 a.m., Chicago time, at Methode's corporate offices at 7401 West Wilson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, for the following purposes:

1. To elect a Board of Directors;
2. To ratify the Audit Committee's selection of Ernst & Young LLP to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2016;
3. To provide advisory approval of Methode's named executive officer compensation; and
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote “FOR” each of Methode’s nominees for director, “FOR” the ratification of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm, and “FOR” advisory approval of Methode’s named executive officer compensation.

Our Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on July 20, 2015 as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting and at any adjournment or postponement thereof.

We are furnishing materials for our annual meeting on the Internet. You may vote your shares in person by attending our annual meeting, or by proxy. To vote by proxy, you may vote using the Internet, by toll-free telephone number or, if you request and receive a paper copy of the proxy card by mail, by signing, dating and mailing the proxy card in the self-addressed, postage-paid envelope provided. **Information regarding voting in person is contained in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials and the proxy statement. Instructions regarding voting by proxy are contained on the proxy card.**

It is important that your shares be represented and voted at the annual meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, please vote on the matters to be considered. Thank you for your interest and cooperation.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Walter J. Aspatore

Chairman

Chicago, Illinois

July 29, 2015

METHODE ELECTRONICS, INC.
7401 West Wilson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60706
(708) 867-6777

PROXY STATEMENT

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
September 17, 2015

GENERAL INFORMATION

We are furnishing this proxy statement to you in connection with the solicitation of proxies on behalf of Methode Electronics, Inc. (“Methode” or the “Company”) for use at our annual meeting of shareholders to be held on Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 11:00 a.m., Chicago time, at Methode’s corporate offices at 7401 West Wilson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and at any adjournment or postponement of the annual meeting. On July 29, 2015, we mailed our Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, which contains instructions for our shareholders to access our proxy statement and annual report over the Internet or request a paper copy of the proxy materials.

At the annual meeting, we will ask our shareholders to (i) elect our Board of Directors, (ii) ratify the Audit Committee’s selection of Ernst & Young LLP (“Ernst & Young”) to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2016, (iii) provide advisory approval of Methode’s named executive officer compensation, and (iv) consider and vote upon any other business which properly comes before the annual meeting.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote “FOR” each of Methode’s nominees for director, “FOR” the ratification of Ernst & Young as our independent registered public accounting firm, and “FOR” advisory approval of Methode’s named executive officer compensation.

You may vote your shares in person, by attending our annual meeting, or by proxy. To vote by proxy, you may vote using the Internet, by toll-free telephone number or, if you request and receive a paper copy of the proxy card by mail, by signing, dating and mailing the proxy card in the self-addressed, postage-paid envelope provided. **Information regarding voting in person is contained in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials and this proxy statement. Instructions regarding voting by proxy are contained on the proxy card.** Please do not submit a proxy

card if you have voted by telephone or the Internet.

It is important that your shares be represented and voted at the annual meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting in person, please vote on the matters to be considered.

Record Date; Shares Outstanding

Our Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on July 20, 2015 as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting and at any adjournment or postponement thereof. As of the record date, there were 38,355,412 shares of our common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the annual meeting.

Quorum; Votes Required

In deciding all questions, assuming a quorum is present, a holder of Methode's common stock is entitled to one vote, in person or by proxy, for each share held in such holder's name on the record date. The presence, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Methode's common stock is necessary to constitute a quorum at the annual meeting. Both abstentions and broker non-votes are counted as present for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum at the annual meeting. Generally, broker non-votes occur when shares held by a broker or nominee for a beneficial owner are not voted with respect to a particular proposal because the broker or nominee lacks discretionary power to vote such shares.

With respect to the election of directors, shareholders may vote (a) "for" each nominee; (b) "against" each nominee; or (c) to "abstain" from voting for each nominee. The election of our Board of Directors requires approval by a majority of the shares of common stock represented at the meeting and entitled to vote. With respect to the proposals to ratify the selection of Ernst & Young as our independent registered public accounting firm and provide advisory approval of our executive compensation, shareholders may vote (1) "for"; (2) "against"; or (3) to "abstain" from voting on each matter and each such matter requires approval by a majority of the shares of common stock represented at the meeting and entitled to vote. Both abstentions and broker non-votes will be considered as present but will not be considered as votes in favor of any matter. Broker non-votes are excluded from the "for," "against" and "abstain" counts, and instead are reported as simply "broker non-votes." Consequently, abstentions have the effect of voting against these matters, while broker non-votes have no effect as to voting for or against any such matter.

Under New York Stock Exchange rules, the proposal to ratify the selection of Ernst & Young is considered a routine item. Therefore, brokers may vote in their discretion on this matter on behalf of clients who have not furnished voting instructions to the broker. In contrast, all other proposals set forth in this proxy statement are considered non-routine items, and brokers who have not received voting instructions from their clients may not vote on these proposals.

All properly executed and timely delivered proxies will be voted in accordance with the instructions provided. Unless contrary instructions are indicated, proxies will be voted “FOR” each of Methode’s nominees for director, “FOR” the ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young, and “FOR” advisory approval of Methode’s named executive officer compensation. The Board of Directors knows of no other business that will be presented for consideration at the annual meeting. If any other matter is properly presented, it is the intention of the persons named in the enclosed proxy to vote in accordance with their best judgment.

Voting Procedures

It is important that your shares be represented at the annual meeting. You may vote your shares in person, by attending our annual meeting, or by proxy. To vote by proxy, you may vote using the Internet, by toll-free telephone number or, if you request and receive a paper copy of the proxy card by mail, by signing, dating and mailing the enclosed proxy card in the self-addressed, postage-paid envelope provided. Information regarding voting in person is contained in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials and this proxy statement. Instructions regarding voting by proxy are contained on the proxy card. Please do not submit a proxy card if you have voted by telephone or the Internet. You may revoke your proxy as described below.

Revoking Your Proxy

If you decide to change your vote, you may revoke your proxy at any time before the annual meeting. You may revoke your proxy by notifying our Corporate Secretary in writing that you wish to revoke your proxy at the following address: Methode Electronics, Inc., 7401 West Wilson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60706, attention: Corporate Secretary. You may also revoke your proxy by submitting a later-dated and properly executed proxy (including by means of the telephone or Internet) or by voting in person at the annual meeting. Attendance at the annual meeting will not, by itself, revoke a proxy.

Proxy Solicitation Expenses

The accompanying proxy is being solicited on behalf of Methode. We will bear the entire cost of this solicitation. Our directors, officers or other regular employees may solicit proxies by telephone, by e-mail, by fax or in person. No additional compensation will be paid to directors, officers and other regular employees for such services. We have retained the services of Innisfree M&A Incorporated (“Innisfree”) to serve as our proxy solicitor in connection with the annual meeting. Innisfree may assist us in soliciting proxies by telephone, email and by other means, and we expect to pay Innisfree a fee of \$15,000, plus reasonable expenses.

In the event that beneficial owners of our shares request paper copies of our proxy materials, banks, brokerage houses, fiduciaries and custodians holding shares of our common stock beneficially owned by others as of the record date will be requested to forward such proxy soliciting material to the beneficial owners of such shares and will be reimbursed by Methode for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

Householding of Annual Meeting Materials

We are sending only one copy of our Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials and, if applicable, our proxy materials, to shareholders who share the same last name and address, unless they have notified us that they want to continue receiving multiple copies. This practice, known as “householding,” is designed to reduce duplicate mailings and save printing and postage costs. Shareholders who participate in householding will continue to be able to access and receive separate proxy cards. If you received a househanded mailing this year and you would like to have additional copies of our Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials and, if applicable, our proxy materials, mailed to you or you would like to opt out of this practice for future mailings, you may do so at any time by contacting us at: Methode Electronics, Inc., 7401 West Wilson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60706, Attention: Corporate Secretary.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

We are committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance in order to serve the long-term interests of Methode and our shareholders.

Director Independence

Our Board of Directors has considered the independence of the nominees for director under the applicable standards of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and the New York Stock Exchange. Our Board has determined that all of the nominees for director are independent under the applicable standards, except for Donald Duda, our President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Duda’s lack of independence relates solely to his service as an executive officer and is not due to any other transactions or relationships.

In addition, our Board of Directors has determined that each member of our Audit Committee, our Compensation Committee and our Nominating and Governance Committee satisfies the independence requirements of the applicable standards, if any, of the SEC and the New York Stock Exchange.

Board Committees

The following chart sets forth the committees of our Board:

Committee	Members	Principal Functions	Number of Meetings in Fiscal 2015
Audit	Lawrence B. Skatoff (Chair) Walter J. Aspatore Stephen F. Gates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Oversees accounting and financial reporting and audits of financial statements. · Monitors performance of internal audit function and our system of internal control. · Monitors performance, qualifications and independence of our independent registered public accounting firm and makes decisions 	8

Isabelle C. Goossen regarding retention, termination and compensation of the independent registered public accounting firm and approves services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm.

Paul G. Shelton

- Monitors compliance with legal and regulatory requirements pertaining to financial statements.
- Reviews our press releases and certain SEC filings.
- Discusses with management major financial risk exposures and the steps taken to monitor and control such exposures, and reviews the process by which risk assessment and risk management is undertaken.
- If applicable, reviews related party transactions and potential conflict of interest situations.

Isabelle C. Goossen (Chair)

- Oversees our compensation policies and plans.

Warren L. Batts

- Approves goals and incentives for the compensation of our Chief Executive Officer and, with the advice of the Chief Executive Officer, the other executive officers.

Compensation

Darren M. Dawson

- Approves grants under our stock and bonus plans.

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Stephen F. Gates

- Makes decisions regarding the retention, compensation and termination of any compensation consultants, and monitors their independence.

Christopher J. Hornung

- Evaluates whether risks arising from our compensation policies and practices are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect.

Paul G. Shelton

Committee	Members	Principal Functions	Number of Meetings in Fiscal 2015
Nominating and Governance	Christopher J. Hornung (Chair) Walter J. Aspatore Warren L. Batts Stephen F. Gates Lawrence B. Skatoff	· Selects director candidates for election to our Board at the annual meeting or to fill vacancies.	4
		· Recommends Board committee assignments.	
		· Recommends compensation and benefits for directors.	
		· Reviews our Corporate Governance Guidelines.	
		· Conducts an annual assessment of Board performance.	
Technology	Darren M. Dawson (Chair) Walter J. Aspatore Warren L. Batts Christopher J. Hornung	· Reviews our risk management policies and practices.	4
		· Reviews succession planning for our Chief Executive Officer.	
		· Reviews with management our technology assets and future needs.	
		· Reviews technology research and development activities and possible acquisitions of technology.	

If applicable, our Audit Committee reviews related party transactions and potential conflict of interest situations in accordance with the Audit Committee Charter and our Code of Business Conduct. We do not have a separate written policy regarding related party transactions and potential conflict of interest situations. Our Code of Business Conduct states that conflicts of interest are prohibited, except as approved by our Board of Directors. In reviewing any such transaction, our Audit Committee and Board of Directors would consider Methode's rationale for entering into the transaction, alternatives to the transaction, whether the transaction is on terms at least as fair to Methode as would be the case were the transaction entered into with a third party and other relevant factors.

During the 2015 fiscal year, our Board of Directors held twelve meetings, and no director attended less than 75% of the aggregate of the total number of meetings of our Board and the total number of meetings held by the respective committees on which he or she served. Under our Corporate Governance Guidelines, our directors are expected to attend Board and shareholder meetings and meetings of committees on which they serve. Our directors are expected to

meet as frequently as necessary to properly discharge their responsibilities.

Our independent directors hold regularly scheduled executive sessions at which only independent directors are present. Pursuant to our Corporate Governance Guidelines, our Chairman of the Board is the Presiding Director of such sessions.

Our Audit, Compensation, Nominating and Governance and Technology Committees operate pursuant to charters adopted by the Board, which are available on our website at www.methode.com or in print upon any shareholder's request. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines are also available on our website at www.methode.com or in print upon any shareholder's request.

Board Leadership Structure, Risk Oversight and Compensation Policy Risks

The Board of Directors has determined that having an independent director serve as Chairman of the Board is in the best interests of our shareholders. This structure provides for a greater role for the independent directors in the oversight of Methode and active participation of the independent directors in setting agendas and establishing priorities and procedures for the work of the Board.

Our Board of Directors oversees Methode's risk management practices. Our Board and committees review information regarding Methode's market, competition and financial risks, as well as risks associated with Methode's operations, employees and political risks encountered by Methode throughout the globe. Our Audit Committee discusses with management Methode's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, and reviews the process by which risk is managed and assessed. Our Compensation Committee evaluates risks arising from Methode's compensation practices and policies. Our Nominating and Governance Committee reviews and evaluates Methode's policies and practices with respect to risk management and risk assessment in areas such as business operations, human resources, international operations, intellectual property and information technology. The entire Board of Directors is regularly informed about the risk management policies and practices monitored by the various committees. The Board of Directors also receives reports directly from officers responsible for assessing and managing particular risks within Methode.

We believe that risks arising from our compensation policies and practices for our employees are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on Methode. The Compensation Committee monitors the mix and design of the elements of executive compensation and believes that our compensation programs do not encourage management to assume excessive risks.

Nominating Process of the Nominating and Governance Committee

Our Nominating and Governance Committee is responsible for identifying and recommending to our Board of Directors individuals qualified to become directors consistent with criteria approved by our Board. In considering potential candidates for our Board, including with respect to nominations for re-election of incumbent directors, the Committee considers the potential candidate's integrity and business ethics; strength of character, judgment and experience consistent with our needs; specific areas of expertise and leadership roles; and the ability to bring diversity to our Board. While the Nominating and Governance Committee charter and our Corporate Governance Guidelines do not prescribe diversity standards, the Committee considers diversity in the context of the Board as a whole, including whether the potential candidate brings complementary skills and viewpoints. The Committee also considers the ability of the individual to allocate the time necessary to carry out the tasks of Board membership, including membership on appropriate committees.

The Committee identifies potential nominees by asking current directors and others to notify the Committee if they become aware of persons, meeting the criteria described above, who may be available to serve on our Board. The Committee has sole authority to retain and terminate any search firm used to identify director candidates and has sole authority to approve the search firm's fees and other retention terms. Historically, the Committee has not engaged third parties to assist in identifying and evaluating potential nominees, but would do so in those situations where particular qualifications are required to fill a vacancy and our Board's contacts are not sufficient to identify an appropriate candidate.

The Committee will consider suggestions from our shareholders. Any recommendations received from shareholders will be evaluated in the same manner that potential nominees suggested by Board members are evaluated. Upon receiving a shareholder recommendation, the Committee will initially determine the need for additional or replacement Board members and evaluate the candidate based on the information the Committee receives with the shareholder recommendation or may otherwise acquire, and may, in its discretion, consult with the other members of our Board. If the Committee determines that a more comprehensive evaluation is warranted, the Committee may obtain additional information about the director candidate's background and experience, including by means of interviews with the candidate.

Our shareholders may recommend candidates at any time, but the Committee requires recommendations for election at an annual meeting of shareholders to be submitted to the Committee no later than 120 days before the first anniversary of the date of the proxy statement in connection with the previous year's annual meeting. The Committee

believes this deadline is appropriate and in the best interests of Methode and our shareholders because it ensures that the Committee has sufficient time to properly evaluate all proposed candidates. Therefore, to submit a candidate for consideration for nomination at the 2016 annual meeting of shareholders, a shareholder must submit the recommendation, in writing, by March 31, 2016. The written notice must include:

- the name, age, business address and residential address of each proposed nominee and the principal occupation or employment of each nominee;

- the number of shares of our common stock that each nominee beneficially owns;

- a statement that each nominee is willing to be nominated; and

- any other information concerning each nominee that would be required under the rules of the SEC in a proxy statement soliciting proxies for the election of those nominees.

Recommendations must be sent to the Nominating and Governance Committee, Methode Electronics, Inc., 7401 West Wilson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60706. Information regarding the requirements to nominate a director at our 2016 Annual Meeting are set forth below under “Other Information — Shareholder Proposals and Director Nominations.”

Communications with Directors

Our annual meeting of shareholders provides an opportunity each year for shareholders to ask questions of, or otherwise communicate directly with, members of our Board of Directors on appropriate matters. All of our directors attended the 2014 annual meeting. We anticipate that all of our directors will attend the 2015 annual meeting.

In addition, interested parties may, at any time, communicate in writing with any particular director, or our independent directors as a group, by sending such written communication to the Corporate Secretary of Methode Electronics, Inc. at 7401 West Wilson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60706. Copies of written communications received at such address will be provided to the relevant director or the independent directors as a group unless such communications are considered, in the reasonable judgment of the Corporate Secretary, to be improper for submission to the intended recipient(s). Examples of shareholder communications that would

be considered improper for submission include, without limitation, customer complaints, solicitations, communications that do not relate directly or indirectly to us or our business or communications that relate to other improper or irrelevant topics.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

Our Board of Directors has adopted a Code of Business Conduct that applies to our directors, principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller and persons performing similar functions, as well as other employees. The code is available on our website at www.methode.com or in print upon any shareholder's request.

If we make any substantive amendments to the Code of Business Conduct or grant any waiver, including any implicit waiver, from a provision of the Code of Business Conduct to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller or persons performing similar functions, we will disclose the nature of such amendment or waiver on our website or in a report on Form 8-K in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

Stock Ownership Guidelines

Our Compensation Committee considers stock ownership by directors to be an important means of linking their interests with those of our shareholders. We maintain stock ownership guidelines for our directors. All directors are expected to own stock with a value equal to at least five times the annual cash retainer paid to Methode directors. The requirements are subject to a five year phase-in period. All of our directors were in compliance with our stock ownership policy for fiscal 2015.

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

We use a combination of cash and common stock to compensate our non-employee directors. Directors who are also our full-time employees are not paid for their services as directors or for attendance at meetings.

For the fiscal year ended May 2, 2015, our non-employee directors received an annual cash retainer of \$44,000 and an attendance fee of \$1,000 per committee meeting and for each board meeting other than the regularly scheduled quarterly meetings. In addition, in fiscal 2015, the Compensation Committee, upon the recommendation of the Nominating and Governance Committee, granted each non-employee director stock awards totaling 3,000 shares of common stock. Our Chairman of the Board and the Chair of each of our board committees received supplemental annual retainers in the following amounts: Chairman of the Board, \$30,000; Chair of each of the Audit Committee and the Compensation Committee, \$24,000; and Chair of each of the Nominating and Governance Committee and the Technology Committee, \$12,000. In addition, members of our Audit Committee and Compensation Committee (other than the Chair) received an additional annual retainer of \$10,000. Pursuant to our Deferred Compensation Plan, our directors may elect to defer up to 100% of their retainers and attendance fees per year. Additional information regarding the Deferred Compensation Plan is described under “Executive Compensation — Nonqualified Deferred Compensation,” below.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding compensation earned by our non-employee directors during the fiscal year ended May 2, 2015.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)⁽¹⁾	Total (\$)
Walter J. Aspatore	109,000	111,593	220,593
Warren L. Batts	74,000	111,593	185,593
Darren M. Dawson	80,500	111,593	192,093
Stephen F. Gates	76,000	111,593	187,593
Isabelle C. Goossen	96,000	111,593	207,593
Christopher J. Hornung	87,000	111,593	198,593
Paul G. Shelton	94,000	111,593	205,593
Lawrence B. Skatoff	88,000	111,593	199,593

(1) The Compensation Committee granted each non-employee director the following stock awards in fiscal 2015: 750 shares on July 7, 2014; 750 shares on September 17, 2014; and 1,500 shares on December 11, 2014. The reported amounts reflect the fair value at the respective date of grant calculated in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board’s Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718 (“ASC 718”). Details of the assumptions used in valuing these awards are set forth in Note 4 to our audited financial statements included in our Annual Report on

Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 2, 2015.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP

Five Percent Shareholders

The following table sets forth information regarding all persons known by Methode to be the beneficial owners of more than 5% of Methode's common stock as of July 20, 2015 (except as set forth in the relevant footnotes).

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Class (%)
BlackRock, Inc. ⁽¹⁾		
40 East 52nd Street	3,366,118	8.8
New York, New York 10022		
Dimensional Fund Advisors LP ⁽²⁾		
Palisades West, Building One		
6300 Bee Cave Road	2,419,996	6.3
Austin, Texas 78746		
The Vanguard Group ⁽³⁾		
100 Vanguard Blvd.	1,967,138	5.1
Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355		

In a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on January 22, 2015, BlackRock, Inc. reported that, as of December 31, (1)2014, it has sole voting power with respect to 3,270,060 shares and sole dispositive power with respect to 3,366,118 shares.

In a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 5, 2015, Dimensional Fund Advisors LP reported that, as of (2)December 31, 2014, it has sole voting power with respect to 2,322,561 shares and sole dispositive power with respect to 2,419,996 shares.

In a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 11, 2015, The Vanguard Group reported that, as of December (3)31, 2014, it has sole voting power with respect to 48,052 shares, sole dispositive power with respect to 1,921,886 shares and shared dispositive power with respect to 45,252 shares.

Directors and Executive Officers

The following table sets forth information regarding our common stock beneficially owned as of July 20, 2015 by (i) each director and nominee, (ii) each of the named executive officers, and (iii) all current directors and executive officers as a group.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership⁽¹⁾	Percent of Class (%)
Walter J. Aspatore	37,000 (2) *	*
Warren L. Batts	67,000	*
Darren M. Dawson	10,000	*
Donald W. Duda	462,171 (3) 1.2	1.2
Stephen F. Gates	20,860	*
Isabelle C. Goossen	38,000	*
Christopher J. Hornung	128,850	*
Paul G. Shelton	55,000	*
Lawrence B. Skatoff	36,850 (4) *	*
Timothy R. Glandon	81,109 (5) *	*
Joseph E. Khoury	109,600 (6) *	*
Douglas A. Koman	194,319 (7) *	*
Thomas D. Reynolds	148,851 (8) *	*
All current directors and executive officers as a group (15 individuals)	1,539,717 (9) 3.9	3.9

* Percentage represents less than 1% of the total shares of common stock outstanding.

(1) Beneficial ownership arises from sole voting and dispositive power unless otherwise indicated by footnote.

(2) Includes 28,000 shares held jointly with Mr. Aspatore's wife.

(3) Includes 113,692 shares held jointly with Mr. Duda's wife, options to purchase 40,000 shares of common stock exercisable within 60 days, 807 shares of common stock held in our 401(k) Plan, 207,672 shares of vested restricted stock units for which common stock will be delivered to Mr. Duda at such time as the value of the award is deductible by us or Mr. Duda's employment terminates, and 100,000 shares of vested restricted stock units for which common stock will be delivered to Mr. Duda in the event of termination from Methode under any circumstance.

(4) Shares are held jointly with Mr. Skatoff's wife.

(5) Includes 38,030 shares held jointly with Mr. Glandon's wife, options to purchase 12,000 shares of common stock exercisable within 60 days, 1,079 shares of common stock held in our 401(k) Plan and 30,000 shares of vested restricted stock units for which common stock will be delivered to Mr. Glandon in the event of termination from Methode under any circumstance.

(6) Includes options to purchase 16,000 shares of common stock exercisable within 60 days and 30,000 shares of vested restricted stock units for which common stock will be delivered to Mr. Khoury in the event of termination from Methode under any circumstance.

(7) Includes 93,449 shares held jointly with Mr. Koman's wife, options to purchase 26,666 shares of common stock exercisable within 60 days, 34,204 shares of common stock held in our 401(k) Plan and 40,000 shares of vested restricted stock units for which common stock will be delivered to Mr. Koman in the event of termination from Methode under any circumstance.

(8) Includes 54,300 shares held jointly with Mr. Reynolds's wife, options to purchase 20,000 shares of common stock exercisable within 60 days, 24,551 shares of common stock held in our 401(k) Plan and 50,000 shares of vested restricted stock units for which common stock will be delivered to Mr. Reynolds in the event of termination from Methode under any circumstance.

(9) Includes 450,972 shares held jointly, 15,000 shares held in trust, options to purchase 134,666 shares of common stock exercisable within 60 days, 67,867 shares of common stock held in our 401(k) Plan and 507,672 shares of vested restricted stock units.

**PROPOSAL ONE
ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

A Board of nine directors will be elected at the annual meeting. Each director will hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. All of the nominees listed below currently serve as directors. All of the nominees were recommended unanimously to our Board of Directors by our Nominating and Governance Committee and were nominated by our Board of Directors. If any of these nominees is not a candidate for election at the annual meeting, an event which our Board of Directors does not anticipate, the proxies will be voted for a substitute nominee recommended to our Board of Directors by our Nominating and Governance Committee and nominated by our Board of Directors.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE “FOR” THE ELECTION OF THE FOLLOWING NOMINEES.

Walter J. Aspatore, Chairman

Chairman Emeritus,

Amherst Partners, LLC

Director since 2008

Age 72

Mr. Aspatore has served as Chairman Emeritus of Amherst Partners, LLC, a business consulting firm, since 2010. Prior thereto, Mr. Aspatore was Chairman of Amherst Partners from 1994 through 2010. Mr. Aspatore has served as Chairman of our Board since September, 2012. Prior to co-founding Amherst Partners, Mr. Aspatore served in various officer positions at diversified manufacturing and technology businesses, including Cross and Trecker Corporation, the Warner and Swasey Company, Bendix Corporation and TRW Corporation. He also served as Vice Chairman and President of Onset BIDCO, a venture capital and subordinated debt fund, from 1992 to 1994. Mr. Aspatore also serves as a director of Mackinac Financial Corporation, a bank holding company. Mr. Aspatore’s consulting experience and service at various consulting, manufacturing and technology businesses has resulted in continued contributions to the Board.

Warren L. Batts

Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,

Tupperware Corporation

Director since 2001

Age 82

Mr. Batts is the retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Tupperware Corporation, a diversified consumer products company. Mr. Batts is also the retired Chairman of Premark International, Inc., a diversified consumer products company, where he also served as Chief Executive Officer from 1986 until 1996. Mr. Batts has taught as an Adjunct Professor of Strategic Management at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business since 1998.

Mr. Batts has served in the following key leadership positions: Chairman of the Board, Cook County Health & Hospital System; Life Director and Chairman, Lurie Children's Hospital; Life Trustee, Art Institute of Chicago; Chairman, School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Life Trustee, Northwestern University; Director and Chairman, the National Association of Manufacturers; and Director, National Association of Corporate Directors. Mr. Batts served as Chairman of our Board from 2004 to 2012. Mr. Batts has used his corporate governance expertise, significant leadership experience and vast business knowledge to make contributions while on the Board.

Dr. Darren M. Dawson

Leroy C. and Aileen H. Paslay Dean,

College of Engineering,

Kansas State University

Director since 2004

Age 52

Dr. Dawson has served as the Dean of the College of Engineering of Kansas State University since July 1, 2014. Prior thereto, Dr. Dawson served as a Professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at Clemson University, where he held various professor positions since 1990. His research interests include nonlinear control techniques for mechatronic systems, robotic manipulator systems and vision-based systems. Dr. Dawson's work has been recognized by several awards, including the Clemson University Centennial Professorship in 2000. Dr. Dawson's academic and technical background has provided the basis for continued contributions to the Board's operations and deliberations.

Donald W. Duda

Chief Executive Officer and President,

Methode Electronics, Inc.

Director since 2001

Age 60

Mr. Duda has served as our Chief Executive Officer since May 2004 and our President since 2001. Mr. Duda joined us in 2000 and served as our Vice President - Interconnect Products Group. Prior to joining Methode, Mr. Duda held several positions with Amphenol Corporation, a manufacturer of electronic connectors, most recently as General Manager of its Fiber Optic Products Division from 1988 through 1998. Mr. Duda continues to use his executive background and unique understanding of Methode to contribute to the Board.

Stephen F. Gates

Special Counsel,

Mayer Brown LLP

Director since 2010

Age 69