

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
August 2026

The Board of Pardons and Paroles hearing panels held meetings on July 30th, 2026 and August 10th and 11th, 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 August 12th, 2026, commencing at 9:00 a.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
- Vaughn Beck, Member
- John Brown, Member
- Kurt Hall, Member
- Peter Lieberman, Member
- Patricia Meyers, Member [TEAMS]
- Aaron Pilcher, Member
- Jan Steele, Member

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: Rev. Mike Gilmartin – Teen Challenge of the Dakotas; Blake LNU – Graduate of Teen Challenge

Special guests in attendance on Teams: Jordan Jensen – Corrections Analyst; Damien Summers – Case Manager; Meghan O'Brien - Searchlight

II. Call for Public Input

None.

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III. Parole Hearings

A. *Steele, Wesley*

Board Members proceeded with the scheduled hearing of *Wesley Steele*. 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 grant parole. Board Order: Must successfully complete Serenity Hills program.
Made:	Brown
Seconded by:	Meyers
Votes in Favor:	Beck, Brown, Lieberman, Hall, Meyers, Pilcher, Aasen
Votes Opposed:	Steele, Rau
Results:	Motion carried.

IV. July Minutes

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

V. Full Board Cases / Potential Upcoming Paper Review Cases

Board Members were advised that the September calendar has 1 case currently scheduled.

VI. September Proposed Schedule

Board Members reviewed the proposed schedule for September. Due to a lower number of full board cases in September, the board will hold its business meeting on Wednesday, September 16th, 2026. Board Members indicated whether they would be appearing via Teams.

VII. DOC Staff Reports

Board Members reviewed the board report and monthly metrics. There was a Special Session held on July 30th, 2026; 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 October 2026.

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VIII. Training

The Board participated in training presented by Rev. Mike Gilmartin of the Teen Challenge of the Dakotas.

IX. Policy Review

Board members reviewed Policy 8.1.A.8: Withholding Parole, Restitution Hearing, Compassionate Parole. Staff recommended no revisions to the policy.

X. Items for Discussion

There were no items of discussion.

XI. 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.

XII. Adjourn

The Full Board meeting adjourned at approximately 11:34 a.m. The next full board meeting is scheduled for September 16th, 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