

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
February 2026

The Board of Pardons and Paroles hearing panels held meetings on January 29th, 2026 and February 9th and 10th, 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

A Full Board meeting was held at Jameson Annex on February 11th, 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 [TEAMS]
- John Brown
- Kurt Hall, Member
- Peter Lieberman, Member
- Aaron Pilcher, Member
- Jan Steele, Member

Absent: Patricia Meyers, 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: Don Klassen; Jeffrey Sjomeling; Raleigh Hansman - Attorney; Thomas Anez – Teacher; Morgan Ruiz – Case Manager

Special guests in attendance on Teams: ; Riley DeGroot – Senior Case Manager; Nicole Mayer – Case Manager; Sarah VanVoorst – Case Manager; Ryan Howey – Case Manager; Tyler Tycz – Case Manager; Desiree Rodriguez – Parole Agent; Tiffany Bohms; AllisonWalhof; Rex Squyres



– Board Program Assistant; Travis Ripperda – Risk Reduction Manager; Kim Lippncott – Senior Case Manager; Ian Miller – Senior Case Manager; Meredith Jones – Transitional Case Manager

II. Call for Public Input

None.

III. Secretary of Corrections Nick Lamb

This appointment will be rescheduled for a date outside of the legislative session.

IV. Parole Hearings

A. Nelson, James

Board Members proceeded with the scheduled hearing of *James Nelson*. The offender was present. The offender was represented by counsel, Raleigh Hansman. Guest(s) present in person: Don Klassen, Jeffrey Sjomeling. Guest(s) present on Teams: Tiffany Bohms.

Chair Rau turned the proceedings over to Board Member Lieberman and Board Member Steele for summarization. Testimony was provided by the offender and through offender’s counsel, Raleigh Hansman. Testimony was provided by guests: Don Klassen; Jeffrey Sjomeling. Following summarization, testimony, evidence review, questions and discussion, the following action was taken:

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

B. Flying Horse, Elmer

Board Members proceeded with the scheduled hearing of *Elmer Flying Horse*. The offender was present.

Chair Rau turned the proceedings over to Board Member Lieberman 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 June 2026.
Made:	Pilcher

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Seconded by:	Lieberman
Votes in Favor:	Hall, Beck, Brown, Pilcher, Lieberman, Steele, Aasen, Rau
Votes Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion carried.

C. *Ovalles, Raeshawn*

Board Members proceeded with the scheduled hearing of *Raeshawn Ovalles*. The offender was present.

Chair Rau turned the proceedings over to Board Member Lieberman 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 out to his SSRD.
Made:	Brown
Seconded by:	Hall
Votes in Favor:	Hall, Beck, Brown, Pilcher, Lieberman, Steele, Aasen, Rau
Votes Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion carried.

D. *Pourier, Clifford*

Board Members proceeded with the scheduled hearing of *Clifford Pourier*. The offender was present.

Chair Rau turned the proceedings over to Board Member Lieberman 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 out to August 2026.
Made:	Brown
Seconded by:	Hall
Votes in Favor:	Hall, Beck, Brown, Pilcher, Lieberman, Steele, Aasen, Rau
Votes Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion carried.

The Full Board Adjourned from parole matters at approximately 11:40 a.m.

The Full Board returned to its full board meeting at approximately 11:55 a.m.

V. Training – PreP Program – Thomas Anez, DOC Teacher

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Board Members participated in training presented by Thomas Anez, DOC Teacher, about the PreP Program and how it is being taught and implemented at SDP.

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

Board Members reviewed the denials of 6 pardons by the two-panels at Special Session. Motion by Brown, second by Hall to ratify the decisions and adopt the denials. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

VII. January Minutes

Board Members reviewed the minutes for the January 2026 meetings of the Board. Motion by Aasen, second by Brown to approve the January 2026 minutes. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

VIII. February Hearing Panels

Board Member Meyers was unable to participate on Tuesday and Wednesday due to an unexpected conflict. There were no other changes to the posted schedule.

IX. Full Board Cases / Potential Upcoming Paper Review Cases

Board Members were advised that the March calendar has 1 full board case currently scheduled.

X. March Proposed Schedule

Board Members reviewed the proposed schedule for March. Due to a lower number of full board cases in March, the board will hold its business meeting on Wednesday, March 11th, 2026, and not convene on March 12th, 2026. Board Members indicated whether they would be appearing via Teams and had no further changes to the proposed schedule.

XI. Board Report / Field Services Report

Board Members reviewed the board report and monthly metrics. There was a Special Session held on January 29th; 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 April 2026.

XII. Items for Discussion

Chair Rau discussed holding JPA A131 discretionary parole hearings only by Teams. Board members will not go into room A131, and the board administration office will not send any staff in person. Hearings will be held in the case manager's offices, which is how it is done at other

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institutions across the state. The institution is on board with this change, as they would like to utilize A131 during Board Week.

XIII. Policy Review

Board members reviewed Policy 8.1.A.15: Revocation of Suspended Sentence. Staff recommended no revisions to the policy at this time.

XIV. 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.

XV. Adjourn

The Full Board meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m. The next full board meeting is scheduled for March 11th, 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