

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
December 2025

The Board of Pardons and Paroles hearing panels held meetings on November 20th, 2025 and December 8th and 9th 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

A Full Board meeting was held at Jameson Annex on December 10th, 2025, 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 [TEAMS]
- Vaughn Beck, Member [TEAMS]
- John Brown
- Kurt Hall, Member
- Peter Lieberman, Member [TEAMS]
- Patricia Meyers, Member [TEAMS]
- Jan Steele, Member

Support staff in attendance: Shelli Gust – Board Administration Manager; Karena Cassidy – Board Senior Secretary; Georgia Will – Board Program Assistant; Eilish O'Toole – Board Corrections Specialist

Special guests in attendance in person: Jeffrey Goeden, Sarah Perley

Special guests in attendance on Teams: Rex Squyres – Board Program Assistant; Jamisen Wagner – Case Manager; Brittany Shelburg – Case Manager; Kim Lippincott – Senior Case Manager; Katie Lonning; Regina Erickson

II. Call for Public Input

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Dennis Davis advised the Board that an offender who was seen by the Board for a discretionary parole hearing November 2025 is in very poor health and will not likely come before the Board again for consideration.

III. Parole Hearings

A. *Johnson, Chad*

Board Members proceeded with the scheduled hearing of *Chad Johnson*. The offender was present on Teams. Guests in person: Dennis Davis; Katie Lonning. Guest on Teams: Regina Erickson.

Chair Rau turned the proceedings over to himself for summarization. Testimony was provided by the offender. Testimony was provided by guests: Dennis Davis; Katie Lonning; and Regina Erickson. 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 December 2027. [TED = 11/24/2027]
Made:	Brown
Seconded by:	Hall
Votes in Favor:	Beck, Brown, Hall, Lieberman, Meyers, Steele, Aasen, Rau
Votes Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion carried.

The Full Board Adjourned from parole matters at approximately 9:40 a.m.

The Full Board returned to its full board meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m.

IV. Minutes

Board Members reviewed the minutes for the November 2025 meetings of the Board. Motion by Steele, second by Hall to approve the November 2025 minutes. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

V. December Hearing Panels

Due to scheduling issues, Board Member Hall and Chair Rau held waiver signing / executive clemency. There were no other changes to the posted schedule.

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VI. January Proposed Schedule

Board Members reviewed the proposed schedule for January. Due to a lower number of full board cases in January, the board will hold its business meeting on Wednesday, January 14th, 2026, and not convene on January 15th, 2026. Board Members indicated whether they would be appearing via Teams and had no further changes to the proposed schedule.

VII. Full Board Cases / Potential Upcoming Paper Review Cases

Board Members were advised that the January calendar has 2 full board cases and 1 commutation currently scheduled.

VIII. Board Report / Field Services Report

Board Members reviewed the board report and monthly metrics. There was a Special Session held on November 20th; there were early discharges, waivers (parole/SSV/non-compliance), a parole revocation hearing, non-compliance hearings, and paper reviews of pardon and commutation applications. The current set-out period for pardons is February 2026. Board Administration Manager Gust advised the Board that she will begin tracking high risk releases to include in the monthly report, and she invited any interested Board Members to attend a meeting with her on this topic later in the month.

IX. Items for Discussion

Vice Chair Aasen advised the Board that she attended a meeting hosted by the Vucurevich Foundation about the new women's prison.

X. Policy Review

Board members reviewed the revisions to Policy 8.1.A.10: Executive Clemency – Commutation of Sentence. Staff recommended revisions to the policies so that the language was consistent with statute and current and best practices. Motion by Brown, second by Beck to adopt Policy 8.1.A.10: Executive Clemency – Commutation of Sentence as amended.

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

Board Members reviewed the denials of 2 pardons by the two-panels at Special Session. Motion by Aasen, second by Brown to ratify the decisions and adopt the denials. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

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XII. 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.

XIII. Adjourn

The Full Board meeting adjourned at approximately 11:28 a.m. The next full board meeting is scheduled for January 14th, 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