

SD Board of Pardons and Paroles
1501 S. Highline Ave, Ste. 3A, Sioux Falls, SD 57110



MINUTES
Meeting of the
Board of Pardons and Paroles
April 2026

The Board of Pardons and Paroles hearing panels held meetings on March 26th, 2026 and April 13th and 14th, 2026 at the following facilities in the State of South Dakota:

- South Dakota State Penitentiary
- Jameson Annex
- Mike Durfee State Prison
- South Dakota Women’s Prison
- Rapid City Minimum Center
- Yankton Minimum Center
- Board of Pardons and Paroles Office – SF One Stop Building

A Full Board meeting was held at the Sioux Falls One Stop – Maple Room B409 on April 14th, 2026, commencing at 3:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rau. A quorum was present. Present were the following board members:

- Myron Rau, Board Chair
- Kirsten Aasen, Vice Chair [TEAMS]
- Vaughn Beck, Member [TEAMS]
- John Brown, Member
- Kurt Hall, Member [TEAMS]
- Peter Lieberman, Member [TEAMS]
- Patricia Meyers, Member [TEAMS]
- Aaron Pilcher, Member [TEAMS]
- Jan Steele, Member

Support staff in attendance: Shelli Gust – Board Administration Manager; Karena Cassidy – Board Senior Secretary

Special guests in attendance in person: John Hult - Searchlight

Special guests in attendance on Teams: Jordan Jensen – Board Corrections Analyst; Georgia Will – Board Program Assistant; Eilish O’Toole – Board Corrections Specialist; Damon Plattner; Victoria Doyle; Tim Halstead; Mackenzie Huber - Searchlight

II. Call for Public Input

None.



III. Parole Hearings

A. *Proctor, John*

Board Members proceeded with the scheduled hearing of *John Proctor*. The offender was present on Teams. Guest(s) on Teams: Damon Plattner, Victoria Doyle, Tim Halstead

Chair Rau turned the proceedings over to Board Member Aasen for summarization. Testimony was provided by the offender. Following summarization, testimony, evidence review, questions and discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion:	Motion to grant parole.
Made:	Aasen
Seconded by:	Meyers
Votes in Favor:	Hall, Brown, Pilcher, Meyers, Steele, Aasen
Votes Opposed:	Beck, Rau
Results:	Motion carried.

IV. Adjourn

The Full Board meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. on April 15, 2026

A Full Board meeting was held at the Sioux Falls One Stop – Maple Room B409 on April 15th, 2026, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

V. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rau. A quorum was present. Present were the following board members:

- Myron Rau, Board Chair
- Kirsten Aasen, Vice Chair [TEAMS]
- Vaughn Beck, Member [TEAMS]
- John Brown, Member
- Kurt Hall, Member [TEAMS]
- Peter Lieberman, Member [TEAMS]
- Patricia Meyers, Member [TEAMS]
- Aaron Pilcher, Member
- Jan Steele, Member

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Support staff in attendance: Shelli Gust – Board Administration Manager; Karena Cassidy – Board Senior Secretary; Eilish O’Toole – Board Corrections Specialist

Special guests in attendance in person: Cyanne O’Neil – Offender Services Intern

Special guests in attendance on Teams: Rex Squyres – Board Program Assistant; Jordan Jensen – Board Corrections Analyst; Georgia Will – Board Program Assistant

VI. Call for Public Input

None.

VII. Parole Hearings

A. Gaddis, Justin

Board Members proceeded with the scheduled hearing of *Justin Gaddis*. The offender was present on Teams.

Chair Rau turned the proceedings over to Board Member Meyers for summarization. Testimony was provided by the offender. Following summarization, testimony, evidence review, questions and discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion:	Motion to deny parole and set a next review date of October 2026.
Made:	Brown
Seconded by:	Pilcher
Votes in Favor:	Beck, Brown, Hall, Pilcher, Lieberman, Steele, Aasen, Rau
Votes Opposed:	Meyers
Results:	Motion carried.

B. Ladeaux, Mervin

Board Members proceeded with the scheduled hearing of *Mervin Ladeaux*. The offender was present on Teams.

Chair Rau turned the proceedings over to Board Member Hall for summarization. Testimony was provided by the offender. Following summarization, testimony, evidence review, questions and discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion:	Motion to deny parole and set a next review date of April 2027.
Made:	Aasen
Seconded by:	Lieberman
Votes in Favor:	Beck, Brown, Hall, Pilcher, Lieberman, Meyers, Steele, Aasen
Votes Opposed:	Rau
Results:	Motion carried.



VIII. Training

Board Members participated in an information presentation and discussion with Tiffany Butler, Executive Director, of the Carroll Institute about the services offered and the Arch program.

IX. Special Session Pardon Denials (SDCL 24-15A-11.2)

Board Members reviewed the denials of 3 pardons by the two-panels at Special Session. Motion by Brown, second by Lieberman to ratify the decisions and adopt the denials. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

X. March Minutes

Board Members reviewed the minutes for the March 2026 meetings of the Board. Motion by Steele, second by Beck to approve the March 2026 minutes. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

XI. Full Board Cases / Potential Upcoming Paper Review Cases

Board Members were advised that the May calendar currently has 0 cases currently scheduled.

XII. May Proposed Schedule

Board Members reviewed the proposed schedule for May. Due to a lower number of full board cases in May, the board will hold its business meeting on Wednesday, May 13th, 2026. Board Members indicated whether they would be appearing via Teams. Board Members would like to continue to the trial period of holding full board meetings from the Board Office at the Sioux Falls One Stop for a couple more months.

XIII. Board Report / Field Services Report

Board Members reviewed the board report and monthly metrics. There was a Special Session held on March 26th; there were paper reviews of early discharges, pardons, and commutation applications, waivers (parole/SSV/non-compliance) signed, and parole revocation, suspended sentence, and non-compliance hearings. The current set-out period for pardons is June 2026.

XIV. Items for Discussion

Board Administration Manager Gust advised that she and Chair Rau had submitted their interest in attending the second SDMF Community of Practice to be held in Aurora, Colorado the first week of June 2026.

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Board members expressed interest in receiving a Field Services Report from Parole Services next month and hearing from the Director of Parole at their meeting in June when all board members are expected to be in attendance. Board Administration Manager will extend those invitations.

Board Member Hall advised that board members had been invited to tour the New Dawn Center in Vail, SD on April 28, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

XV. Policy Review

Board members reviewed Policy 8.1.A.4 Parole Date Review. Staff recommended no revisions to the policy at this time.

XVI. Attachments – Decisions

Incorporated by reference is the attached listing, entitled Parole Board Actions, for all parole violations, suspended sentence violations, non-compliance, discretionary parole, appeal of parole dates, earned discharge, and rescission decisions made by the Board this month.

XVII. Adjourn

The Full Board meeting adjourned at approximately 11:57 a.m. The next full board meeting is scheduled for May 13th, 2026.

BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

Myron Rau, Board Chair or Kirsten Aasen, Vice Chair

Submitted by:
Shelli Gust
Parole Board Administration Manager
Board of Pardons and Paroles