

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
July 2026

The Board of Pardons and Paroles hearing panels held meetings on June 25th, 2026 and July 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 July 15th, 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, Member
- Kurt Hall, Member
- Peter Lieberman, Member
- Patricia Meyers, Member
- Aaron Pilcher, Member [TEAMS]
- 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: None

Special guests in attendance on Teams: Jordan Jensen – Corrections Analyst; Georgia Will – Program Assistant; Jamisen Wagner – Case Manager; Ryan Howey – Case Manager; Angela M; John Hult; Bob Mercer

II. Call for Public Input

None.

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III. Parole Hearings

A. *White Feather, Chad*

Board Members proceeded with the scheduled hearing of *Chad White Feather*. The offender was present on Teams.

Chair Rau turned the proceedings over to himself and 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 July 2027 with a board recommendation that offender see behavioral health and complete anger management.
Made:	Pilcher
Seconded by:	Hall
Votes in Favor:	Beck, Brown, Lieberman, Hall, Meyers, Pilcher, Steele, Aasen, Rau
Votes Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion carried.

B. *Gardner, Terrance*

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

Chair Rau turned the proceedings over to Board Members Brown and Pilcher 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 January 2027.
Made:	Lieberman
Seconded by:	Beck
Votes in Favor:	Beck, Brown, Lieberman, Hall, Meyers, Pilcher, Steele, Aasen, Rau
Votes Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion carried.

A brief break was taken.

IV. June Minutes

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

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V. Full Board Cases / Potential Upcoming Paper Review Cases

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

VI. August Proposed Schedule

Board Members reviewed the proposed schedule for August. Due to a lower number of full board cases in August, the board will hold its business meeting on Wednesday, August 12th, 2026. Board Members indicated whether they would be appearing via Teams.

VII. 2027 Proposed Schedule

Board Members reviewed the proposed schedule for 2027. Motion by Hall, second by Beck to adopt the 2027 schedule, with the ability to make necessary changes throughout the year, as schedules are reviewed monthly. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

VIII. DOC Staff Reports

Board Members reviewed the board report and monthly metrics. There was a Special Session held on June 25th, 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 September 2026.

IX. Training

The training scheduled for July 2026 was postponed at the request of the presenters.

X. Policy Review

Board Members were advised that Board Staff is working on recommended changes to policy 8.1.A.1 News Media and Cameras at Board Hearings. It will be presented to the Board at a subsequent board meeting.

Board members reviewed Policy 8.1.A.7: Early Discharge, Partial Early Discharge, Return of Street Time. Staff recommended no revisions to the policy.

XI. Items for Discussion

Board Administration Manager Gust advised she has been asked to participate in NIC's Combined Network, and she will be traveling to Washington D.C. in early September. There is no cost to DOC for the travel or participation.

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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 11:09 a.m. The next full board meeting is scheduled for August 12th, 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